

## **Mercer County Commission Minutes January 3, 2024**

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 Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Landfill Director Candy Strand, Houston Engineering Representative Sherwin Wanner, NDSU Extension Family and Community Wellness Agent Metta Pfliger, Core Facility Solutions Representatives Kris Schwab and Curt Pierce, Dave Braun, Rick Thompson, Randy Schantz, Bill Galvin, Donna Boehm, Carol Galvin, Robert Treitline, Sheryl Treitline, Sharon Moon, Stephen Hoetzer, Steve Guenthner, and Pam Guenthner.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Wolf moved to approve the agenda as amended. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey turned the meeting over to Auditor Reed to reorganize the board for 2024. Reed called for nominations for Chairman. Folk nominated Gene Wolf for Chairman. Reed asked if there were any other nominations. Bauman made a motion to cease nominations. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Commissioner Wolf was declared Chairman of the Board of Mercer County Commissioners. Auditor Reed turned the meeting back over to Chairman Wolf. Wolf called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Taylor nominated Travis Frey. Folk nominated Rick Bauman for Vice-Chair. Wolf asked if there were any other nominations for Vice-Chair. Frey moved to close nominations for Vice-Chair. Bauman seconded. Frey and Taylor voted in favor of Travis. Folk, Bauman, and Wolf voted in favor of Rick. Commissioner Bauman was declared Vice-Chairman for the Board of Mercer County Commissioners.

Bauman moved to approve the December 20, 2023, minutes as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to approve bills. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$1,076.80; ASKIM, CRAIG \$370.26; BARBOT FUNERAL HOMES \$2,755.00; BAUMAN, RICK \$434.96; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,084.33; BLUE 360 MEDIA, LLC \$237.62; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$13,844.11; CITY AIR MECHANICAL, INC. \$350.46; CULVER, ROSEMARY \$13.20; ENTZE, CINDY \$13.20; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$420.00; WEX BANK \$2,948.92; FLOOD, GARY \$7.50; FREY, TRAVIS \$191.24; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$40.95; AUTO VALUE \$740.58; INTERSTATE POWER SYSTEMS, INC. \$8.84; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$267.52; LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT \$7,908.81; RELX INC. DBA LEXISNEXIS \$220.11; MERCER COUNTY PROPERTIES INC. \$8,568.00; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$1,268.16; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$106.85; NAPA \$18.49; NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$450.00; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$58,783.93; ND COUNTY TREASURER'S ASSOC \$250.00; ND DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES \$1,944.80; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$5,345.28; NORTHERN SAFETY CO., INC. \$0.35; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$5,763.75; OLIVER COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL \$64.00; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$1,321.35; PLATINUM MOTOR SPORTS INC \$815.91;

LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$241.49; QUILL OFFICE PRODUCTS \$233.10; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$266.49; SCHUTT, RONA \$26.79; SCHWARZ, TODD \$393.92; SPS COMPANIES, INC. \$239.58; SWEEPER METAL FABRICATORS CORP \$348.37; TOWER COMMUNICATIONS INC \$555.00; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC. \$4,049.66; VERIZON WIRELESS \$727.14; VISION WEST ND \$1,000.00; WOLF, GENE \$202.46 (CHECK #s 49547-49592) TOTAL \$125,919.28.

Folk made motion to approve the duplicate warrant #49439 for Sawyer Zingg for \$1,000.00. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey made a motion to approve the relinquishing of the joint jurisdiction for Beulah ET zone. Bauman seconded. Frey voted aye. Bauman, Taylor, Folk, and Wolf voted nay. Motion failed.

Frey made a motion to accept the state mileage rate of \$0.67 for 2024. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman made a motion to approve the transfer of funds from 2160 to 2140 for the County Road account. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Metta Pfliger, NDSU Extension Family and Community Wellness Agent, gave her quarterly activity report and update.

The board recessed at 10:05 a.m.

The board reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

Core Facility Solutions representatives Kris Schwab and Curt Pierce, gave an update on the 2024 scheduled courthouse projects, which included the chiller replacement, boiler system, and completion of the courthouse lighting updates. Frey made a motion to approve the cost updates for CFS.1a (boiler system) and CFS.5d (courthouse lighting). Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Sherwin Wanner presented an update on the landfill capping project regarding draft contract documents, bidding dates, and preliminary cost estimates.

Full cost with traditional top soil used would cost \$329,000 for the total 2.65 acres of landfill cover in portions of cells 3, 4, and 5. Working with the State on possible top soil replacement options for a cost savings. Draft contract documents will be sent for States Attorney's review and approval. Requesting from the commission approval to move forward with the bidding process and set February 7, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. for the bid opening. Frey made a motion to set the bid opening on February 7, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. Bauman seconded. Frey, Bauman, Taylor and Wolf voted aye. Folk absent during vote. Motion carried.

Landfill Director Candy Strand discussed various issues facing the landfill operations and costs.

Taylor presented a final HR position description to the board for approval.

Taylor made a motion to accept the HR job description as presented. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Folk made a motion for the HR position to be posted on the county website, completed applications go to Tanya Weiler, and application deadline is February 9, 2024. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The Second Reading of the Special Assessment District Procedure was discussed.

Frey made a motion to add "would not circumvent any century code procedures" to item number 23 on page 3. Folk seconded. All voted aye.

Motion carried. Bauman made a motion to change item number 10 from sixty

percent to fifty plus one for the benefit of property owners that support the proposal of improvement. Frey seconded. Bauman moved to amend motion to strike all wording in item number ten and replace with wording of N.D.C.C. 40-22-18. Frey seconded the amendment. All voted aye. Amendment carried. All voted aye on the motion. Motion carried. Changes once approved by the States Attorney will be advertised for two weeks and the second reading will be February 21, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

The board recessed at 11:30 a.m.

The board reconvened at 11:34 a.m.

Portfolio assignments were given as follows:

Bauman-Sheriff, Road Department, Planning & Zoning, Extension Agency, Fair Board, MCED(Alternate).

Taylor-Treasurer, Airport Authority, Ambulance Board, Lewis & Clark Regional Development (Alternate), Planning and Zoning (Alternate), HR, and Emergency Management.

Wolf- Clerk of Court, States Attorney, Auditor, Recorder, Veterans Services, Policy Committee, Weed Board.

Folk – Landfill, Building Maintenance, ND Missouri River Advisory Council, Superintendent of Schools, LEPC, Dakota Central Social Service Governing Board, Western Plains Public Health, West Central Human Service Center Regional Advisory Council.

Frey – Tax Director, Coal Conversion/Vision West, Planning and Zoning, Gas & Oil Counties, Lewis & Clark Regional Development, Water Resource Board, Library Board, MCED, Western Dakota Energy.

Portfolio updates were given.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 17, 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](http://www.mercercountynd.com)

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

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