

**Mercer County Commission Special Budget Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 9:53 a.m. by Chairman Rick Bauman. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Steve Guenther, Gene Wolf, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during the meeting were Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Highway Office Administrator Rachel Grimm, Elizabeth Lundstrom, Linette Irwin, Lori Hammer, Judy Knoell, Weston Berg, Michael Berg, Joe Grannis, and Wes Klein.

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

Bauman stated he was contacted by Lina Svihovec %NDACo, who has been working with the Auditor and Treasurer to review the 2025 through 2027 Budgets and found that the county has been deficit spending over the last 2 years. Bauman requested that all department heads review their 2026 and 2027 budgets for any cuts that can be done and report back to your portfolio holders. Folk requested that the Auditor start emailing monthly department expense reports to the commission board.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 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