

**Mercer County Commission
Minutes
January 18, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Chairman Travis Frey. Present were Commissioners Gene Wolf, Jamee Folk, Rick Bauman and Auditor Samantha Melberg. Commissioner Taylor was absent. Others present during portions of the meeting were Sheriff Ternes, Tax Director Cyndi Zueger, Dawn Grannis, Charlie Hankins, Candy Strand, Ken Miller and Dan Arens of BHG News. Wolf moved to approve the agenda with additions. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Bauman moved to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2023 commission meeting with corrections. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

The Mercer County Landfill lease was discussed and Commissioner Wolf requested to terminate the current lease with Adrian Mittlesteadt since he no longer wants to lease the land. Folk suggested the county look into the minimum rent payment and make sure we adjust if needed for future bidders.

Bauman moved to terminate the current lease. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Frey stated to post for open bids for two weeks. Due on February 14, 2023 at 4:00 pm. The Auditor will contact USDA for appraisal of landfill lease rent.

Wolf moved to advertise bids for two weeks due February 14, 2023 at 4:00 pm to be voted at the February 15, 2023 meeting. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Treasurer Grannis discussed the Prairie Dog Funds that were received this month and asked to place the money into a separate interest-bearing ICS account with Union State Bank. Bauman moved to place the Prairie Dog Fund into an ICS interest bearing account. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Discussion was held regarding the Auction House. Commissioners decided to put it on the next agenda and request for the City of Stanton to be present.

Commissioners reviewed bills.

Bills were postponed.

Charlie Hankins requested payment to contractors for bridge 29-102-12.1. He then presented information regarding a RAISE (Rebuilding Americas Infrastructure Sustainable Equity) Grant that may be available for roads and bridges for future years 2027-2032. Frey stated this grant is available to 50% rural and 50% urban cities but there will be competition against other small communities throughout the US. Frey stated with the grant the county could consider projects such as paving the airport road.

Charlie Hankins gave an update for bridge 29-134-20. Material shortage and availability is causing an issue. Folk asked if the county would need to wait for a rebid if there is a need to change the structure. Wolf asked if they could use pipe. Hankins stated they have looked into other options. Folk asked to keep communication going between property owners. This was originally projected for 6-9 months and now going on two years.

Road Superintendent Ken Miller gave an update for Cty 17 application. It has been submitted for review and anticipating a bid date of Spring 2024.

Recess at 10:13 A.M.

Reconvened at 10:25 A.M.

Sheriff Ternes discussed absorbing the 911 Coordinator position under the Sheriff budget. He would like to see the position added to his Senior Dispatcher position and compensate that employee accordingly.

Bauman moved to add the 911 Coordinator Position under the Sheriffs Department. Wolf seconded. Bauman amended his motion to add April 1, 2023 as the effective transition date. Wolf seconded. Rick aye, Wolf aye, Folk recused herself from voting, Frey aye. Motion passed.

Auditor Melberg discussed creating a full time HR position with the possibility of attaching the Emergency Manager position with HR. States Attorney Schwarz stated it would make difficult situations easier if HR was sperate from any other department. Having the HR position directly under the commission would protect the county legally. Folk wants to wait for the new Auditor to take office to decide.

Bauman discussed the Sheriffs contracts for holding inmates with other counties, cities, and feds. Sheriff Ternes would like to terminate the current contracts and send out new ones with a new increased rate. Bauman moved to have the Sheriff opt out and offer new contracts to counties and a new rate of \$75.00 for contracted counties and \$80.00 for non-contracted counties. Wolf seconded. Rick aye, Wolf aye, Jamee recused, Frey aye. Motion passed.

Bauman moved to opt out of the current City contract and enter new contract of \$25.00 and \$30.00 a day. Wolf seconded. Rick aye, Wolf aye, Jamee recused, Frey aye. Motion passed.

Sheriff Ternes gave update to his 2022 budget and explained that the reason his budget was over was the hike in gas prices and the approval from the commission to add a corrections officer to his staff.

Schwarz gave his opinion on the Auction House. Since the commission suspended the contract for C&L Backhoe for demolition then there was no breach of contract. Schwarz would like to request a formal meeting with Chip & Linda and the City of Stanton.

Auditor Melberg gave an update from the Treasurer. She confirmed that the ICS interest rate is 3.75%.

The board resumed reviewing bills. The following bills were approved for payment. (Check #47516-47579) (ACCURATE CONTROLS, INC. \$31,100.73; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$1,881.00; BARBOT FUNERAL HOMES \$4,185.00; THE BEACON \$256.44; BEULAH DRUG \$5.99; BLOOM'N HOUSE \$55.00; LUCKY'S TOWING AND REPAIR \$400.00; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$1,276.96; CHARM-TEX, INC \$656.40; CITY OF BEULAH \$86.08; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$6,620.53; CUSTER HEALTH \$4,293.13; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$474.07; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$1,585.50; FARM & HOME PUBLISHERS, LTD \$300.00; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$13,599.30; FITTERER OIL HAZEN LLC \$28,642.92; WEX BANK \$78.49; GALLS/QUARTERMASTER \$167.14; HAZEN MOTOR CO/FARM

IMPLIMENT SHOP \$364.90; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$3,677.99; INTERSTATE ENGINEERING INC \$22,425.00; JOB SERVICE OF NORTH DAKOTA \$36.95; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES \$90.00; LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT \$7,849.88; LIGNITE TIRE SERVICE \$160.00; QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC \$582.87; MERCER COUNTY PROPERTIES, INC \$8,400.00; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$2,916.72; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$144.44; MIDWEST DOORS INC \$543.00; NAPA \$1,513.60; WESTERN DAKOTA ENERGY ASSOCIATION \$500.00; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$26.00; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 911 \$859.18; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,755.00; ND AUDITORS ASS'N \$125.00; NDLTAP \$50.00; ND NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION \$168.92; ND SECRETARY OF STATE \$36.00; ND STATE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS \$720.00; ND STATE TREASURER \$4,295.89; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC \$210.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$8,780.74; ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC \$61.45; PHARMCHEM, INC \$419.65; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC \$197.18; RDO TRUCK CENTERS \$1,490.45; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC \$175.00; SEIFERT, BRADLEY Q \$457.20; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$57.88; CHI ST ALEXIUS HEALTH CAR COMPANY \$452.91; STERICYCLE, IN \$20.00; STROUP INSURANCE & REALITY \$50.00; SWANSTON EQUIPMENT \$608.06; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC \$38.00; TOWER COMMUNICATIONS INC \$555.00; VERIZON WIRELESS \$489.74; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$2,942.99; MOUNTAIN PLAINS YOUTH SERVICE \$3,500.00; 3RD AVENUE FLORAL & GREENHOUSE \$48.00; JENNIFER S KRIZAN \$6.00; MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONSTABLE \$75.00) (Totaling: \$173,571.02).

Wolf moved to approve bills as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Portfolio updates were given.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 1, at 9:00 AM in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota. The meetings can be viewed online at www.mercercountynd.com

Approved: _____
Travis Frey, Chairman

Attest: _____
Samantha Melberg, Auditor