

## **Mercer County Commission Minutes October 18, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Travis Frey. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Rick Bauman, Liza Taylor, Gene Wolf, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during portions of the meeting were Tax Director Cyndi Zueger, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, NextEra representatives Mike Knuth and Wayne Bertsch.

Request was made to add "Social Services Building Update" to the agenda. Folk made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman made a motion to accept the October 4, 2023, minutes as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolf made a motion to accept the October 5, 2023, special budget minutes as presented. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk made a motion to accept the October 5, 2023, special delegate minutes as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Board reviewed bills. Bauman made a motion to approve bills as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment. ANTELOPE CREEK TRUCKING, INC. \$12,342.54; ARBUCKLE LODGE GILLETTE \$340.00; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$1,881.00; BAYMONT INN \$288.90; THE BEACON \$1,280.48; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,001.00; BOSCH, GWYN \$332.64; CALDWELL COUNTRY CHEVROLET \$135,190.00; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$31.32; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CORE FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$31,141.50; CROWLEY, RONALD \$125.32; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH \$3,991.27; D & E SUPPLY CO INC. \$731.97; EGGERS ELECTRIC MOTOR CO. \$1,475.66; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC. \$493.35; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$6,215.00; LEEROY FISCHER CONSTRUCTION LLC \$2,000.00; FREY, TRAVIS \$146.36; GALLS, LLC \$92.64; GRANNIS, DAWN \$84.48; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$102.42; HAZEN STAR \$35.00; HEART RIVER STABLES \$4,020.00; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$5,508.54; INTERSTATE ENGINEERING INC. \$120,580.14; ISTATE TRUCK CENTER \$106.39; J & M HARDWARE, INC. \$910.59; JOHNSEN TRAILER SALES, INC. \$245.10; KNIFE RIVER VETERINARY CLINIC \$112.00; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$44.12; L-TRON CORPORATION \$464.00; LAKE VIEW SERVICES, LLC \$7,188.75; LIGNITE TIRE SERVICE \$184.50; QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC. \$682.29; RELX INC. DBA LEXISNEXIS \$205.00; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$564.00; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$170.24; NAPA \$1,544.98; ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION \$82,901.21; ND DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES \$890.10; ND YOUTH CORRECTIONAL CENTER \$2,564.82; NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE \$12,351.64; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. \$1,000.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$33,235.86; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE, INC. \$25.30; RADISSON HOTEL - BISMARCK \$1,059.30; RDO TRUCK CENTERS \$3,240.44; REVIZE LLC \$1,200.00; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. \$773.67; RUD PROPANE LLP \$3,422.21; CHI ST ALEXIUS HEALTH CARE COMPANY \$438.30; STERICYCLE, INC. \$20.00; THE HUB

CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$226.77; TOMCHUK, BRYAN \$125.00; UNIFORM CENTER \$170.00; VERIZON WIRELESS \$41.96; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$3,511.97; WILMINGTON TRUST NA \$36,487.50; ZUEGER, CYNDI \$106.48. (TOTAL \$525,675.77).

Cyndi Zueger, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator, presented the following appraisal prices:

**Beulah:** Glenn A Neuberger-Lot 5 Blk 14(BB14488011405), 217 1st Ave NE-\$4,307.65  
Mohler Beko-Lots 1, 2, & 3 Less E 30' of Lot 3 Geggelman Add (BB14488750101), 1813 7 ST NE-\$25,677.92.

**Golden Valley:** Joseph J Manning- Frac in SE4 Lot A(GG14490901523), 129 2nd Ave NE-\$1,792.08.

**Hazen:** Keith Kaley-Lots 42 & 43 Blk 2 Reichenbergs 1st (HH14486290243), 1044 Gall Dr-\$4,089.23

**Stanton:** Jessica & Timothy Allen Riley-S 65' of Lots 22, 23, & 24 Blk 5 (SS14484010522A), 206 McGrath Ave-\$7,663.41.

Hiram & Sherill Wood-Vac Street Lot 12 Blk 28(SS14484012812), Vac Lot-\$1,968.57  
Dwight & Darbie Berger-Lot 1 Blk 2 Miller 1st Add (SS14484020201), 104 Leslie Avenue-\$1,803.48.

Dwight Berger/Daniel Masseth-Lot 3 Blk 2 Miller 1st Add (SS14484020203), 116 Leslie Avenue-\$2,730.61.

Dwight Berger/Daniel Masseth-Lot 10 Blk 2 Miller 1st Add (SS14484020210), 126 Melanie Jane Ave-\$2,267.03.

Ronald Wall % Lora Bobbi-N 50' Lot 11 & Lot 12 Blk 2 Miller 1<sup>st</sup> Add (SS14484020212), 109 Melanie Jane Ave-\$3,369.53.

**Zap:** Kelly Luderman-Lot 6 & 7 Blk 10 (ZZ14489011006), 218 Home St W-\$6,530.29  
Leslie L Walsh-Lot 6 Blk 1 Halpern Add (ZZ14489020106), 101 Halpern St E-\$9,882.51  
Jeffrey S & Sherre Jarrard-Lots 1,2 & 3 less the S 15' & tract of land 70'X115' Snortland Add (ZZ14489050001), 121 4th Ave-\$5,009.91.

**Rural:** Antelope Hills Wind Project-5 Acre Tract within SE4 Sec 9-T145-R89 (27145890009801), Vacant-\$765.26.

Shanan D Weigum-W2SE4 13-145-89 (27145890013800), 6653 County 26-\$4,945.45.

Taylor made a motion to approve the appraisals as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk made a motion to set the public hearing on appraisals for November 1, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried

Folk made a motion to set the forfeited real estate sale for November 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Cyndi Zueger discussed ongoing NDPERS retirement issues relating to her position. Frey stated that he had talked to the State's Attorney Todd Schwarz and had received a NDPERS letter from the Auditor's office, stating that Cyndi's job situation qualifies for the payback of retirement funds, while Jim Albers' job situation doesn't. Frey stated that Schwarz agrees that Cyndi's qualifies, but

disagrees that Jim's doesn't and is investigating. No action was taken by the board.

Treasurer Dawn Grannis presented two unclaimed checks that required a stop payment to be made and the total amount be reported to the Unclaimed Property Division of the Department of Trust Lands in the State of North Dakota. Taylor made a motion to stop payment on warrants No. 54104 for \$5.00 and No. 54134 for \$1,662.19. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

McLean-Mercer Library Board appointment for one unexpired term through June 30, 2024, received one application from Martha Andersen who lives in Golden Valley. Folk made a motion to appoint Martha Andersen to the McLean-Mercer Library Board's unexpired term through June 30, 2024. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Social Services building has been sold for \$85,000. Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers requested that this \$85,000 be moved to the building fund to be used for future building maintenance. Folk made a motion to approve moving \$85,000 from the general fund property sales account 1001-36410-000 to the building fund transfers in account 2102-39990-000. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Portfolio updates were given.

Golden Valley Bridge change order item was put on next meeting agenda. Solar ordinance moratorium status was given with September 30, 2023, as the expiration date. Solar ordinance was discussed. Folk made a motion to place a six (6) month moratorium on the Mercer County solar ordinance. Bauman seconded. Folk, Bauman, and Wolf voted aye. Taylor and Frey voted nay. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2023, 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Travis Frey, Chairman

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