

**Mercer County Commission Minutes
April 2, 2025**

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 Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Tax Director Jennifer Neumiller, State Attorney Todd Schwarz, Assistant Highway Superintendent Dennis Olheiser, Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, Sheriff Terry Ternes, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, AT&T/FirstNet Representative Katie Schloss, Ramsey Hill Exploration Representatives Chris Cahoon and Justin Johnson, Zap Fire Chief Michael Mohl, Hazen Assistant Fire Chief Adam Sailer, Darwin Knutson, Rachel Grimm, Neuberger Oil Representative Doug Neuberger, Fitterer Oil Representative Brad Zuern, Scott Wheeler (via phone), and Beulah Cenex Representative Joe Fouhy.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Bauman moved to approve the March 20, 2025 minutes as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk recused herself regarding Temporary Use Permit #649 renewal-Ramsey Hill.

Bauman moved to approve Temporary Use Permit #649 renewal-Ramsey Hill.

Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, Zap Fire Chief Michael Mohl, and Hazen Assistant Fire Chief Adam Sailer discussed the need for a Stage One fire ban that is more restrictive burn ban. The current dry and windy conditions threatened to create very large fires and requesting all Mercer County residents to reframe from outdoor burning until the grass greens up. Folk moved to approve the Stage One Fire Emergency Declaration & Burn Ban as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

AT&T/FirstNet Representative Katie Schloss gave a presentation on the FirstNet nationwide network built just for public safety.

Folk moved to approve Semi-Annual Liquor License Application for Nana's Kitchen, Hazen Bay. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman made the motion to move the sheriff's vehicle insurance check of \$28,546.84, from general fund account# 1001-33810-000 into the Sheriff's special vehicle fund account# 2122-39990-000. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mercer County resident Darwin Knutson addressed the commission regarding their fiducial responsibilities to the residents of the county. Knutson emphasized on consistency of always looking at ways to keep expenses down and make use of our own resources rather than outsourcing them.

Scott Wheeler (via phone) discussed the Lawrence Welk 40th Anniversary support letter request with the board. There are efforts being done in North Dakota and nationwide to raise awareness of the 70th Anniversary of the Lawrence Welk

Show's national debut, and the positive contributions to music, and television, along with Lawrence Welk being a native of Strasburg, North Dakota and Myron Floren originally from Webster, South Dakota. Voigt moved to approve the letter of support for the Lawrence Welk show's 70th Anniversary. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Recessed at 9:50 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:58 a.m.

Assistant Highway Superintendent Dennis Olheiser and Rachel Grimm opened conducted the annual bid opening. Grim stated that all bids will be reviewed and brought back for commission approval. Once approved all the bidders are put into a bidding pool and used as needs arise for their products.

States Attorney Todd Schwarz updated the commission regarding the Tyler software implementation and our next steps. Payroll was at the top of the list of priority. Board agreed to have a special meeting held as soon as the Eide Bailly payroll audit report was received. Information within this report will greatly aid in guiding the county in a more successful software transition.

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner thanked the commission for their prompt help during this payroll issue process, but stated that employee morale is low and causing a toxic environment. Board discussed this issue and stated that right now everything possible is being done currently and will continue until all issues have been successfully addressed.

Recessed at 10:53 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

Portfolio updates were given.

Board reviewed vouchers. Folk moved to approve the bills as presented. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ASKIM, CRAIG \$200.80; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,196.67; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$514.80; DIRECT MED \$1,169.13; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$1,396.04; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$26.91; HAZEN STAR \$2,373.51; INTOXIMETERS INC \$375.00; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$112.11; LANGOWSKI, GONTRAN \$149.00; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$252.16; MIDWEST DOORS INC \$684.00; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$104.58; NAPA \$225.56; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$2,055.16; NEUMILLER, JEN \$18.90; NORDAK CENTRAL PUBLISHING \$75.00; PIERCE, MARK L. \$267.40; POSTMASTER \$160.60; SWEEPER METAL FABRICATORS CORP \$607.50; TESKY, LEONARD \$5.00; THE BEACON \$941.84; TOWER COMMUNICATIONS INC \$555.00; VERIZON WIRELESS \$1,130.44; VOIGT, CASEY LEE \$293.60; VOLK, GINGER R. \$161.18; WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE \$250.00. (Total: \$15,301.89)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 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