

## **Mercer County Commission Minutes July 19, 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, Liza Taylor, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during portions of the meeting were Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Tax Director Cyndi Zueger, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Joe Grannis, Wes Klein, Bill Galvin, Ken Miller, Paul Bosch, Jackie Bosch, Dave Braun, Randy Schantz, and Rick Thompson.

Frey requested a motion to approve the agenda. Wolf made a motion to approve the agenda. Taylor stated, due to legal advisement, the 9:30 a.m. agenda item "Pers Benefits Discussion-Cyndi Zueger" needs to be removed. Wolf revoked his motion. Taylor made motion as per legal counsel to take off the 9:30 a.m. agenda item. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Folk made a motion to amend the July 6, 2023, minutes on the Allen Schmidt resignation roll call to remove "Folk, Wolf, and Frey voted aye, Bauman nay," replace with "All voted aye." Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman made a motion to approve bills as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment. ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$169.44; ACCURATE CONTROLS, INC. \$496.65; ANTELOPE CREEK TRUCKING, INC. \$7,440.00; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$1,881.00; ASKIM, CRAIG \$439.90; THE BEACON \$2,097.56; BLOHM, CASEY \$150.00; BOSCH, GWYN \$245.52; BUTLER MACHINERY CO. \$208.54; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$409.40; QUALITY INN \$88.20; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH \$4,436.54; D & E SUPPLY CO INC. \$2,156.97; DOWNTOWN GAS AND AUTO \$27.00; FARMERS UNION OIL CO. \$143.69; FARMERS UNION SERVICE ASSOCIATION \$14,502.00; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$42.33; FITTERER, ROBERT \$600.00; FREY, TRAVIS \$290.90; GALLS, LLC \$338.24; GRANNIS, DAWN \$81.84; GRINSTEINNER, ALICE \$81.84; HAZEN MOTOR CO. \$407.66; HAZEN MOTOR CO/FARM IMPLEMENT SHOP \$7,208.36; HAZEN STAR \$200.00; AUTO VALUE \$403.30; HENKE, DUSTIN \$300.00; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$5,389.89; INTERSTATE ENGINEERING INC. \$80,576.08; J & M HARDWARE, INC. \$217.78; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$19.36; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES \$90.00; QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC. \$682.29; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$887.08; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$170.24; NAPA \$28.89; OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL \$1,565.00; ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION \$58,541.71; NORTH DAKOTA ONE CALL \$5.20; NDSWRA \$135.00; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. \$1,000.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$2,431.83; NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS, INC. \$6,960.00; ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC. \$66.66; PFLIGER, METTA \$221.10; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$347.85; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$32.73; ROTO ROOTER \$505.00; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. \$857.73; SMITH, TRISHA \$164.00; CHI ST ALEXIUS HEALTH CARE COMPANY \$438.30; STAPLES CREDIT PLAN \$344.21; STERICYCLE, INC. \$20.00; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$225.04; THEN & NOW CANDY STORE \$201.45; TURNKEY CORRECTIONS \$52.00; VERIZON WIRELESS \$489.53; WARNE CHEMICAL AND EQUIPMENT CO. \$780.63; WEST RIVER

TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$3,488.34; WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE \$250.00;  
JOB SERVICE UNEMPLOYMENT - WEIGUM \$55.56 (TOTAL \$213,087.36)

Wolf made a motion to approve the duplicate check warrant #48457, for \$599 for Warren Wiedrich. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Sealed bid for Social Services Building was opened and Tim Barth offered \$85,000 with the condition that this building can be converted to a residence. Wolf made a motion to accept the bid of \$85,000 for the building as is. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk made a motion to accept the county nurse quarterly report from Heidi Moore. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman made a motion to accept the emergency manager quarterly report. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Auditor presented estimated 2024 budget figures to aid commission in preparing for the budget hearing which will be held on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, in the commission board room. The budget agenda was reviewed and updated.

Recessed at 10:07 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:12 a.m.

Portfolio updates were given.

Sakakawea Estates Association members met with the commission regarding the status of the special assessment district procedures. Procedures for adopting this new policy were discussed. The commission requested to put this item on the August 2, 2023, meeting agenda.

County Road 20 bridge was discussed, due to the county receiving a letter from NDDOT stating that if the bridge is not positively closed by Friday, July 21, 2023, the \$1.1 million in federal bridge funds will be revoked. Frey made motion to officially close the bridge per the NDDOT recommendation. Taylor seconded.

Frey, Taylor, Wolf, and Bauman voted aye, Folk nay. Motion carried. Frey made a motion to put the concrete jersey barriers back into place at the County Road 20 bridge. Taylor seconded. Frey, Taylor, Wolf and Folk voted aye, Bauman nay. Motion carried.

Bauman announced his resignation as the road department portfolio holder due to the fact that within the Office of Attorney General's open meeting guide it states that two portfolio holders of one department establishes a quorum and violates open meeting laws. Bauman made a motion to step down as a road department portfolio holder. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 2, 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