

## **Mercer County Commission Draft Minutes December 18, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Mark Pierce, Rick Bauman, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during the meeting were States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Sheriff Terry Ternes, NDSU Extension Agent Craig Askim, Tax Director Jennifer Neumiller, Interstate Engineering representatives Damon DeVillers and Harvey Fitzgerald, Summit Carbon Solutions Representatives Amanda Hoffer and Dave Nehring, Coteau Freedom Mine Darren Hellman, Ramsey Hill Exploration representatives Chris Cahoon, and Bryce Fontaine, Frey Consulting Travis Frey, ND Proppant Tim Barth and Cindy Johnson.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Voigt moved to approve the December 5, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Board reviewed vouchers. Folk moved to approve bills with following changes; holding the Legend Air bill for \$742.50, changed Sheriff's bills of Lignite Tire from \$180.00 to \$936.00 and Midco Communications from \$190.54 to \$381.08. (Note: Sheriff Terry Ternes, being present, approved these bill changes.) Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$217.47; BECHTOLD PAVING INC \$464,022.83; BENCO EQUIPMENT CO \$342.50; THE BEACON \$4,739.07; BRIDGING THE DENTAL GAP \$310.00; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$1,255.89; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$1,100.14; CITY AIR MECHANICAL, INC. \$22,165.00; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$6,508.96; CORE FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$46,586.51; D&E SUPPLY CO INC \$1,389.61; DACOTAH PAPER CO \$778.60; DAKOTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC \$48.99; DAKOTA PUMP & CONTROL CO, INC. \$1,023.00; EGGERS ELECTRIC MOTOR CO \$2,097.84; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$62,576.00; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$109.44; GRANNIS, DAWN \$69.68; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$305.82; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$188.89; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$1,262.79; HAZEN STAR \$1,238.14; HIGH PLAINS CONCEPTS \$50.00; HOUSTAN ENGINEERING INC \$3,636.60; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$5,910.54; JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL \$37,379.26; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES \$180.00; LIGNITE TIRE SERVICE \$936.00; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$381.08; MIDWEST DOORS INC \$300.00; MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS \$57,972.48; NAPA \$743.38; ND DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION \$163,799.96; NDSU \$210.00; QUANDIENT FINANCE USA, INC \$1,000.00; NEUBERGER OIL CO \$2,162.25; ND ENVELOPE COMPANY \$250.00; OCV, LLC \$10,487.00; ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC. \$132.50; POSTMASTER \$600.00; PROFESSIONAL HEATING & COOLING \$12,700.00; PRO FORMS \$202.46; PUKLICH CHEVROLET, INC \$26,500.00; RDO EQUIPMENT CO \$21,720.00; REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LAB \$191.10; REED, CARMEN \$600.00; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC

COOP \$953.79; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$57.28; STARK COUNTY \$5,000.00; THE HUB \$153.48; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC \$3,660.00; VANGUARD APPRAISALS INC. \$6,937.20; VERIZON WIRELESS \$1,068.36; VOLK, GINGER \$30.54; WEST RIVER TELECOMMS \$2,509.96; NATIONAL SHERIFF'S ASSOC. \$125.00. (CHECK#s 51672-51728) TOTAL \$986,907.14.

Recessed at 10:01 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:07 a.m.

Tax Director Jennifer Neumiller presented the three Update/Rewrite Ordinance RFP bids received from Frey Consulting, Donovan and Kaffar, PPLP with Apex Engineering Group, and SRF Consulting Group. Board reviewed a request from Interstate Engineering to also be included in this bid. Pierce moved to accept the three bids received within the timeframe allotted and move forward with the States Attorney's review and advisement. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Neumiller requested to have one portfolio holder for both the Tax Director and Planning & Zoning, which Voigt agreed to. Neumiller has now obtained her class one certification for Tax Assessor.

Folk moved to approve Temp Use #638 Energy Sand Solutions--Sand mining--S2 5-144-85--Ben Thomas--Renewal, for six months, to allow for requested paperwork be provided. Pierce seconded. Folk moved to amend motion to three months. Amendment failed. Folk moved to amend motion to one month. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Amendment carried. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Pierce moved to approve Temp Use # 639---Casey Voigt Scoria Pit--NW4 31-143-88---Casey Voigt---Renewal. Voigt recused himself. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve Temp Use #640 Wayne Boeshans--Gravel Pit--SW4 21-146-88--Boeshans---Renewal. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve Temp Use #641 Basin Electric---Laydown Yard---NE4NE4 20-144-84---Basin Electric---Renewal. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve Temp Use #642 The Coteau Properties---Test Hole Drilling---Section 32 T145 R88; Sections 1,2,3,11,12 T144 R89; Sections 25&36 T146 R87; Sections 28,29,30,31,32,33 T146 R86; Sections 4 &5 T145 R 86---Renewal but some new locations. Pierce recused himself. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman moved to approve Temp Use #643 Summit Carbon Solutions ---Test Wells--NE4NE4 22-142-88--BK Fischer-Renewal. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Pierce moved to approve Temp Use #644 Summit Carbon Solutions ---Test Wells--NE4 35-141-88--Milton Flemmer- Renewal. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Pierce moved to approve Temp Use #645 Summit Carbon Solutions ---Test Wells--S2S2 12-142-88--Archie Erickson- Renewal. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve Temp Use #646 Strata---Portable Crushing---A portion of 24 acres in SW4 T144 R 84---DLG Investments---Renewal. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve Temp Use #647—Randy Byrum—Sand Pit & Overburden Pit—20 Acres w/in the E2 of SE4 of 32-145-87—Renewal. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve Temp Use #648—Randy Byrum—Scoria Pit—S2N2 of 33-145-87—Renewal. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve Temp Use #649—Ramsey Hill Exploration--Aggregate Materials Operations--NE4 23-144-86--Anthony Folk-Renewal. Folk recused herself from voting on Ramsey Hill Exploration Temp Use #649 and Temp Use #650.

Bauman seconded. Bauman moved to amend motion to three months. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Amendment carried. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve Temp Use #650—Ramsey Hill Exploration--- Haul Road-W2 14-144-86--Gary Lenius-Renewal. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve Temp Use #651--North Dakota Proppant ---Sand and gravel mining--W2 10-144-85--Donald Hoge- Renewal. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve Temp Use #652—LeeRoy Fischer—Scoria Pit—SE4 of 3-143-89--Joe Reich-Renewal. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

NDSU Extension Agent Craig Askim gave his year-end report. Discussed the extension office lease agreement renewal. Commission requested a list of all county office leases with costs before deciding on the final extension renewal decision.

Folk moved to approve WRT Utility Permit #1765 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, located 6.5 miles NW from Hazen as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman moved to approve the Sheriff's November revenues of \$43,152.71. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the Recorder's November revenues of \$6,850.00. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolf is reviewing the Per Diem rates verses the IRS rates.

Folk moved to approve putting out an RFP for a County Engineer. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Auditor will put it together and forward to States Attorney for advisement at January 2, 2025 meeting.

Bauman moved to appoint Folk to the Western Plains Public Health Board. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Discussed Sheriff's budgeted funding.

Portfolio Updates were given.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 2, 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](http://www.mercercountynd.com)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gene Wolf, Chairman

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