

## **Mercer County Commission Minutes September 17, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chairman Rick Bauman. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Mark Pierce, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Gene Wolf was absent. Others present during the meeting were States Attorney Todd Schwarz, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Recorder Shannan Senger, Tax Director Jennifer Neumiller, Moore Engineer Tom Weigel, Coyote Freedom Mine Darren Hellman, Coyote Creek Mine Jeremy Eckroth and Brad Erickson, NACCO David Straley, Attorney Mark Kaffar, Sakakawea Bay Cabin Owners Association President Ron Boyko, and Mark Haugen.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Folk moved to approve the September 3, 2025 meeting minutes with the following amendment on page 1, fourth line from bottom, change "spending of \$5,000" to "spending of \$7,500 (\$2,500 materials/\$5,000 labor)." Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Attorney Mark Kaffar presented the amended agreement for the update and rewrite of county's planning and zoning ordinances. The extension request for this agreement is greatly due to the additional requested comprehensive land use plan. Commission requested a progress report with draft ordinances that are currently available. Item was placed on the October 15, 2025 agenda.

Voigt recused himself. States Attorney Todd Schwarz presented the Coyote Creek Road Resolution easements on the road that was disturbed by mining on the Voigt property. Once these easements are signed the current agreement between the mine and the county will need to be amended. The current agreement has the route going on the quarter lines, so we will have to amend the agreement to the new route agreed to by the Voigt family and the State. Folk moved to amend the August 20, 2025 motion regarding the roadway through the Voigt family property so that compensation will be \$1,000/acre and the road will be established on attached easements ([Addendum A](#)) for a total of 10.29 acres. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Sakakawea Bay Cabin Owners Association President Ron Boyko gave an update on the completion of the Bayview Heights Special Assessment District Road Project and is requesting that all engineering and construction bills be paid. The Association is working with Northern Improvement and the Corps of Engineers to fix two low spots so chip sealing can be done next year, these expenses are not part of the assessment. The Notice of Confirmation of Special Assessment List for a total amount assessed of \$611,696.13 will be published in the Hazen Star for two weeks and the public hearing will be held on October 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Mercer County Government Building in Stanton, ND.

9:51 a.m. recessed.

10:00 a.m. reconvened.

2026 Budget was reviewed and discussed. The following changes were requested: (1) Add \$4,900 to the Workers Comp line item. (2) Update all revenues. (3) Give \$0.50 bump ups to Rachel Grimm and Neil Siebel from the County Road Department, and (4) Give \$1.50 bump ups to all (7) County Road Deputies from the Sheriff's Office.

Voigt moved to approve the August Recorder revenues of \$5,012.80. Folk seconded.

Voigt moved to approve Folk as the NDACo Fall Conference Delegate. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Portfolio updates were given.

Voigt moved to approve bills as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: BOBCAT OF MANDAN INC. \$57.33; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$3,665.28; CITY AIR MECHANICAL, INC. \$4,776.00; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$7,808.81; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$38.87; DALE SCHWALBE TRUCKING \$1,000.00; DESPERADO FIREARMS \$1,528.80; DIRECT MED \$188.89; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$1,584.00; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$211.66; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$31.86; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$231.89; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$861.31; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$362.64; HOUSTON ENGINEERING INC \$4,481.75; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$9,167.79; J & M HARDWARE, INC. \$39.99; JOHANNES, DAN \$2,940.00; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES \$90.00; LIEBOLD, SANDRA \$190.45; LIGNITE TIRE SERVICE \$949.43; MCLEAN COUNTY IMPLEMENT, LLC \$69,542.04; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$2,122.17; MERCER COUNTY LANDFILL \$13.50; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$183.17; NAPA \$508.08; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$189.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$23,736.31; NEUMILLER, JEN \$393.40; North Central International, LLC \$834.03; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$3,119.16; NOVA FIRE PROTECTION, INC. \$885.00; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,440.00; PFLIGER, METTA \$275.00; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$191.70; PUTSONYO, INC \$5,376.70; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. \$5,010.00; REDBEAR, DESIREE \$26.00; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC \$639.55; RUD PROPANE LLP \$2,478.00; S & M LAWN SERVICE \$405.00; SAKAKAWA MEDICAL CENTER \$1,984.23; SENGHER, SHANNAN \$137.10; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$56.62; TAO INTERACTIVE INC. \$614.90; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$127.70; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$9,008.60; UNIFORM CENTER \$1,067.90; VERIZON WIRELESS \$492.33; WARREN'S LOCK & KEY \$16.00; WEST RIVER EQUIPMENT \$11,000.00; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$2,535.23; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH \$4,151.45; WEX BANK \$2,037.01. (TOTAL: \$190,833.38)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 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](http://www.mercercountynd.com).

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Bauman, Vice Chairman

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