

**Mercer County Commission Minutes
October 15, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chairman Rick Bauman. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Mark Pierce, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Chairman Gene Wolf was temporarily delayed. Others present during the meeting were Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Highway Department Administrative Assistant Rachel Grimm, Moore Engineering Representatives Tom Weigel and Jordan Nehls, Donovan & Kaffar Attorney Mark Kaffar, Randy Huntimer, Joe Schutt, and Perry Winkler. Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Voigt moved to approve the October 1, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the October 6, 2025 special meeting minutes as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Treasurer Dawn Grannis requested permission to send the following five checks to the Department of Trust Lands as unclaimed property if not claimed by October 20, 2025; (1) Check #54793 to Darin Schmidt for \$15.71, (2) Check #54812 to Maurice Wasem (c/o Tanya Barmoen) for \$13.71, (3) Check #54824 to Lyle Kiser for \$5.71, (4) Check #54721 to Briana Blohm for \$23.41, and (5) Check #54628 to Collin Burge for \$20.00. Folk moved to approve the presented checks be considered unclaimed property if a duplicate check request is not received by October 20, 2025. Pierce seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to appoint Gary Knell as the State Fair Board Delegate for Mercer County. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the County Nurse Quarterly report. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Pierce moved to approve the Sheriff's September revenues of \$37,961.64. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Recessed at 08:11 a.m.

Reconvened at 08:17 a.m.

Moore Engineering Representatives Tom Weigel and Jordan Nehls discussed the Astech Bill for the chip sealing project. This project was completed today, there is a warranty, and will be inspected again next spring. Bauman moved to approve the payment of the Astech bill for \$518,315.59. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve all bills except for the Sheriff NAPA bill with a questionable total. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The following bills were approved for payment: AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$417.16; ANTELOPE CREEK TRUCKING INC. \$450,330.08; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$2,572.00; ASKIM, CRAIG \$971.70; ASTECH CORP \$518,315.59; BADGEPASS \$1,307.00; BOBCAT OF MANDAN INC. \$739.61; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$6,923.61; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$2,095.28; CHI ST ALEXIUS HEALTH \$209.41; CITY OF BEULAH \$116.28; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$7,564.79; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$262.94; DANKS, MAURICE

\$15.00; DETTMANN, JENNY \$280.00; DIRECT MED \$98.51; DIRT PRO SERVICES \$165.00; DOOLEY ENTERPRISES INC. \$463.74; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$1,396.04; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$2,200.00; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$57.55; GIERKE, GARY \$51.80; GRINSTEINER, ALICE \$835.90; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$286.54; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$837.58; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$1,752.26; HAZEN SMILES \$407.00; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$6,171.25; JEROME, FRANCIS \$69.00; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$101.31; LUCKYS TOWING AND REPAIR \$600.00; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$2,389.43; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$183.17; NAPA \$80.31; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$126.00; ND SECRETARY OF STATE \$36.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$28,863.24; NEUMILLER, JEN \$492.10; North Central International, LLC \$997.24; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$827.64; OCV, LLC \$4,495.00; OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL \$720.00; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,330.00; PEHL, PAM \$172.08; PFLIGER, METTA \$263.80; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$383.40; PROFESSIONAL HEATING & COOLING \$370.00; QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC. \$682.29; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$154.38; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC \$813.65; SAILER, SHANNON \$28.00; SAKAKAWA MEDICAL CENTER \$98.70; SCHEID, RICHARD \$12.80; SCHLENDER, SCOTT \$25.20; SEIFERT, BRADLEY Q \$38.42; SNIRSTOPPER, LLC \$10,846.22; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$61.79; STEFFES AGENCY, INC \$50.00; Stein's Inc \$350.06; STERICYCLE, INC. \$22.90; THE BEACON \$869.97; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$112.95; TOWER COMMUNICATIONS INC \$555.00; UNIFORM CENTER \$2,721.87; VERIZON WIRELESS \$84.12; VISION WEST ND \$300.00; WALLER, CHRISTOPHER \$32.39; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$2,495.47; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH \$4,415.90; WEX BANK \$3,218.15; WILMINGTON TRUST NA \$32,425.00; WOLF, GENE \$241.00. (TOTAL: \$1,110,029.32)

Highway Department Administrative Assistant Rachel Grimm presented the request for Notice to Bid for a 2025 or newer motor grader. Folk moved to approve the Notice to Bid for a 2025 or newer motor grader as presented. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Pierce moved to set the bid due date and opening of received bids for November 19, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Mercer County residents Joe Schutt and Randy Huntimer discussed the paving or improving of 59 Avenue SW, just southeast of Beulah off County Road 20. Board will research all options available to improve 59 Avenue SW and bring it back to the commission meeting for further review.

Tax Director Jennifer presented the following:

- Zoning case# 25-10-01, Application for zoning exemption for electrical service for Ag well-Perry Winkler- T142 R88 S18. Voigt moved to approve Zoning Case# 25-10-01 as presented. Bauman seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.
- Appraisal of Unredeemed Properties: Knife River Shrine Club-Lot 5 & 6 Blk 3 (HH14486010305A), 214 Central Ave N-\$779.86. David & Nancy Miller-Lot 1 Blk 46 (HH14486014601), 421 2nd Ave NW-\$5413.62. James D & Diane R Gilbert-Lot 1 & 2 Blk 9 (ZZ14489010901), 305 3rd Ave W- \$9472.31. Hildegard Aurdahl-Lot 22 Blk 6 (ZZ14489010622A) - \$4453.49. Johnny Olivo-Lot 16 and 17 Blk 4 (ZZ14489020416), 208 Lake Street - \$5904.59. Raymond Gappert-Lot 6 Rathjen Add (ZZ14489040006), 101 4th Ave W - \$4415.12. Hector Junior Gonzales Ramos-Lot 8

Blk E (ZZ14489090508), 523 3rd Ave - \$ 2476.80. Hildegard Aurdahl-E 140' of Lot 3 (ZZ14489200003), 110 4th Ave W - \$ 628.38. Bauman moved to approve the Appraisal of Unredeemed Properties as presented and set the Public Hearing for November 5, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- Ordinance Rewrite/Extended Contract update and draft ordinance documents were presented by Attorney Mark Kaffar. Neumiller will call a special Planning and Zoning Board meeting to review documents before the November 19, 2025 commission meeting. Discussion was paused.

At 10:03 a.m. Folk moved to close the regular meeting and open the Bayview Heights Special Assessment Notice Public Hearing. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. No one from the public was present at the meeting and no written grievances had been received by the Auditor's office. Bauman moved to close public hearing. Pierce seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried. Folk moved to open the regular meeting. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Recessed at 10:05 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:12 a.m.

Ordinance Rewrite/Extended Contract updates with Kaffar continued. The board clarified that the completion of the ordinance rewrite is the priority at this time which is within the original scope of work and needs to be completed before an extended contract is considered.

Portfolio Updates were given.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 8:00 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.

Approved: _____
Gene Wolf, Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor