

Mercer County Commission Special Meeting Minutes July 25, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Mark Pierce, Rick Bauman, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during the meeting were Extension Agent Craig Askim, Tax Director Jennifer Neumiller, Landfill Director Candy Strand, Highway Superintendent Elroy Opp, Assistant Highway Superintendent Dennis Olheiser, Moore Engineer Jim Jackson, Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Recorder Shannan Senger, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, Coyote Creek Representatives Brad Erickson and Jeremy Eckroth, Clerk of Court Wanda Knutson, Sheriff Terry Ternes, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, Rachel Grimm, Ashley Hill, and Dave Straley.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Bauman moved to approve the special meeting agenda as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Extension Agent Craig Askim presented the Extension 2026 budget. No changes were noted.

Auditor Carmen Reed presented the Auditor's Office and other County-wide Budgets with following changes: (1) Verify Health and Insurance Amounts are split between funds. (2) Line item for Audits was increased to \$80,000. (3) Change NDIRF Budget Line Item (1001.41890.381) to \$7,500. Tabled until later in meeting due to time constraint.

Recessed at 9:11 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:19 a.m.

Tax Director Jen Neumiller presented the Tax Director and Planning & Zoning Board Budgets. No changes were noted.

Landfill Director Candy Strand presented the Landfill budget. Added \$100,000 to be transferred from the General fund to the Landfill for the new loader purchase.

Highway Superintendent Elroy Opp and Moore Engineer Jim Jackson presented the Highway Department Budget. Flex Funding will be worked into this budget.

Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers reviewed the Building Maintenance, Janitorial, and Risk Management Budgets. No changes were noted.

Treasurer Dawn Grannis reviewed the Treasurer Budget. No changes were noted.

Recorder Shannan Senger reviewed the Recorder and Document Preservation Budgets. No changes were noted.

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner presented the HR and EM Budgets. Requested an additional advertising line item within the HR Budget for \$4,500 for job advertisements. Discussed requested raises and stated that the EM/HR job is split 25/75.

Clerk of Court Wanda Knutson presented the Clerk of Court Budget. No changes were noted.

Recessed at 11:08 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:13 a.m.

Sheriff Terry Ternes presented the Sheriff's Office Budgets. Changes include: (1) \$10,000 per month be transferred from General fund into the Special Vehicle fund, for future purchases of vehicles. (2) Ashley Hill's wage will be taken out of the 911 fund rather than the General fund.

Recessed at 11:41 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:46 a.m.

States Attorney Todd Schwarz presented the States Attorney budget. No changes were noted.

Schwarz open discussion on the North American Coal/Road Issues agenda item. Voigt recused himself. Discussion also included Coyote Creek Representatives Brad Erickson and Jeremy Eckroth. Schwarz confirmed that at this point the board needs a decision from the landowners on a dollar amount to purchase the road easement, so road replacement can be completed. Upon advisement of the State Attorney, item was placed on the August 6, 2025 meeting agenda at 11:00 a.m. for a final determination to be made by the board.

Board reviewed the Weed Control and Superintendent of Schools Budgets. No changes were noted.

Reviewed remaining Auditor Budgets to include the Veteran's Officer and County Nurse. No further changes were noted.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 6, 2025, 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.

Approved: _____
Gene Wolf, Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor