

**Mercer County Commission  
Special Meeting Minutes  
October 4, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Travis Frey, Rick Bauman, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens with the Hazen Star. Liza Taylor entered meeting at 10:33 a.m. Others present during portions of the meeting were Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Deputy Auditor Gwyn Bosch, Michelle Renner, Kari Cutting, and Paul Kato.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

The Coal conversion shortfall funds received in February, 2024, of \$989,115.45 were questioned by the board. It was confirmed by the Auditor and Treasurer that this revenue had not been added to the budget until after the preliminary budget was approved directly resulting in the general fund high mill levy. All accuracy and inputting of the budget numbers rest solely on the Auditor who is directly responsible for this error. Once these monies were added to the general fund along with updated actual income received in September, the levy went down 10.62 mills, which is equivalent to approximately \$575,298.72 dollars.

Budget County Road change requests were as follows:

- Take out all County Road wage bump-ups.
- Change the Gravel and Crushing line time from \$900,000 to \$1,000,000.
- Put \$250,000 into the cash reserve without exceeding 14.81 mills.

Recessed at 11:10 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:17 a.m.

Sheriff Terry Ternes addressed the board regarding wage increases for all dispatch/jailer and deputy wages effective immediately. Bauman moved to approve the dispatch/jailer and deputy wages as presented and effective in the current payroll period. Frey seconded. Folk recused herself. All voted aye. Motion carried. Board requested Sheriff's Office wage increases of \$93,370, be put into the preliminary budget for next meeting.

HR/EM wage was discussed to confirm actual wage and how it should be paid out. Board agreed that the combined HR/EM wage is \$85,000 with \$65,000 for HR and \$20,000 for EM.

Next special budget meeting will be held on Monday, October 7, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

There being no further business the special meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2024, at 9:00 a. m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota.

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

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