

## **Mercer County Commission Minutes July 6, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Travis Frey. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Rick Bauman, Gene Wolf, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star, absent was Liza Taylor. Others present during portions of the meeting were Tax Director Cyndi Zueger, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, UDSU Extension Agent Craig Askim, Marvin Schwehr, Erin Ourada Western Plains Public Health, Amanda Hoffer and Jay Volk both from Summit Carbon Solutions.

Frey requested the June Sheriff's Fees report be added to the agenda under other business. Wolf moved to approve the agenda as amended. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolf moved to approve the June 21, 2023, minutes as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman made a motion to approve bills as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment. ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$901.42; BAUMAN, RICK \$33.66; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,001.00; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$8,651.58; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$3,287.79; CARDMEMBER SERVICE \$1,251.89; CITY OF BEULAH \$104.34; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$8,610.51; CORE FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$43,920.00; DAKOTA AWARDS, INC. \$89.95; DAKOTA FIRE EXTINGUISHER INC. \$1,303.40; DIRECT MED \$454.34; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC. \$1,200.00; WEX BANK \$2,476.49; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$174.41; HAZEN STAR \$78.00; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$59.98; LIBERTY DOORS, LLC \$9,145.00; LIGNITE TIRE SERVICE \$795.00; RELX INC. DBA LEXISNEXIS \$553.31; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$1,942.86; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$51.98; NAPA \$825.08; NDAAO \$210.00; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$126.00; ND STATE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS \$720.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$5,479.65; NORTHERN INTEGRITY HEATING, AIR \$695.00; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$1,712.94; OK AUTOMOTIVE \$112.47; OLSON, DAVID \$44.99; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$217.75; PROFESSIONAL HEATING & COOLING \$1,009.95; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$130.56; RETTERATH REAL ESTATE, LLP \$675.00; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. \$175.00; RUD PROPANE LLP \$4,016.61; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$59.21; STRAND, CANDY \$15.96; TOWER COMMUNICATIONS, INC. \$555.00; VERIZON WIRELESS \$1,261.58; WOLF, GENE \$113.36; ZOLL MEDICAL CORPORATION \$60.00 (TOTAL \$104,332.77)

Bauman made a motion to accept Allen Schmidt's resignation from the Mercer County Housing Authority Board after 41 years of dedicated service. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolf made a motion to accept the June Sheriff's fees for \$43,571.18. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Portfolio updates were given.

Cyndi Zueger, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator presented a temporary use permit renewal to the board;

- Temp Use #616 issued to SCS Permanent Carbon Storage LLC a Stratigraphic Test Well located in NE4NE4 Section 22 T142N R88W. Conditions attached to this permit are that the area disturbed must be

reclaimed by the applicant and must be approved and released by the County Road Superintendent; the haul road must be approved and released by the County Road Superintendent; and weeds shall be controlled in an acceptable manner during the time this permit is in effect. Jay Volk with Summit Carbon Solutions discussed with the board the test well process. Folk made motion to approve the renewal of permit#616 for test well. Wolf seconded. Folk, Wolf, and Frey voted aye, Bauman nay. Motion carried.

Craig Askim, NDSU Extension Agent presented his quarterly report.

Recessed 9:58 am

Reconvened 10:05 am

Bauman presented the Road Superintendent request for a motion to approve Utility Permit #1750 for the Pfennig Properties LLC, to be used for trenching in a water line near the intersection of 4 ST NW/26 AV NW. Bauman made a motion to approve Utility Permit #1750. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Bauman requested approval of a \$7,500.00 purchase of parts for tractor unit #109 repairs at the road department. Folk made a motion to approve the \$7,500.00 purchase for equipment parts. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Erin Ourada, Western Plains Public Health presented their 2024 budget review. Ourada is requesting that three commissioners be available on August 15 at 10:00 am for the final budget approval, a quorum of commissioners is required. Grannis and Reed discussed employee funds that were paid into the county health fund when we were self-funded and now need to be paid back to employees. Requesting to pay the 10% of employee portion of health care expense until these funds are gone. Total funds are approximately \$150,000 and will cover all employee's portion of health expense for approximately one year. No budget figures were discussed.

Board moved into executive session at 11:04 am.

Exit executive session and reconvened meeting at 11:36 am.

Frey stated that the executive session was for legal advice on open meeting rules and liabilities on bridges.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota. The meetings can be viewed online at [www.mercercountynd.com](http://www.mercercountynd.com)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Travis Frey, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carmen Reed, Auditor