

## **Mercer County Commission Minutes October 2, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chairman Rick Bauman. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Liza Taylor, Travis Frey, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Gene Wolf was absent. Others present during the meeting were Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Deputy Auditor Gwyn Bosch, Sheriff Terry Ternes, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins, Landfill Director Candy Strand, Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Alber, Veterans Service Officer Ron Crowley, Sheriff's Deputy Adam Baker, Sheriff's Deputy Chris Waller, Ryan King, Mary Fletcher, Clyde Sondrol, Mike Cina, Chris Kusilek, Joel Anderson, Josh Vallely, Mike Drader, Earl Babb, Ashley Hill, Ron Boyko, Jerry Harmon, Jolene Baranko, Caroline Heller, Michelle Garrett, Casey Voigt, Alan Anderson, Roger Reed, Darwin Knutson, Rachel Grimm, Luanna Fisketjon, Richard Scheid, Rik Cutting, Kari Cutting, Paul Kato, Rory Hocksprung, Marv Schwehr, and Todd Isak.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Folk moved to approve the September 18, 2024, minutes as presented. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the September 23, 2024, special meeting minutes as presented. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the September 23, 2024, October 2<sup>nd</sup> Special minutes with the following amendment. Change "October 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Meeting Minutes" to "Special Meeting Minutes Regarding October 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting." Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve all vouches as presented. Folk rescinded motion until Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins could address the Bechtold Paving bill.

Frey moved to approve Zoning Case 24-08-04, Gerry and Shari Meissner variance, Lot 3, Lake Valley Estates. Folk seconded. All voted nay. Motion failed.

Folk moved to approve Zoning Case 24-09-01, Michael and Mikel Mettler, non-farm residence, 6.42-acre tract in NE4 T145N, R88W, Section 6. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve Temporary Use Permit 636, Basin Electric outdoor material storage yard (laydown yard). Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk recused herself.

Frey moved to approve the transfer of Permit 622 for haul road from Buffalo Sands LLP to Ramsey Hill Exploration LLC. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Taylor moved to approve the transfer of Permit 623 for aggregate materials operations from Buffalo Sands LLP to Ramsey Hill Exploration LLC. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mike Drader and Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Ron Crowley addressed their concerns with the board, regarding the future of the VSO Office once Crowley retires.

Frey moved to appoint Gary Knell as the State Fair Board representative. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Recessed at 9:53 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

At 10:00 a.m. Vice Chairman Bauman opened the Special Assessment District Hearing and called for anyone that would like to speak. No written comments had been received by the Auditor's office and hearing no requests to speak, hearing closed at 10:02 a.m.

Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins conducted the Bayview Heights Road project bid opening. The four bids received were as follows: Knife River Corp. - \$692,371.80, Northern Improvement Co. - \$586,232.50, Bechtold Paving, Inc. - \$670,780.90, and Strata Corp. - \$618,620.10. Hankins will review these bids, then give his recommendations.

Frey moved to approve the road patching repairs bill of \$103,274.94 from Bechtold Paving, Inc. Taylor 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 ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$1,221.13; AED EVERYWHERE \$115.40; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$10,308.06; ASKIM, CRAIG \$65.00; BADGEPASS \$1,277.00; BADLANDS HYDROVAC SERVICES, LLC \$2,135.00; BECHTOLD PAVING INC. \$103,274.94; THE BEACON \$1,788.71; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,084.33; BRANDED APPAREL \$20.00; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$5,617.06; CAPITAL I INDUSTRIES INC. \$658.96; COAL COUNTRY CHC \$181.00; D & E SUPPLY CO INC. \$377.32; DETTMANN, JENNY \$204.12; DIRECT MED \$115.56; DIRT PRO SERVICES \$165.00; DOOLEY ENTERPRISES INC. \$1,334.48; ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE INC. \$2,786.55; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS \$1,329.56; FARMERS UNION SERVICE ASSOCIATION \$813.00; FASTENAL COMPANY \$32.26; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$6.95; LEEROY FISCHER CONSTRUCTION LLC \$4,000.00; FITTERER OIL HAZEN LLC \$128.00; FREY, TRAVIS \$135.76; GRINSTEINER, ALICE \$1,791.50; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$298.34; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$1,040.19; HAZEN STAR \$1,418.94; AUTO VALUE \$1,007.88; HOUSTON ENGINEERING INC. \$279,454.86; JOHNSON, KATHY \$233.17; KIESLER POLICE SUPPLY \$836.08; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$9.98; LAKE VIEW SERVICES, LLC \$5,771.25; M & B RENTALS LLP \$690.00; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$180.54; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$68.29; ND POST BOARD \$45.00; NEUMILLER, JEN \$154.54; PFLIGER, METTA \$65.23; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$246.51; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$951.00; RDO EQUIPMENT COMPANY \$274,000.00; RUD PROPANE LLP \$4,046.96; S & M LAWN SERVICE \$405.00; SCHWARZ, TODD \$174.60; SIGN SOLUTIONS \$166.18; STERICYCLE, INC. \$21.40; DANA SAFETY SUPPLY, INC. \$575.00; TAO INTERACTIVE INC. \$4,314.85; TRUENORTH STEEL \$175.80; UNIFORM CENTER \$187.92; VERIZON WIRELESS \$962.84. (CHECK#s 51202-51256) TOTAL \$718,469.00. Auditor reported that the Tyler financial software implementation is on schedule.

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner presented the County Road Superintendent wage information regarding Elroy Opp. Frey moved to approve the \$89,000 wages to include the 2025 final budget approved cola increase. Bauman seconded. Frey, Bauman, and Folk voted aye. Taylor voted nay. Motion carried. Frey moved to accept the new state hotel rate of \$99 per night, effective October 1, 2024. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Assistant Road Superintendent wages were discussed and postponed.

Grinsteinner discussed her current budget and HR duties within Mercer County. The HR and EM wage splits were discussed. Taylor verified that HR was initially hired at fulltime with a wage of \$65,000, but now is split 75/25 between HR and EM respectively. The wage bump -up monies set aside in the 2024 budget were discussed.

Portfolio updates were given.

Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins gave his recommendations regarding the Bayview Heights Road project bid award. After reviewing all the bid numbers and information received, it is recommended to award the bid to Northern Improvement for \$586,232.50. Frey moved to award the Bayview Heights Road project bid to Northern Improvement, Inc. for \$586,232.50. Taylor seconded. Frey moved to amend motion by adding, "contingent on securing funding." Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Amendment carried. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Recessed at 10:48 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

Frey moved to recess the regular meeting and open the 2025 Budget Public Hearing. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Various comments were heard and discussed regarding the 2025 budget and high estimated tax statements sent out at the end of August.

Frey moved to close the Public Hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Special Budget meetings were set for Thursday, October 3 at 8:30 a.m. and Friday, October 4, at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:19 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 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.mercercountynd.com](http://www.mercercountynd.com)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gene Wolf, Chairman

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