

## **Mercer County Commission Minutes August 7, 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 Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Sheriff Terry Ternes, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Clerk of Court Wanda Knutson, Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins, Tax Director Jennifer Neumiller, Deputy Auditor Gwyn Bosch, Casey Voigt, Jack Schwab, Susan Kobilawsky, Bruce Kobilawsky, Kevin Hafner, Amber Kimball, Jerome Scharbach, Solem Law Office Attorney Jennifer Gooss, and Darwin Knutson.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Frey moved to approve the July 17, 2024, minutes as presented. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve the July 22, 2024, Special Budget minutes as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve the July 22, 2024, Special Meeting minutes as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve the July 29, 2024, Special Interview minutes as presented. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve the July 29, 2024, Special Budget minutes as presented. Folk seconded. Folk moved to amend minutes by adding "per Auditor's request" after "Change the General Fund cash reserve from \$900,000 to \$1,000,000 and add 4 percent delinquent tax to all applicable accounts." Taylor seconded, All voted aye. Amendment motion carried. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the August 1, 2024, Special Interview minutes as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve the August 1, 2024, Special Budget minutes as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman moved to approve all bills as presented. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$2,357.82; ACTION WINDSHIELD & HEADLIGHT REPAIR \$45.00; ANTELOPE CREEK TRUCKING INC. \$79,950.40; ASKIM, CRAIG \$237.18; THE BEACON \$1,881.19; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,084.33; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$8,541.28; DALE SCHWALBE TRUCKING \$227.50; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$762.48; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$434.37; CITY OF BEULAH \$109.62; CITY OF STANTON \$10,025.54; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH \$4,692.53; D & E SUPPLY CO INC. \$195.49; DAKOTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC. \$436.00; DIRECT MED \$346.81; DIRT PRO SERVICES \$165.00; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$450.00; ENTZE, CINDY \$28.09; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$25.70; LEEROY FISCHER CONSTRUCTION LLC \$825.00; WEX BANK \$2,710.75; GALLS, LLC \$79.88; GRINSTEINNER, ALICE \$295.47; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$327.80; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$6,836.54; INTERSTATE ENGINEERING INC \$13,215.50; INTERSTATE POWER

SYSTEMS, INC. \$2,680.19; JONES CONTRACTORS, INC. \$4,800.00; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$105.34; LAKE VIEW SERVICES, LLC \$5,552.75; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES \$90.00; RELX INC. DBA LEXISNEXIS \$654.07; MCLEAN COUNTY SHERIFF \$2,250.00; BRODKORB, VICKIE \$1,302.41; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$62.23; MORITZ SPORT & MARINE \$128.34; NDCEL \$50.00; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$264.00; NDLTAP \$75.00; NORTH DAKOTA ONE CALL \$3.00; NDPIO \$100.00; NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE \$17,292.33; NELSON INTERNATIONAL \$12,786.94; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$22,251.65; NEW CASTLE SHERIFF'S OFFICE \$10.00; OLSON, CURTIS E. \$600.00; PERREAU CONSTRUCTION INC. \$715.00; PFENNING, LARRY \$500.00; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$743.40; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$239.49; QUILL OFFICE PRODUCTS \$245.33; REED, CARMEN \$405.46; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. \$175.00; SIGN SOLUTIONS \$395.76; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$59.85; CHI ST ALEXIUS HEALTH CARE COMPANY \$360.38; STRAND, CANDICE \$11.10; TAYLOR, LIZA \$50.00; TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC. \$5,855.00; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$186.22; THEN & NOW CANDY STORE \$500.00; SWANSON, ARLAN A. \$600.00; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC. \$61,364.40; US RECORDS MIDWEST LLC \$197.30; VERIZON WIRELESS \$1,046.54; WOODWORTH LAW OFFICE, PLLC \$255.00. (CHECK#s 50838– 50904) TOTAL \$281,250.75.

Tax Director Jennifer Neumiller presented Temporary Use Permit #635-ND Dept of Mineral Resources-Test holes to determine the concentrations of mineral in lignite. Sections 2(NW4), 10(SE4), 20(NW4), 30(NE4), T143N R90W and Section 16(NW4) T245N R88W and Section 36(SE4) T146N R89W and Section 36(NE4, NW4) T146N R90W, of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M. Mercer County ND. Frey moved to approve Temporary Use Permit #635. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Frey recused himself.

Bruce Kobilansky, Solem Law Office Attorney Jennifer Gooss, Frey, and comments from the public were heard regarding Zoning Case #24-05-0, the Bruce Kobilansky Resolution to Amend the Mercer County Zoning District Map from Ag to Commercial with a Conditional Use for RV park & storage unit. This item was placed on the September 4, 2024, regular meeting agenda at 9:30 a.m.

Recessed at 10:24 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:31 a.m.

A Special Assessment District request for a pavement improvement project in the Sakakawea Bay Cabin site was presented by the Sakakawea Bay Cabin Owners Association President John Vallely and Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins. Association minutes showing approval of owners, project engineering plan and a resolution to establish this special assessment district is required to be completed before commission approval. Vallely also requested that the county maintenance agreement established 20 years ago for snow removal, moving ditches, crack/chip sealing, and striping be put into a written agreement and approved by the commission. All requested item information will be given to the States Attorney for review. Item was placed on the August 21, 2024, meeting agenda at 10:00 a.m.

Bauman presented two quotes from Jones Construction for the Sakakawea Estates Road improvement project. Item tabled.

Jack Schwab gave an update on the Paul Martin memorial project which is scheduled to be completed in April, 2025.

Board agreed to appoint Travis Frey as the Mercer County NDACo Delegate at the October NDACo Conference.

Folk moved to appoint Michael Berg and Jayme Boeshans to the Weed Board. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner gave an update on applications received for the Veteran Service Officer position. Grinsteinner will set up interviews with the 4 applicants that have been received and a special meeting will be held.

Folk moved to approve the July Sheriff's fees of \$38,298.06. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Grinsteinner presented the Oliver Emergency Management (EM) MOU agreement for approval. Bauman moved to approve the Oliver EM MOU agreement as presented. Folk seconded. Bauman rescinded motion. Item was put on the August 21, 2024 meeting agenda.

Sakakawea Estates Road project bids were presented from Jones Construction. Frey moved to approve the Sakakawea Estates Road project bid of \$70,887.

Bauman seconded. Frey rescinded motion. Item was tabled.

Wolf stated he will notify the Auditor when all public hearing dates and times are set for the approved preliminary resolution to re-designate the elected positions of Auditor, Treasurer & Recorder to appointed positions. Taylor moved to approve moving the November 6, 2024, regular commission meeting to November 7, 2024, due to the General Election. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve credit card requests for the following departments; Sheriff, HR/EM, States Attorney, County Road, Extension Service, and Tax Director. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

County Road Superintendent hiring decision was tabled due to Pete Johner stating to Bauman before this meeting that he would not accept the County Road Superintendent job if offered to him. Board requested a written refusal from Johner before making a final decision. This item was placed on the August 21, 2024, meeting agenda under "Other Business."

Portfolio updates were given.

Sakakawea Estates Road project bids were presented from Jones Construction. Frey moved to approve the Sakakawea Estates Road project bid of \$70,887.

Taylor seconded. Frey, Taylor, Folk, and Bauman voted aye. Wolf voted nay. Motion carried.

2025 Preliminary Budget was discussed and following items were amended:

- Raise Oliver County/911 Fees from \$40,000 to \$70,000.
- Change the Library mill levy from 3.12 to 3.5.
- Add \$30,000 to the expenditure line item in the Parks In Lieu Fund.

Frey moved to add back \$50,000 to Planning and Zoning, and \$50,000 to Mercer County Economic Development (MCED), then reduce the General Fund reserve by \$100,000. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve the 2025 Preliminary Budget as amended. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, 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](http://www.mercercounty.com)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gene Wolf, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carmen Reed, Auditor