

Mercer County Commission Special Budget Meeting Minutes July 22, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Liza Taylor, Travis Frey, Rick Bauman, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during portions of the meeting were NDSU Extension Agent Craig Askim, Recorder Shannan Senger, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Sheriff Terry Ternes, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Clerk of Court Wanda Knutson, Landfill Director Candy Strand, Interim Road Superintendent Elroy Opp, Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins, Tax Director Jennifer Neumiller, Ashley Hill, and Rachel Grimm.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Frey moved to approve the agenda. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

NDSU Extension Agent Craig Askim presented the County Extension Service budget.

Landfill Director Candy Strand presented the Landfill budget with a request to have the county general fund cover all wage and benefits for the three landfill employees. Due to limited income, she is unable to keep the employee wages and benefits competitive.

Recessed at 9:57 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:03 a.m.

Sheriff Terry Ternes and Administrative Assistant Ashley Hill presented the Sheriff's Office budget with a request for \$75,000 in wage bump ups to specific jailer/dispatch staff. Ternes noted that the Federal prisoner housing program reimbursement will be going up next year.

Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers presented the Janitorial, Building and Grounds and Risk Management budgets.

Recorder Shannan Senger presented the Recorder's budget.

Treasurer Dawn Grannis presented the Treasurer's budget.

Recessed at 11:32 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:35 a.m.

State Attorney Todd Schwarz presented the States Attorney budget.

Clerk of Court Wanda Knutson presented the Clerk of Court budget that also included a \$13,600 raise in legal fees as initially requested by Commissioner Frey.

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner presented the HR and EM budgets.

Commission reviewed the Veteran Service Officer, Superintendent of Schools, and Weed Department budgets.

Recessed at 12:22 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:58 p.m.

Auditor Carmen Reed presented various budgets, including Commission Budgets, Auditor's office, County Nurse, and all countywide budgeted accounts. Interim Road Superintendent Elroy Opp, Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins, and Administrative Assistant Rachel Grimm presented the County Road Department budget.

Recessed at 2:33 p.m.

Reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

Commission discussed requested changes they want updated in the budget for review at the Special Budget meeting on Monday, July 29, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. Reed will email out the updated budget to commissioners for review before Monday.

Tax Director Jennifer Neumiller presented the Tax Equalization and Planning and Zoning budgets. \$50,000 was added to the Planning and Zoning budget as requested initially by Commissioner Frey for updating work on county zoning ordinances and maps.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 2024, 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.mercercounty.com

Approved: _____
Gene Wolf, Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor