

**Mercer County Commission Minutes
September 16, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Rick Bauman.

Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Steve Guenthner, Gene Wolf, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during the meeting were States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller, Building & Grounds Supervisor Jim Albers, Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, NextEra Energy Representatives Chase Dauenhauer, Ben Sand, Wayne Bertsch, Basin Electric Kay Konschak, Highway Assistant Supervisor Dennis Olheiser, Highway Administrative Assistant Rachel Grimm, Moore Engineer Tom Weigel, Lisa Dauenhauer, Dale Dauenhauer, Lori Hammer, Linette Irwin, Peggy Wolf, Joe Grannis, Judy Knoell, Rose Laning, Vernon Laning, Michael Berg, Weston Berg, Stefanie Dillingham, William Dillingham, Kevin Hafner, Elizabeth Lundstrom, Renee' Carlson, Lori Liebelt, and Nancy Evanoff.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Folk moved to approve the amended agenda with the following changes: add "Recorder's August Revenues of \$6,980.40," "NDACo Conference Delegate," and "Buffalo Valley Archery Range Raffle Application," all under "Other Business." Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the August 24, 2026 special public grievance hearing meeting minutes as presented. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolf moved to approve the September 2, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Guenthner moved to approve the September 4, 2026 special meeting minutes as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Guenthner moved to approve the September 9, 2026 special public hearing minutes with "public" removed and replaced with "grievance" in the heading. Voigt seconded. Guenthner rescinded his motion. The board requested that the September 9, 2026 Special Public Hearing Minutes be updated with "public" removed and replaced with "grievance" in the heading and presented again for approval at the next regular commission meeting.

Voigt moved to approve the September 9, 2026 special budget minutes as presented. Guenthner seconded. Voigt, Guenthner, Wolf, and Bauman voted aye. Folk voted nay. Motion carried.

Building & Grounds Supervisor Jim Albers gave an update on the Beulah Building damage and requested approval of insurance claim proof of loss for \$155,820.19. Voigt moved to approve the ND State Fire and Tornado Fund Proof of Loss Statement as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Contractor bids were discussed. The Arrow Service Team gave the lowest bid. Voigt moved to hire Arrow Service Team to complete repairs at the Beulah Building location. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller presented the following:

- Conditional Use Zoning Case #26-09-01 - Zane & Kara Woroniecki- Non-Farm Residence-Parcel A in NW4 & NE4, Sec 28 T141 R89W. Folk moved to approve Conditional Use Zoning Case #26-09-01 as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- Variance County Zoning Case #26-09-02 - Lisa Daunhauer- Variance-N2SW4, Sec 18 T146 R 87W. Voigt moved to approve Variance County Zoning Case #26-09-02 as presented. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- Zoning Case #26-09-03A - Hafner Place LLC-Amend Zoning Map-Ag to Res- SE4NE4, Sec 5 T146 R87W. Voigt moved to approve Zoning Case #26-09-03A as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- Conditional Use Zoning Case #26-09-04 - Amanda Myers- Non-Farm Residence- Parcel 1 in N2, Sec 2 T146 R87W. Voigt moved to approve Conditional Use Zoning Case #26-09-04 as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- First Reading to amend Mercer County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 4 Special Provisions, New Section (XII)- Un-muffled Compression Brake Regulations was heard.
- Fee Schedule was discussed. Guenthner moved to approve the Zoning Application Fee Schedule as presented with the condition that fees can be amended at any time with no special public hearing required. Voigt seconded. Voigt moved to amend; add under "Industrial Project Costs," can be negotiated for good cause." Wolf seconded. All voted aye. First amendment approved. Voigt moved to amend in line 12, take out "gravel & coal." Folk seconded. Voigt moved to strike second amendment. Voigt moved to amend line 14, take out "gravel & scoria" replace with "minerals." Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Third amendment carried. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- Third party environmental bids were discussed.

Recessed at 10:05 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:12 a.m.

Voigt moved to approve the August Recorder's Revenues of \$6,980.40. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the Buffalo Valley Archery Range Raffle Application as presented. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to appoint Folk as the County Representative at the NDACo Fall Conference. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to not take any action on the grievances heard at the September 9, 2026 grievance hearing at this time. Folk seconded. Voigt, Folk, Wolf, and Bauman voted aye. Guenthner voted nay. Motion carried.

Stefanie Dillingham spoke during public comment.

Voigt moved to approve the BND Loan of \$270,000 for the Cabin Site #2 Special Improvement District Road Project as presented. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve Donna Hanson (Election Day) and Fred Stern (VBM) 2026 General Election Inspectors. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

2027 Budget is still being worked on and once completed commissioners will be emailed information and then a special budget meeting will be scheduled.

Portfolio updates were given.

Voigt moved to approve the bills as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$2,774.00; ASKIM, CRAIG \$301.72; BADGEPASS \$1,335.00; BENCO EQUIPMENT COMPANY \$200.00; BERG, MICHAEL \$33.44; CENTRAL DAKOTA FRONTIER COOPERATIVE \$27,590.00; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$7,580.53; COAL CONVERSION COUNTIES

\$5,327.00; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$268.84; DUPPONG'S INC. \$140.20; ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE INC \$1,892.50; EMINETH PLUMBING \$1,664.37; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$623.07; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$36.24; FLEMMER, RYAN \$15.20; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$43.45; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$2,878.83; HAZEN STAR \$1,998.76; HOBBS INC \$629.59; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$8,017.40; ISTATE TRUCK CENTER \$32.60; JOHNSEN TRAILER SALES, INC. \$258.60; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$85.00; LEXIS NEXIS MATTHEW BENDER \$87.31; LIGNITE TIRE SERVICE \$10.56; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$1,018.05; MINNESOTA VALLEY TESTING LABS INC \$4,286.25; MOORE ENGINEERING \$28,091.25; NAPA \$155.59; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$63.00; NDCEL \$50.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$27,470.18; North Central International, LLC \$2,038.95; NORTH DAKOTA ONE CALL \$1.50; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,787.00; OLSON ELECTRIC \$1,189.40; PFLIGER, METTA \$532.78; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$319.50; PRO VISION \$1,061.10; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. \$4,010.00; RDO EQUIPMENT COMPANY \$6,414.28; REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY \$17.04; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC \$884.79; SCHEID, RICHARD \$13.50; SCHLENDER, SCOTT \$27.36; SIGN SOLUTIONS \$298.70; SIMENSON, DELLEN \$10.00; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$123.04; STERICYCLE, INC. \$24.50; THE BEACON \$182.88; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$720.00; VERIZON WIRELESS \$534.44; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$2,450.97; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH \$4,162.34; WOLF, GENE \$164.00; BOESHANS, JAYME \$30.40; CITY OF BEULAH \$672.55; COLE, SHANNON \$34.96; ESLINGER, MIKE \$7.60; HAFNER, KEVIN \$25.84; THOMAS, ANDY \$25.84. (TOTAL: \$152,753.54)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 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