Mercer County Commission Minutes
October 21, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Rick Bauman.
Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Steve Guenthner, Gene Wolf, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during the meeting were Building & Grounds Supervisor Jim Albers, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, NextEra Energy Representatives Chase Dauenhauer, Greg Morris, Kristy Smith, Mike Knuth, Basin Electric Kay Konschak, NACC Representative David Straley, Coyote Creek Mine Representative Jeremy Eckroth, Coteau Freedom Mine Representative Darren Hellman, Highway Assistant Supervisor Dennis Olheiser, Lori Hammer, Linette Irwin, Kevin Hafner, Wes Klein, and Joe Grannis.
Pledge of allegiance was said.
Voigt moved to approve the agenda as presented. Folk seconded. Folk moved to amend agenda; add "insurance check" under "Beulah Building Discussion." Voigt seconded amendment. All voted aye. Amendment carried. All voted aye. Motion carried.
Voigt moved to approve the October 7, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
Voigt moved to approve the October 9, 2026 special meeting minutes as presented. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
Building & Grounds Supervisor Jim Albers gave an update on the Beulah Building project. A NDIRF insurance check for $136,507.77 has been received for storm damages that happened in June. Folk motioned to transfer the NDIRF Beulah Building damage claim check for $136,507.77 from General Fund Reimbursements (1001.33810.000) into the County Building Fund (2102.39990.000). Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
Folk is working on the application for the Beulah Building infrastructure loan through the Bank of North Dakota (BND).
Treasurer Dawn Grannis presented the following warrants for approval to send to unclaimed properties, Kayla Tweedy-Warrant #48967, $35.00; Jamee Folk-Warrant #49372, $4.53; Jessica Hirsch-Warrant #49462, $147.00; Jordan Vezina-Warrant #49672, $103.55; Kenneth Morin-Warrant #50002, $23.80; NDEMA-Warrant #50595, $50.00; Jessica Sprague-Warrant #54978, $9.52; Three Affiliated Tribes-Warrant #55002, $287.77; Audra Willis-Warrant #55017, $7.22; and Charity Robinson-Warrant #55074, $8.18.
Grannis is requesting permission to send these checks to the Department of Trust Lands as unclaimed property. Folk moved to approve sending all unclaimed checks to Department of Trust Lands, less Warrant #49372 for $4.53. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
The following Planning & Zoning Cases were presented by Commissioner Casey Voigt in Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller's absence:

- Zoning Case 26-09-03B-Hafner Place LLC- Third Addition to Sandstone Point-Final Plat. Folk moved to approve zoning case 26-09-03B as presented. Guenthner seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.

- Zoning Case 26-10-01-Tillman Infrastructure-Wireless Communications Tower- Sec 18 T144 R84. Guenthner moved to approve zoning case 26-10-01 as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- Ordinance Amendment to Industrial Use District to reinsert coal mining & facilities. Guenthner moved to approve the Ordinance Amendment as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Coyote Creek Mine Representative Jeremy Eckroth presented the Application of Coyote Creek Mining Company's order to temporarily close the east-west section line road between the S ½ of Section 1, TWN142N-R89W, and N ½ of Section 12, T142N, R89W and Public Hearing will be set for November 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Folk moved to approve the temporary road closing and public hearing set for November 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner the following resolution for the purpose of maintaining the County owned TruStage Retirement Program for our enrolled employees:

The Mercer County Board of County Commissioners agree that the following positions are hereby authorized to act as official representatives of Mercer County in matters relating to employee benefits:

1. Mercer County Auditor-Carmen Reed
2. Mercer County Deputy Auditor-Mark Erhardt
3. Mercer County Director of Human Resources-Alice Grinsteinner

Each of the above-designated officials is individually authorized to:

1. Represent Mercer County in communications, meetings, negotiations, and administrative matters with all employee benefit companies, insurance carriers, retirement systems, benefit administrators, and related organizations.
2. Sign, execute, and submit applications, enrollment documents, renewals, agreements, certifications, amendments, and other documents necessary for the administration and maintenance of Mercer County employee benefit programs.
3. Provide and receive information necessary for the administration of employee benefits, subject to applicable federal and state confidentiality and privacy laws.
4. Serve as an authorized contact and representative for Mercer County regarding employee benefit administration, eligibility, enrollment, changes, and related matters.

This authorization does not independently grant authority to establish new benefit programs, materially change county-approved benefit plans, or commit Mercer County to expenditures or contractual obligations requiring approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

Approved by the Mercer County Board of County Commissioners this 21st day of October, 2026.

Wolf moved to approve the presented resolution. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Recessed at 9:42 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:52 a.m.

Folk moved to approve the September Recorder Revenues of $6,100.20 as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolf moved to approve the Cabin Site#2 Special District BND Loan Request as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wes Klein and Joe Grannis spoke during the public comment period.

Voigt made a motion to advertise for the position of a financial officer. Folk seconded. Voigt and Wolf voted aye. Folk, Guenthner, and Bauman voted nay. Motion failed.

Portfolio Updates were given.

Folk moved to approve the bills as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ARMOR INTERACTIVE $2,774.00;

ARROW SERVICE TEAM $58,057.52; ASKIM, CRAIG $149.72; BERG, MICHAEL $33.44; BEULAH ND HARDWARE $53.97; BLOOM'N HOUSE $107.00; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE $3,935.46; BUTLER MACHINERY CO $1,999.94; CENTRAL DAKOTA FRONTIER COOPERATIVE $9,981.25; CHARM-TEX, INC. $43.60; CHI ST ALEXIUS HEALTH $209.41; D & E SUPPLY CO INC $494.54; DAKOTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC $78.00; DIRECT MED $413.09; ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE INC $4,861.19; FARMERS UNION OIL CO $510.00; FARMERS UNION SERVICE ASSOC. LTD $288.00; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS $2,772.53; FLEMMER, RYAN $15.20; FREEDOM TRUCK CENTER $4,355.54; GALLS $198.90; GRANNIS, DAWN $91.20; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK $181.40; HAZEN MOTOR CO $356.37; HAZEN STAR $35.00; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT $21,050.77; JOHNSEN TRAILER SALES, INC. $237.12; KIESLER POLICE SUPPLY $852.67; KRAUSE SUPER VALU $87.20; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES $180.00; LIGNITE TIRE SERVICE $3,076.00; MENARDS $172.22; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT $723.26; MOORE ENGINEERING $25,316.89; NAPA $904.60; NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE $13,613.89; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY $2,698.59; NORTH DAKOTA ENVELOPE COMPANY $315.75; NORTH DAKOTA ONE CALL $6.00; NSC MINERALS LTD $5,250.64; OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL $720.00; POITRAS, RACHEL $91.23; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. $5,545.30; QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC. $682.29; REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY $155.50; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE,INC $630.09; SAILER, SHANNON $30.40; SAKAKAWEA MEDICAL CENTER $2,074.77; SAYLER, DAWN $434.20; SCHEID, RICHARD $13.68; SENGER, SHANNAN $109.44; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY $59.82; SRF CONSULTING GROUP, INC $6,606.13; SUBSURFACE, INC. $39,950.00; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. $144.21; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES $720.00; UNIFORM CENTER $530.94; VERIZON WIRELESS $483.02; WEST RIVER EQUIPMENT $122.48; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH $4,325.82; WILMINGTON TRUST NA $30,300.00; COLE, SHANNON $34.96; ESLINGER, MIKE $32.68; HAFNER, KEVIN $25.84; THOMAS, ANDY $34.96; ENTZE, KERBY $30.40. (TOTAL: $260,370.03)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota. Meetings can be viewed live at https://www.youtube.com/@MercerCo

Approved: _____
Rick Bauman, Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor