

**Mercer County Commission Minutes  
May 3, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Travis Frey. Present were Commissioners, Jamee Folk, Rick Bauman, Gene Wolf, Liza Taylor was absent, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during portions of the meeting were Deputy Auditor Gwyn Bosch, Tax Director Cyndi Zueger, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Deputy Treasurer Alice Grinsteiner, Road Superintendent Ken Miller, Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Butler Cat Representative Kasey Erickson, RDO Representative Steve Meier, Maurice Hardy, Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins, Rick Kleinwaechter, Bill Marlenee, Terry Grannis, and Joseph Grannis.

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

Wolf moved to approve the April 19, 2023, minutes as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Board reviewed bills.

Bauman moved to approve bills. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The following bills were approved for payment. ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$1,576.64; ASKIM, CRAIG \$85.14; BAKER, ADAM \$60.69; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,001.00; BOBCAT OF MANDAN, INC. \$962.17; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$6,346.40; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$443.38; CARDMEMBER SERVICE \$1,139.77; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$305.10; CITY OF BEULAH \$90.45; DAKOTA AWARDS \$169.90; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC. \$1,800.00; EMINETH PLUMBING \$2,560.01; ENTZE, CINDY \$92.40; EVERSPRING INN AND SUITES \$176.40; WEX BANK \$2,731.60; FOLKERTS, JESSE \$213.95; FREY, TRAVIS \$83.00; GALLS, LLC \$1,101.50; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$181.34; HAZEN PUBLIC SCHOOL \$25.00; HAZEN STAR \$173.00; INTERSTATE ENGINEERING INC. \$28,347.50; JOHNSON, KATHY \$131.46; KREBS AUTO BODY LLC \$789.74; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$2,327.15; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$108.32; ND POST BOARD \$25.00; NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE \$14,049.24; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$2,590.00; NEUMILLER, JEN \$29.04; NORTH DAKOTA ENVELOPE COMPANY \$275.00; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$676.38; OLSON, RONALD \$153.49; PEHL, PAM \$178.20; PFLIGER, METTA \$622.60; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$456.12; SIGN SOLUTIONS \$134.47; SMITHS DETECTION, INC. \$4,376.67; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$57.90; CHI ST ALEXIUS HEALTH CARE COMPANY \$452.91; STROUP INSURANCE INC. \$50.00; TAYLOR, LIZA \$140.92; UNTERSEHER, ANN B. \$3,840.00; VERIZON WIRELESS \$986.39; WOLF, GENE \$50.00; ZUEGER, CYNDI \$137.28; MOUNTAIN PLAINS YOUTH SERVICE \$4,000.00. TOTAL \$86,304.62.

Wolf made a motion to accept the March recorder fees in the amount of \$3,358.60. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk made a motion to approve the Bee's Café (Hazen Bay) Liquor License #458 request that will be in effect from May 1 through November 1, 2023. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Portfolio updates given.

Maurice Hardy %Dakota Central Social Services Director introduced himself and gave the board an update on the status of the center and due to new law, their board will require a legislator to be appointed. Hardy requested to have their raises in effect on July 1 instead of the January 1, due to the state's fiscal year being July 1 through June 30. Bauman made a motion to start Dakota Central Social Services wage increases on July 1 versus January 1. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Gwyn Bosch %Policy Committee Chairman gave the first reading of the Mercer County Policy 606(B) Inclement Weather. Board and employees present discussed this policy. Concerns regarding the essential workers getting eight (8) hours worked= eight (8) hours vacation during inclement weather situation. Commission felt strongly that there needs to be a limit put on this within a 24 hour period, due to the fact that essential workers are at times required to work 24 hour shifts. Second reading will be held at the next Commission meeting on May 17 at 9:45 a.m.

Road Superintendent Miller requested bid approval for the 2023 motor grader bids, one from Butler Cat and one from RDO, with both bids being good options for the county. Bauman made a motion to trade unit #104 for a new motor grader. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Board discussed which bid to accept.

Recess 10:10 a.m.

Reconvened 10:17 a.m.

Board continued discussion on motor grader bids. Bauman moved to award the 2023 motor grader bid to RDO. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Road Superintendent Miller requested a motion to accept the following 2023 annual bid recommendations: Propane-Rud Oil & Gas, Center; Diesel Fuel & Unleaded Gas-Neuberger Oil, Beulah; Fitterer Oil, Hazen; & Rud Oil & Gas, Center; Oil & Grease-Neuberger Oil, Beulah; Common Excavation-Hanson's Excavating, Inc, De Lacs, Baranko Brothers, Inc., Dickinson; Tires-NW Tire, Bismarck, Lignite Tire, Beulah & OK Tire, Bismarck; Culverts-TruNorth Steel, Fargo; Gravel & Scoria Crushing-Sundre Sand & Gravel Inc, Minot, Gravel Products, Minot & Fisher Sand & Gravel, Dickinson; Lawn-S&M Lawn Service, Center; Equipment Rental-Baranko Brothers, Inc, Dickinson, Hanson's Excavating Inc, Des Lacs, Lake View Services, Beulah, & Sundre & Gravel Inc. Minot. Wolf made a motion to accept the annual 2023 bids as recommended by Miller. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Miller requested motion to approve Permit #1747, that will allow Roughrider Electric to bore a power line under an area near 6 St SW & County Road 13. Wolf made a motion to approve Permit #1747. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Miller requested motion to approve Permit #1748, that will allow Roughrider Electric to bore a power line under the west ditch of Bay Drive in the Beulah Bay area. Wolf made a motion to approve Permit #1748. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins gave an update on the County Road 20 bridge and other upcoming state bridge projects that will continue in our county and across the state. After much discussion and concern, the commission was advised to reach out to their Legislators to help get these bridge project issues resolved in a more efficient manner. Hankins will keep working with Miller and commission portfolio holders on finding alternative ways to help safely open up these closed bridges.

Rick Kleinwaechter of East End Auto discussed the County Road 21 damage that had occurred when his towing rig had pulled out a semi in January of this year. He had received a cost of damages to be quoted at \$17,604 from Interstate Engineering. Upon further investigation by the state's attorney, commission portfolio holders and sheriff, these damages were found to be minor and easily repaired by the county road department. Commission requested Kleinwaechter to disregard this billing and thanked him for his time in this matter.

Cyndi Zueger, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator, presented a request to amend the mercer county zoning district map so as to change from residential district to agricultural district of the following parcel;

- Duane and Lori Flemmer are requesting to amend their property described as an irregular parcel that consists of a 13.99 acre parcel located within the SW4 along with a 4.88 acre parcel located within the SE4 of Section 25 T142N R88W, from a Residential District to an Agricultural District. Folk moved to approve this change as requested. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Deputy Auditor Gwyn Bosch administered the oath of office to newly elected Treasurer Dawn Grannis.

Social services building update: No further postal service information and/or contract was received by state's attorney's office. Auditor's office has received a call from a resident interested in purchasing this building.

Bill Marlene and Terry Grannis requested the board for direction on building his fence correctly on his section line. State's Attorney Schwarz advised them to build fences 33 ½ feet from the section line.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2023, 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Travis Frey, Chairman

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