

Mercer County Commission Minutes September 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Travis Frey, and Auditor Carmen Reed. Rick Bauman, Liza Taylor, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star were absent. Others present during the meeting were Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Deputy Auditor Gwyn Bosch, Sheriff Terry Ternes, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner via phone, NDSU Extension Agent Metta Pfliger, Myron Hafner, Carrie Hafner, and Kyle Skalsky. Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Frey moved to approve the September 4, 2024, minutes as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve all vouchers as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$2,461.00; BADLANDS HYDROVAC SERVICES, LLC \$2,745.00; BEULAH LUMBER CO \$9.98; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$1,999.16; CHIP WIZARD \$60.00; CITY OF BEULAH \$109.11; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$9,937.46; CORE FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$232,347.00; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH \$4,518.97; D & E SUPPLY CO INC. \$566.29; DIRECT MED \$436.81; DISPLAY SALES \$296.00; DUANE'S BODY SHOP INC. \$3,295.20; EGGERS ELECTRIC MOTOR CO \$212.16; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$808.94; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$758.00; FASTENAL COMPANY \$22.48; FREEDOM TRUCK CENTER \$4,357.10; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$170.44; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$298.21; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$3,898.67; HOLIDAY INN FARGO \$96.30; HOUSTON ENGINEERING INC \$22,223.48; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$5,926.74; JONES CONTRACTORS, INC. \$7,553.00; KIM'S APPLIANCE SERVICE, INC. \$539.87; L-TRON CORPORATION \$2,541.21; LAKE VIEW SERVICES, LLC \$2,835.00; LANGORD, COLTER \$15.00; M & A HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING \$404.34; MCLEAN COUNTY SHERIFF \$2,325.00; MENARDS \$501.44; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$846.37; NAPA \$1,275.99; NDAO \$85.00; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$63.00; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,415.00; NDLTAP \$75.00; ND SECRETARY OF STATE \$36.00; NELSON INTERNATIONAL \$979.28; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. \$4,000.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$2,203.63; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$1,686.96; NSC MINERALS LTD \$3,665.93; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$743.40; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$1,867.07; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. \$728.09; RUD PROPANE LLP \$125.00; SIGN SOLUTIONS \$310.04; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$59.85; TAYLOR, LIZA \$98.91; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$165.49; TINT PRO & CUSTOM ACCESSORY \$680.00; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC. \$1,080.00; UNIFORM CENTER \$853.98; VERIZON WIRELESS \$491.82; WDALA \$50.00; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$495.00; WOLF, GENE \$84.84; WOODWORTH LAW OFFICE, PLLC \$120.00; ZAZESKI, KURT \$22.98; EXTREME SALES INC. \$5,580.00; OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR \$9,724.61; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$2,495.56. (CHECK#s 51096-51160) TOTAL \$356,407.91.

An update was given on the Mercer County Family and Community Wellness Extension program activities by NDSU Extension Agent Metta Pfliger. Zoning Case 22-11-02-Final Plat Approval Lazy H8 2nd Subdivision was rescheduled for a Special Meeting on Monday, September 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton. Frey gave an update regarding the Bayview Heights Special Assessment procedure and the revolving loan process with the Bank of North Dakota. Recessed at 9:49 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:52 a.m.

Frey moved to approve the August Sheriff's fees of \$50,765.33. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the August Recorder's fees of \$5,543.40. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Folk made the clarifying statement that these fees are actually revenues that the county is collecting every month.

Folk moved to approve Donna Hanson, as election inspector at the election day vote center in Hazen, Gordon Hoffner as the election inspector for the vote by mail election inspector, and approves the county auditor to fill any vacancies that may exist for the 2024 General Election. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to accept the bid of \$500 received from Summit Counseling, Inc. for parcel #SS14484010801. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Highway department item payment to contractor for 2024 patching was postponed until the next regular meeting on October 2, 2024.

Frey moved to approve payment of \$9,724.61 for the Water Board portion of the county audit. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve the purchase of the Tyler financial accounts receivable license fee for \$7,356. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Landfill scoria purchase was discussed and tabled.

Deputy Auditor Gwyn Bosch requested the purchase of six replacement computers for \$10,308.06, which is part of the county's normal rotation schedule with Armor Interactive IT services. Frey moved to approve the purchase of the six computers as presented for \$10,308.06. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Sheriff Terry Ternes presented an update on the totaled prisoner transport van due to hail damage. Ternes will see if he can legally continue to use the damaged van and if not then come up with several purchase options for a replacement. The Sheriff's Department is fully staffed except for one deputy position is still open.

The 2025 Budget updates were presented by Reed and Treasurer Dawn Grannis that included the following:

- Increased General Fund Sheriff's city contracts revenues \$14,768.48
- Due to Landfill being a self-sustaining enterprise, the \$45,000 was moved to the transfer sheet verses going through county health line item.

- Auditor and Treasurer met with the County Engineer Charlie Hankins and were able to use state road funds versus local milling. This lowered the county road and unorganized road mills by 11.21 mills. This step had been missed during earlier budget work.

Commission requested to add 2024 information to the budget bluebook so budget numbers could be better understood. Budget discussion was suspended. HR Director Alice Grinsteinner via phone presented the Road Superintendent and Assistant Road Superintendent salary options. Item was tabled and put on the Special Meeting that will be held Monday, September 23, 2024 at 9:15 a.m. Budget discussions resumed. The Treasurer and Auditor's offices will input the commission requested additional clarifying information requested and update the current revenue figures that have been coming in so the most accurate figures are being used for the October 2, 2024 Budget Hearing.

Folk moved to approve the Landfill purchase of 10 loads of scoria from Leroy Fischer for \$420 per load. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Portfolio updates were given.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2, 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

Approved: _____
Gene Wolf, Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor