

**Mercer County Commission Minutes
November 5, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf.

Present were Commissioners Rick Bauman, Jamee Folk, Mark Pierce, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during the meeting were Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, Tax Director Jen Neumiller, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Assistant Highway Superintendent Dennis Olheiser, Moore Engineer Tom Weigel, Extension Agent Craig Askim, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, and Troy Sailer.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Voigt moved to approve the October 15, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the September Recorder Revenues of \$5,992.80. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the Landfill fees increase to \$50 per ton effective January 1, 2026. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman moved to approve Bayview Heights Project BND Loan Number 587008700001, Requisition No. 2, for \$628,260. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ND Secretary of State's Office and Mercer County for proper administration of the election process and care of all election equipment. Pierce seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve all bills as presented. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: BIEBER, GERALD \$37.10; CITY OF BEULAH \$110.44; ERHARDT, MARK \$149.10; ESLINGER, MIKE \$37.80; GRINSTEINNER, ALICE \$589.50; HAFNER, KEVIN \$64.40; HILL, ASHLEY \$50.00; REED, CARMEN A \$600.80; RENNER, CHRIS \$33.60; SCHUTT, KRISTY \$107.80; TESKY, LEONARD \$140.00; ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$1,672.66; AED EVERYWHERE \$2,268.96; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$185.28; ANTELOPE CREEK TRUCKING INC. \$26,460.00; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$1,644.52; ASKIM, CRAIG \$258.68; ASTECH CORP \$267,585.90; AUTO VALUE \$1,753.81; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,196.67; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$4,378.00; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$12,706.50; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$243.94; CITY OF STANTON \$6,554.68; COAL COUNTRY CHC \$220.00; COLONIAL RESEARCH CHEMICAL CORP. \$691.46; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$1,479.97; DAKOTA AWARDS, INC. \$24.99; DARREN'S AUTO CARE \$597.00; DETTMANN, JENNY \$53.20; DUPPONG'S INC. \$800.80; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$1,548.54; ENTZE, CINDY \$56.70; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$40.94; GRANNIS, DAWN \$77.72; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$301.60; HAZEN MOTOR CO/FARM IMPLEMENT SHOP \$1,410.03; HAZEN STAR \$150.00; HR COLLABORATIVE \$50.00; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$69.82; L-TRON CORPORATION \$93.05; LANGOWSKI, GONTRAN \$103.63; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES \$90.00; LAW ENFORCEMENT SEMINARS, LLC \$445.00; LIGNITE TIRE SERVICE \$2,905.84; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$277.44; LUCKYS TOWING

AND REPAIR \$400.00; MCLEAN COUNTY IMPLEMENT, LLC \$1,406.94; MENARDS \$1,176.30; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$2,013.20; MINNESOTA VALLEY TESTING LABS INC \$4,211.25; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$57.78; MOORE ENGINEERING \$5,168.00; NAPA \$2,380.26; ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION \$1,201.41; ND SECRETARY OF STATE \$36.00; NDAAEA \$75.00; NDAE4-HYW %JILL MURPHY \$100.00; NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE \$13,249.55; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$13,147.31; NEUMILLER, JEN \$84.00; NORDAK CENTRAL PUBLISHING \$55.00; North Central International, LLC \$239.02; NORTH DAKOTA ENVELOPE COMPANY \$431.83; NORTH DAKOTA ONE CALL \$4.50; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,350.00; OLSON ELECTRIC \$21,294.21; OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY \$225.00; PCCS, INC. \$3,732.00; PFLIGER, METTA \$27.95; POITRAS, RACHEL \$41.73; POSTMASTER \$53.00; RADISSON HOTEL \$227.00; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$239.52; REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY \$23.06; RUD PROPANE LLP \$2,014.00; SAKAKAWEA MEDICAL CENTER \$1,494.96; SENGEL, SHANNAN \$100.80; SNIRTSTOPPER, LLC \$4,547.93; STERICYCLE, INC. \$22.90; T – MOBILE \$80.25; THE BEACON \$1,354.70; TRAFFIC SAFETY SERVICES INC. \$75,408.74; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$2,900.00; UNDERGROUND VAULTS & STORAGE INC. \$388.80; VERIZON WIRELESS \$618.90; VOIGT, CASEY LEE \$358.00; WEST RIVER EQUIPMENT \$11,000.00; WEX BANK \$3,289.43; WHITEMAN, JASMINE \$183.59. (TOTAL: \$516,731.69)

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner presented an Emergency Declaration due to the ongoing Federal Government Shutdown. This shutdown is affecting low-income and vulnerable individuals' essential benefits programs for food, nutrition, and home heating support, such as SNAP, WIC and LIHEAP programs. This declaration allows the county to work with the State to help fill these needs until the Federal government shutdown ends. Voigt moved to approve the Emergency Declaration as presented. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Troy Sailer discussed an electrical utility easement to cross cemetery land. Tax Director Jen Neumiller presented Zoning Case 25-11-01, the Application for Zoning Exemption for Electric, land use as Ag related electrical service in T146N-R89W-35 NE1/4, that is a required part of Sailer's request. Bauman moved to approve Zoning Case 25-11-01, Application for Zoning Exemption for Electric as presented. Voigt seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.

Board discussed the updating of the Planning and Zoning land use map. Neumiller stated that this map update is not included in the original Planning and Zoning Rewrite/Update Ordinance contract, but has been budgeted for 2026. Board requested Neumiller to gather more information on this update and bring back her findings.

Moore Engineer Tom Weigel presented the Rural Catalyst Grant Application for approval. This grant program provides up to \$500,000 with a 50/50 match to support quality of life improvement and economic development projects for rural communities. Bauman moved to approve the application of the Rural Catalyst Grant and the required 50/50 match of funds. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Assistant Highway Superintendent Dennis Olheiser presented West River Utility Permit #1774, installing new fiber optic facility at 1947 77th Ave SW, Golden Valley. Folk moved

to approve the West River Utility Permit #1774 as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Olheiser requested approval of the following: (1) Purchase cutting edges for \$15,060, (2) Complete loader repairs for \$18,000, and (3) Purchase of tires for \$20,000. Bauman moved to approve the purchase of cutting edges as presented. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Folk moved to approve the loader repairs. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Folk moved to approve purchase of tires up to \$20,000. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Recessed at 9:29 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:35 a.m.

Extension Agent Craig Askim gave an end of season update and stated that he had received an official resignation from Cindy Entze, with her last day being January 16, 2026. Askim requested permission to hire by year's end so Entze could train new hire before she leaves. Board agreed.

Portfolio Updates were given.

At 10:00 a.m. Voigt moved to close the regular meeting and open the Foreclosed Property Values Public Hearing. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

No one from the public was present and Auditor had not received any written comments. Bauman moved to close the Public Hearing. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Bauman moved to open the regular meeting. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 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