

**Mercer County Commission Minutes
August 5, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chairman Jamee Folk. Present were Commissioners Steve Guenthner, Gene Wolf, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Rick Bauman was absent. Others present during the meeting were States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller, Planning & Zoning Chairman Mike Eslinger, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Extension Agent Craig Askim, Highway Assistant Supervisor Dennis Olheiser, Moore Engineer Tom Weigel, NextEra Energy Representatives Chase Dauenhauer, Ben Sand, Mike Knuth, Stephanie Morales, Basin Electric Power Cooperative representative Jack Schuh, District 33 Representative Signe Snortland, Charles Crave, Lori Hammer, Mary Ann Gross, Michael Berg, Weston Berg, Kevin Hafner, Wes Klein, Linette Irwin, Kristine Carlson, Nancy Evanoff, Judy Knoell, Andy Thomas, Renee' Carlson, Marcia Jurgens, Lucinda S. Johnson, Stefanie Dillingham, Peggy Wolf, Lori Liebelt, Gary Burr, Mark Hafner, Marie Johnson, Jen Wolff, Betty Hunt, and Elizabeth Lundstrom.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Wolf moved to approve the amended agenda. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the July 15, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Guenthner moved to approve the August 3, 2026 special meeting minutes as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

A Moratorium petition signed by over 476 residents was presented by Stefanie Dillingham. The petition asks the Board to reinstate the moratorium on data center permits for the remainder of its original one-year term, extend that pause to utility-scale solar, and refrain from accepting or approving applications under the new ordinance until Mercer County has completed a public countywide comprehensive planning process.

States Attorney Todd Schwarz explained that all grievances received must be address by the Board no earlier than 7 days and no later than 30 days. Guenthner moved to approve the Grievance Public Hearing be set on Monday, August 24, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolf moved to approve the June Recorder Revenues of \$7,016.60. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Guenthner moved to approve the Hook, Line & Sinkers Liquor License annual renewal application. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the state mileage rate of \$0.76/mile. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the Roughrider Electric Cooperative Utility Application and Permit #1780 (26) as presented. Wolf seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the July Sheriff's Revenues of \$41,770.85. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

States Attorney Todd Schwarz presented the ND Department of Trust Lands Road Easement (9.07 acres) purchase information. Guenther moved to approve paying \$1,000/acre for the 9.07 acres of ND Department of Trust Lands for a road easement as stipulated. Wolf seconded. Voigt recused himself. Guenther, Wolf, and Folk voted aye. Motion carried.

Recessed at 09:54 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:01 a.m.

2027 Budget discussed. Voigt moved to set a Special Budget Meeting on Monday, August 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton. Guenther seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Portfolios Updates were given.

The following people spoke during public comment: Linette Irwin and Michael Berg.

Voigt moved to approve the bills as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$1,703.79; ASKIM, CRAIG \$494.60; AUTO VALUE BEULAH \$11.99; BARNES COUNTY SHERIFF \$150.00; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,196.67; BEULAH ND HARDWARE \$175.34; BLOOM'N HOUSE \$124.00; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$2,492.44; CITY AIR MECHANICAL, INC. \$1,753.00; CLIFTONLARSONALLEN, LLP \$3,780.00; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$560.78; DIRECT MED \$89.99; EIDE FORD MANDAN \$2,097.43; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$10,752.75; ETSYSTEMS IN \$252.30; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$1,200.12; FARMERS UNION SERVICE ASSOC. LTD \$828.00; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$51.50; GRANNIS, DAWN \$416.60; GUENTHER, STEVE \$157.92; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$7.37; HAZEN WELDING \$80.00; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$79.95; KIESLER POLICE SUPPLY \$142.23; KNIFE RIVER VETERINARY CLINIC \$263.00; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES \$100.84; LEXIS NEXIS MATTHEW BENDER \$231.38; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$315.40; LUCKYS TOWING AND REPAIR \$875.00; MATTHEIS, BARBARA \$19.00; MCLEAN COUNTY IMPLEMENT, LLC \$62.88; MENARDS \$247.17; MERCER COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE \$300.00; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$3,146.68; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$174.43; MIDWEST DOORS OF DICKINSON, INC \$273.06; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$69.94; MOORE ENGINEERING \$14,541.00; MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS \$4,611.60; NAPA \$1,249.73; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$100.00; NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE \$18,549.32; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$24,294.42; North Central International, LLC \$3,202.49; NORTH DAKOTA ENVELOPE COMPANY \$1,745.98; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$851.90; OLSON ELECTRIC \$3,072.75; OZTECH ELECTRIC, LLC \$658.00; PFLIGER, METTA \$15.00; POITRAS, RACHEL \$42.27; PULSE MEDICAL TRAINING \$315.00; RDO EQUIPMENT COMPANY \$945.98; SAKAKAWEA MEDICAL CENTER \$70.40; SIGN SOLUTIONS \$294.52; SMITHS DETECTION, INC. \$4,828.93; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$89.02; STERICYCLE, INC. \$24.50; T-MOBILE USA, INC \$87.35; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$212.42; THEN & NOW CANDY STORE \$108.00; VERIZON WIRELESS \$126.53; WEST RIVER EQUIPMENT \$743.82; WESTERN DAKOTA ENERGY ASSOCIATION \$500.00; WESTLIE TRUCK CENTER \$472.91; GARRETT, MICHELLE \$110.96; GRINSTEINER, ALICE \$569.64; CITY OF BEULAH \$209.09; Peters, Paula \$19.00 (TOTAL: \$117,340.08)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 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: _____
Jamee Folk, Vice Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor