

## **Mercer County Commission Minutes May 20, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chairman Jamee Folk. Present were Commissioners Steve Guenther, Gene Wolf, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Rick Bauman was absent. Others present during the meeting were Sheriff Terry Ternes, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller, Recorder Shannan Senger, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteiner, Assistant Highway Superintendent Dennis Olheiser, Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, NDSU Extension Agent Craig Askim, Moore Engineer Tom Weigel, Mercer County Planning & Zoning Board Chairman Mike Eslinger, NextEra Representatives Chase Dauenhauer, Wayne Bertsch, Melissa Brooks, Basin Electric Power Cooperative Representative John (Jack) Schuh, Joe Grannis, Lori Hammer, Michael Berg, Weston Berg, Kevin Hafner, Wes Klein, and Gerry Burr.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Voigt moved to approve the May 6, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller presented the following applications for temporary use permits:

- Temp Use #673 Badlands Aggregate-Barrow Pit, East Half of SW1/4 of S14, T142N-R88W. This is a two (2) acre open barrow pit for fill dirt used for a wind farm project. Voigt moved to approve Temporary Use Permit #673 as presented. Guenther seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- Temp Use #674 Fisher, Sand & Gravel-Gravel Pit, SE1/4 of S26, T144N-R84W Mercer County, ND. Reopened old gravel pit. Voigt moved to approve Temporary Use Permit #674 as presented. Guenther seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mercer County Planning & Zoning Board Chairman Mike Eslinger gave a subcommittee meeting update. Next subcommittee meeting will be held at the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton on June 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Voigt moved to approve extending the SRF consulting contract as needed. Guenther seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.

Wolf moved to approve the April Recorder revenues of \$4,149.80. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the Sheriff's revenues of \$54,910.82. Guenther seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Auditor Carmen Reed presented the 2027 Budget Calendar.

Moore Engineer Tom Weigel presented the Resolution for approval of state funding of a \$1,548,275.66 chip sealing project that includes County Road 5, 13 & 37 totaling 30.74 miles. Cost of this project will be split 80/20, between state and county. Voigt moved to approve the State Resolution as presented. Guenther seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Assistant Highway Superintendent Dennis Olheiser requested the purchase of a Track Skid Steer Bush Hog for \$138,625 and a tire machine for \$11,500. Voigt moved to

approve the purchase of the tire machine up to \$11,500. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Recessed at 9:37 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:45 a.m.

NDSU Extension Agent Craig Askim gave a quarterly update.

NextEra Representative Chase Dauenhauer gave a River Run Energy Center Project Update.

Wolf moved to approve the bills as presented without the J2 Studio bill for \$3,330.00.

Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$1,637.74; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$3,891.36; AUTO VALUE \$241.10; BERG, MICHAEL \$33.35; Blue Hawk Audio Video \$550.00; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$4.79; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$6,363.20; CAPITAL I INDUSTRIES INC. \$3,091.00; CHI ST ALEXIUS HEALTH \$209.41; CHS INC. \$22,330.00; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$6,506.62; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$338.51; DAKOTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC \$394.00; DAKOTA FIRE EXTINGUISHER INC \$1,430.55; DANA SAFETY SUPPLY, INC. \$69,276.00; EGGERS ELECTRIC MOTOR CO \$730.92; ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE INC \$7,403.19; EMINETH PLUMBING \$395.00; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$22,200.00; FARMERS UNION SERVICE ASSOC. LTD \$1,085.00; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$22.68; FLEMMER, RYAN \$14.50; GUENTHNER, STEVE \$287.80; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$32.97; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$51.28; HAZEN STAR \$589.95; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$2,460.10; LEXIS NEXIS MATTHEW BENDER \$278.86; M & B RENTALS LLP \$675.00; MARTIN, ISAY \$12.00; MENARDS \$907.73; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$6.50; MIDWEST DOORS OF DICKINSON, INC \$236.35; NAPA \$2,539.32; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$748.00; ND STATE TREASURER \$85.51; NDSU AG COMMUNICATION \$13.50; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$3,733.20; NEWMAN SIGNS INC \$520.40; North Central International, LLC \$1,182.29; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$2,180.00; PFLIGER, METTA \$428.85; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. \$4,010.00; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$121.14; REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY \$63.54; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC \$1,834.41; RUD PROPANE LLP \$11,974.22; SAILER, SHANNON \$29.00; SAKAKAWEA MEDICAL CENTER \$435.23; SCHEID, RICHARD \$13.05 SEIFERT, BRADLEY Q \$75.00; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$59.94; SRF CONSULTING GROUP, INC \$8,020.15; Stein's Inc \$383.71; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$108.45; THE PAINTERS, INC. \$610.00; Tyler Business Forms \$547.62; VERIZON WIRELESS \$492.33; WAY POINT ONE \$279.58; WEST RIVER EQUIPMENT \$728.79; WILMINGTON TRUST NA \$400.00; BASARABA, LILLIE \$221.05; ESLINGER, MIKE \$131.95; HAFNER, KEVIN \$118.90; RENNER, CHRIS \$66.70; STRAND, CANDICE \$41.75; THOMAS, ANDY \$24.65. (TOTAL: \$194,465.44)

States Attorney Todd Schwarz presented a Draft Joint Powers Agreement-Oliver Recorder Position. No action was taken.

Mercer County residents Michael Berg and Wes Klein spoke during Public Comment. Portfolio updates were given.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota.

Meetings can be viewed live at <https://www.youtube.com/@MercerCo>

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Jamee Folk, Vice-Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Carmen Reed, Auditor