

Mercer County Commission Minutes September 3, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Rick Bauman, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Mark Pierce was absent. Others present during the meeting were States Attorney Todd Schwarz, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner (via Phone), Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Recorder Shannan Senger, Tax Director Jennifer Neumiller, Highway Superintendent Elroy Opp, Assistant Highway Superintendent Dennis Olheiser, Clerk of Court Wanda Knutson, Bravera Insurance Scott Faehnrich, SMC CEO Kurt Waldbillig, SMC Board President Fred Stern, Attorney Jennifer Gooss, Moore Engineer Tom Weigel, Harvey Huber, Stephen Hoetzer, Steve Schwan, Bruce Thompson, and Steve Guenther.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Folk moved to approve the August 20, 2025 meeting minutes with the following amendment on page 2, line 10, change "Item tabled." to "Vouchers were reviewed and tabled." Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

SMC CEO Kurt Waldbillig gave an overview and status update of the Sakakawea Medical Center Hospital.

Bravera Insurance Agent Scott Faehnrich presented a formal insurance proposal to the commission for their consideration. No action was taken.

Folk moved to approve the July Recorder Revenues of \$6,353.60. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Adding Agenda Items will now be restricted to 12:30 p.m. on the Friday before the meeting. Any requests after that will either be added at the meeting or put on the next meeting agenda, so items can be properly advertised to the Public. Bauman moved to approve the testing of an RDO Loader and taking the cost of \$1,000 out of the General Fund Miscellaneous Account (1001-49100-911). Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Recessed at 10:02 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

Jake Brake Signage request was discussed and no action was taken.

Attorney Jennifer Gooss requested to extend the Planning and Zoning Ordinance Re-write contract until the end of May, 2026, due to additional items that have been requested by the Planning & Zoning Board. Gooss will present the updated contract at the next meeting.

Bauman moved to approve the spending of \$7,000 (\$2,500 materials/\$5,000 labor) for the Sakakawea Estates Road fog seal application. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Assistant Highway Superintendent Dennis Olheiser explained the need for new mower equipment. Highway Superintendent Elroy Opp was also present.

Bauman moved to approve the purchase of one XH1500 Series 5 Rotary Cutter mower for \$38,337 and one FLX-1510 Flex Arm for \$30,418 from Mclean County. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Portfolio updates were given.

Folk moved to approve bills as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$1,649.40; ADVANCED COATINGS LLC \$125.00; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$316.44; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$2,461.00; ARROW SERVICE TEAM \$11,222.25; ASKIM, CRAIG \$268.10; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$2,393.34; BLOOM'N HOUSE \$52.00; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$7,944.83; CITY OF BEULAH \$125.29; CITY OF PICK CITY \$290.00; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$1,327.18; DAKOTA AWARDS, INC. \$35.25; DALE SCHWALBE TRUCKING \$2,040.00; DIRECT MED \$207.35; DISCOUNTELL, LLC \$899.10; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$1,396.04; FARMERS UNION SERVICE ASSOC. LTD \$171.00; GRANNIS, DAWN \$30.15; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$31.96; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$108.95; HAZEN STAR \$204.00; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$4.94; LEXIS NEXIS MATTHEW BENDER \$84.31; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$285.33; LUCKYS TOWING AND REPAIR \$1,608.00; MENARDS \$175.70; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$52.36; NAPA \$774.49; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$1,898.82; NEV PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTING \$1,000.00; NORTH CENTRAL INTERNATIONAL, LLC \$5,035.75; OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR \$20,400.00; OZTECH ELECTRIC, LLC \$760.00; P O S T BOARD \$45.00; PFLIGER, METTA \$84.00; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$560.68; SCUBA ONE INC. \$295.00; STERICYCLE, INC. 22.90; THE BEACON \$2,538.06; TROTTER CONSTRUCTION INC. \$3,330.00; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$1,466.43; VERIZON WIRELESS \$1,666.00; VOIGT, CASEY LEE \$150.80. (TOTAL: \$75,537.20)

The Cabin Site #2 roadway improvement project was discussed with cabin site owners and local rural area residents. Board requested Moore Engineer Tom Weigel to research road ownership in the area and costs regarding the county's possible participation in this road improvement and special assessment district project. Cabin Site #2 residents need a specific cost before a vote can be taken. States Attorney Todd Schwarz advised the commission if they are going to participate in this project, all roads must be at state specifications. County participation is legal. It is the County's responsibility to get the preliminary engineering report for the possible special assessment district project.

The 2026 budget was discussed and the following changes were made to the proposed wages: (1) Commission \$2 raise and bump ups was taken out. (2) HR/EM bump up of \$15,449.80 was taken out. (3) States Attorney's bump up of \$3,200 was taken out. (4) Sheriff's bump up of \$15,000 was changed to \$10,000. (5) Jail Nurse's bump up of \$2,392 was changed to \$6,700. (6) School Superintendent's \$2 raise was taken out. (7) Landfill operator Kenneth Morin's bump up was raised from \$1040 to \$2080. No further changes were made.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 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