

**Mercer County Commission Special Budget Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Rick Bauman.

Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Steve Guenther, Gene Wolf, Casey Voigt, and Auditor Carmen Reed. Dan Arens of the Hazen Star was absent. Others present during the meeting were Sheriff Terry Ternes, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Weed Director Brad Seifert, Weed Board Chairman Shannon Sailer, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteiner, Darwin Knutson, Joe Grannis, 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 update was given by the Auditor, stating as of 9/30/2026 the additional changes were made to our budget that leaves us under the Countywide 6% cap by \$113,956.56:

1. Took out Treasurer's Vacant position for both 26 Budget \$4,000 & 27 Budget \$3,000.
2. Updated Janitor from \$271,933.30 to \$271,652.05 (Janitor Budget Sheet)
3. Took election expenses from \$10,000 to \$9,000. (Auditor Various Budget Sheet)
4. Updated Salary Chart & updated General Fund Health Insurance & Social Security (Auditor-Health Insurance/Soc Sec...Budget Sheet)
5. Weed Board Budget: 2027 Chemicals line item was lowered from \$200,000 to 190,000. This was done to get below the total 4 mill levy limit.
6. Take out Workers Comp for Extension & Weed were taken out of Budgets. We pay this through CEG WSI through General Fund for All Departments.

2027 Budget was reviewed and the following changes were requested:

7. Requested \$210,000 be put into the General Fund Reserve.
8. Requested to change the 2027 Federal Housing Revenues from \$450,000 to \$500,000.
9. Requested to change States Attorney's Crime Stoppers Line Item #321 in 2026 budget zero out and in 2027 budget lower to \$1,000.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.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