

**Mercer County Commission Special Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Rick Bauman. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Steve Guenther, Gene Wolf, Casey Voigt, and Auditor Carmen Reed. Dan Arens of the Hazen Star was absent. Others present during the meeting were Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, HR/EM Director Alice Grinstein, Extension Agent Metta Pfliger, Garry Burr, and Elizabeth Lundstrom.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Wolf moved to approve the agenda as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers gave an updated report on the Beulah Building restoration and renovation plans. Folk moved to approve the J2 Studio Renovation plans as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Board requested estimated costs of repairs and restoration bid from the Arrow Service Team. Commission agreed to work with the Bank of ND (BND) to obtain a loan to cover the Beulah Building costs. A committee of Jim Albers, Jamee Folk, Alice Grinstein, and Extension Service Representative was formed to oversee this project.

Recessed at 08:45 a.m.

Reconvened at 08:50 a.m.

The 2027 Budget information was reviewed and the following changes/updates were requested: (1) Increase delinquent tax to 4% (2) Correct Beulah Buildings & Grounds total Expense to \$296,500 in Blue Book. (3) Request to all Department Heads for 2026 and 2027 total estimated expense/ revenues and for anything that can be cut out of their 2027 budget. (4) Update Budget Blue Book with Sheriff's Federal Housing Revenue at \$700,000 for 2027. (5) Update Budget Blue Book with 911/Dispatch Oliver Revenues for 2026 and 2027 at \$70,000. (6) Obtain and Update HR/EM Oliver Revenues for 2027. (7) Keep wages at the 4% increase and take out bump ups. (8) County Road Item Changes: (a) Consultant Fees lower by \$451,192. (b) Payments to Contractors lower by \$500,000.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota. Meetings can be viewed live at <https://www.youtube.com/@MercerCo>

Approved: _____
Rick Bauman, Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor