

**Mercer County Commission Special Budget Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Rick Bauman. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Steve Guenther, Gene Wolf, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed. Dan Arens of the Hazen Star was absent. Others present included Sheriff Terry Ternes, Sheriff's Office Administrator Ashley Hill, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteiner, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Highway Office Administrator Rachel Grimm, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller, Clerk of Court Wanda Knutson, County Recorder Shannan Senger, Building & Grounds Supervisor Jim Albers, and Wes Klein.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

2027 Budget was reviewed and the following changes were requested:

1. Reimburse the General Fund, County Road, Extension, Weed and Landfill Departments the 8% of Health cost share from the Health Fund (2935)-Total of \$85,827.84
2. County Road Changes:

In the 2026 Budget: (Added \$82,000 back into Royalties #880 for 2026 payment)

- a. Payment to contractors - #388 – Took out \$292,000
- b. Culverts - #870 – Took out \$20,000
- c. Gravel & Crushing – Took out \$100,000 – zeroed out
- d. Advertising – #942 - zeroed out
- e. Consultant - #315 – Took out \$90,000

In the 2027 Budget:

- a. Payment to contractors - #388 – Took out \$260,000
- b. Royalties - #880 – Took out \$400,000
- c. Consultant - #315 – Took out \$41,000
3. Capital Projects: In 2027 budget used same expenses as 2026
4. General Fund: Page 6: Social Security Comp Maint/Equip- 2026/2027 budget to \$30,000. Social Security Software/Services changed 2026 to 30,000 & 2027 to 35,000.
5. Sheriff's Budget:
 - a. Take off Vacant Youth Bureau position, 1 Jailer/Dispatcher position, person retiring and vacant detective position.
 - b. Jail Expense, #429 - 2027 Budget changed to \$140,000
 - c. Prisoners Medical, #860 -In both 26 & 27 Budgets changed to \$30,000
 - d. New Vehicle, #661 – 2027 Budget changed to \$20,000
6. Weed Board Budget:
 - e. In 26 budget changed Machine/Equip Purchase #651 to \$2,000,
 - f. Misc #911 to \$5,000.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 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