

Mercer County Commission Minutes October 16, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Liza Taylor, Travis Frey, Rick Bauman, Auditor Carmen Reed. Absent was Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during the meeting were Treasurer Dawn Grannis, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins, Recorder Shannan Senger, Tax Director Jennifer Neumiller, and Dennis Olheiser.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Bauman moved to approve the amended agenda. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve the October 2, 2024, minutes as presented. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve the October 3, 2024, special meeting minutes as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman moved to approve the October 4, 2024, special meeting minutes as presented. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve the October 7, 2024, special meeting minutes as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the October 8, 2024, special meeting minutes as presented. Bauman 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 ANTELOPE CREEK TRUCKING, INC. \$67,241.28; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$2,461.00; ASKIM, CRAIG \$170.18; BEULAH LUMBER CO. \$47.28; BISMARCK TRIBUNE \$297.00; CABIN CREATIONS \$60.00; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$120.16; CITY OF BEULAH \$102.60; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$7,003.18; COAL CONVERSION COUNTIES \$6,508.00; COBBLESTONE HOTEL & SUITES - BEULAH \$192.60; COMFORT INN & SUITES \$99.00; CORE FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$116,174.00; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH \$4,260.81; D & E SUPPLY CO INC. \$1,007.57; DAKOTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC. \$48.99; DIRECT MED \$72.59; DUPPONG'S INC. \$860.00; ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE INC. \$152.60; EVERSFRING INN AND SUITES \$198.00; FARM & HOME PUBLISHERS, LTD. \$155.81; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$5,727.24; WEX BANK \$2,678.79; FREY, TRAVIS \$177.30; GRAMKOW, SHAWN \$6.00; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$91.78; HAZEN STAR \$160.00; HOBBS INC \$325.16; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$6,198.74; JONES CONTRACTORS, INC. \$30,924.11; LIGNITE TIRE SERVICE \$286.00; QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC. \$682.29; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$3,097.26; NAPA \$1,206.10; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$126.00; OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL \$720.00; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,315.00; ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION \$10.00; NORTH DAKOTA ONE CALL \$12.00; NELSON INTERNATIONAL \$238.12; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. \$5,010.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$14,716.44; ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC. \$102.90; PFLIGER, METTA \$121.27; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$371.70; RADISSON HOTEL - BISMARCK \$99.80; RAMADA BISMARCK HOTEL \$192.60; REVIZE

LLC \$1,200.00; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. \$825.25; VICTIM WITNESS EXPENSE \$475.71; SEIFERT, BRADLEY Q \$80.00; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$59.20; CHI ST ALEXIUS HEALTH CARE COMPANY \$360.38; STERICYCLE, INC. \$21.40; STROUP INSURANCE INC. \$50.00; TAYLOR, LIZA \$50.00; TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC. \$8,005.00; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$178.83; TOWER COMMUNICATIONS INC. \$555.00; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC. \$5,520.00; VERIZON WIRELESS \$84.06; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$495.00; WILMINGTON TRUST NA \$34,487.50; WOODWORTH LAW OFFICE, PLLC \$145.00. (CHECK#s 51282-51346) TOTAL \$334,451.33.

Tax Director Jennifer Neumiller presented the following unredeemed property appraisal prices:

Beulah: Sandra F. Femling-Lot 13 & N11' of Lot 14 Dakota Collieries Add, Replat of Lot 6 Schmid's Parcel Add (BB14488180113), 404 1st Ave NE - \$5,375.07.

Golden Valley: Zachary Brannan-Lots 1,2,3 Blk 10 (GG14490011002), 120 Central Ave N - \$2,464.14. Misti Krebs-Lot 5, Blk 6, 1st Add (GG14490020605), 300 3rd St NW - \$1,932.50.

Hazen: John Garrett-W2 Lot 13, Keeley Add (HH14486050113A), 310 4th Ave NW - \$17,064.68.

Stanton: Jeffrey Wallenvein-Lot 5 & S 38' Lot 6, Blk 11 (SS14484011105), 1018 Arthur St - \$11,991.09. Philip, Lea, and Dennis Swonger -Lots 4, 5 & Adjacent Alley 20'X25' Lot 6 & Adj Alley 20'x25' Blk 19 (SS14484011904), Vac Lot - \$2,426.21. Joline K. Duke-Lot 2 Blk 2 Miller 1st Add (SS14484020202), 108 Leslie Ave - \$9,834.99.

Rural: John & Karen Garrett-Frac in NW4 (03144860015402), 5090 Hwy 200 - \$11,760.75.

Frey moved to approve the appraisals as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Public Hearing on appraisals is set for Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. The forfeited real estate sale will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota.

Neumiller informed the Board that she had applied for a grant to help pay for online portals for property and tax information in the amount of \$4,675.

Neumiller presented the Kari Cutting abatement request on parcel 27146873409213, 5725 Beulah Bay Road, due to wrong information on Vanguard's assessment of \$15,900. Folk moved to approve the reduction of \$15,900 on the Kari Cutting abatement as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Taylor moved to approve the September Sheriff's revenues of \$47,086.22.

Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the September Recorder's revenues of \$4,130.60. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Commission conflict of interest tied vote. Frey moved to approve the commission conflict of interest policy. Folk seconded. All voted nay. Motion failed.

Folk moved to approve the quarterly nurse's report as presented. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Recessed at 9:54 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

Bauman moved to approve the WRT Utility Permit 1764, work located on 47 AV SW, 7.5 miles east of Hazen. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins requested approval of the 51st Ave SW Roadway Improvement payment application #1 for \$464,022.83, which is utilizing the NDDOT Flex Fund grant. Once commission approves the presented payment application, paperwork will be submitted to the state for reimbursement of funds, before the county makes the payment to the contractors for this work. Bauman moved to approve the 51st Ave SW Roadway Improvement payment application #1 for \$464,022.83 as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Bauman requested County Road wage adjustments for Jason Anderson and Steve Larson from \$26.50 to \$28 per hour, effective October 16, 2024. County Shop Mechanic Dennis Olheiser explained the reasoning and justification of these wage adjustments. Bauman moved to approve the wage adjustments as presented. Frey seconded. Bauman, Frey, and Wolf voted aye. Folk and Taylor voted nay. Motion carried.

Board discussed the Highway Road Superintendent position. HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner stated that Elroy Opp did accept the County Road Superintendent position and is currently advertising the open Assistant Road Superintendent position.

Grinsteinner requested approval of the Fire Emergency Declaration and Burn Ban, that declares a fire emergency and total burn ban, regardless of the daily fire danger ratings map, for all of Mercer County to include all incorporated cities. Bauman moved to approve the Fire Emergency Declaration and Burn Ban Declaration as presented. Frey seconded. Bauman, Frey, Folk, and Wolf voted aye. Taylor voted nay. Motion carried.

Grinsteinner presented a requested change in the midmonth withdrawal policy regarding the request deadline. Board tabled until further review. Recorder Shannan Senger has requested a wage bump up to bring her up to the Recorder hiring point wage. Folk moved to approve the Recorder bump up to hiring point wage as presented. Frey seconded. Folk, Frey, Taylor, and Bauman voted aye. Wolf voted nay. Motion carried.

Treasurer Dawn Grannis presented the following unclaimed checks that she will be reporting to the Unclaimed Property Division of the Department of Trust Lands: check# 54577 to Robert Alan Stakes for \$350 written on 6/30/2022 and check# 54445 to Ridge Runners Motorcycle Club for \$5.24 written on 12/28/2021. Folk moved to approve unclaimed check# 54577 for \$350 and check# 54445 for \$5.24 as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Grannis requested a duplicate warrant to be issued for check# 54534 for \$151.07 written to Kelle Allard. Bauman moved to approve a duplicate warrant for check# 54534 to Kelle Allard. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Auditor gave the update regarding the \$130,000 bump up monies, which so far haven't been used, due to all bump ups covered by department budgets.

Folk moved to approve the BND loan for the Bayview Heights Road Improvement project pending States Attorney's approval. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Portfolio updates were given.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 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

Approved: _____
Gene Wolf, Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor