

Mercer County Commission Minutes July 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Liza Taylor, Travis Frey, Rick Bauman, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during portions of the meeting were Treasurer Dawn Grannis, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Sheriff Terry Ternes, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, and Joe Grannis.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Frey moved to approve the July 3, 2024, minutes as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman moved to approve all bills as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ANTELOPE CREEK TRUCKING INC. \$126,699.84; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$2,461.00; THE BEACON \$763.00; BOSCH, GWYN \$405.46; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$2,131.83; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$324.90; CITY OF BEULAH \$99.27; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$7,910.18; COAL COUNTRY CHC \$225.00; CORE FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$101,429.89; WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH \$4,255.27; D & E SUPPLY CO INC. \$1,304.73; DAKOTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC. \$2,995.00; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$24,470.25; FREY, TRAVIS \$193.38; GRANNIS, DAWN \$366.98; GRINSTEINNER, ALICE \$115.00; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$202.85; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$5,621.74; ISTATE TRUCK CENTER \$65.25; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$16.04; LIGNITE TIRE SERVICE \$1,168.00; QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC. \$682.29; RELX INC. DBA LEXISNEXIS \$205.00; MEADOWS, CODY D. \$1,200.00; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$753.71; MID-DAKOTA WHEEL ALIGNMENT & \$605.20; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$176.54; NAPA \$2,779.45; NDAO \$225.00; ND APCO ASSOCIATION \$990.00; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$189.00; OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL \$720.00; ND DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES \$288.98; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. \$1,000.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$15,682.47; NEW CASTLE SHERIFF'S OFFICE \$75.00; OLHEISER, DENNIS \$615.30; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$279.75; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$226.35; REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY \$31.20; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. \$831.42; RUD PROPANE LLP \$24,471.63; SAKAKAWEA MEDICAL CENTER \$135.87; SCHUTT, RONA \$24.71; STROUP INSURANCE INC. \$50.00; TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC. \$5,229.50; THOMPSON, TRISTAN \$600.00; SWANSON, ARLAN A. \$1,200.00; VERIZON WIRELESS \$575.27; WALLER, CHRISTOPHER \$835.63; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$495.00; WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE \$250.00. (CHECK#s 50742- 50795) TOTAL \$344,678.88.

Frey gave an update on Zoning Case #24-05-01, Bruce Kobilansky Resolution to amend the Mercer County Zoning District Map from Ag to Commercial with a Conditional Use for RV park & storage. It was decided to have a special meeting regarding this zoning case #24-05-01 on Monday, July 22, 2024.

Bauman moved to approve the Roughrider Electric Coop Utility Permit #1763. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman moved to approve the June Sheriff's fees of \$40,359.90. Frey seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve the June Recorder's fees of \$6,043.75. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk moved to approve Western Plains Health usage of Mercer County Opioid funds of \$17,759. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolf stated that he had received weed board applications for two open positions. It was agreed that these openings would be advertised along with the open library board position for two weeks and applicants will be appointed at the next meeting.

Portfolio updates were given.

Recessed at 10:13 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:18 a.m.

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteiner gave an update regarding policy changes.

Taylor moved to adopt the Exempt Employee Pay Deductions policy as presented. Frey seconded. Folk recused herself. Taylor, Frey, Bauman, and Wolf all voted aye. Motion carried.

Frey moved to adopt the Mileage Reimbursement policy as presented. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Board discussed the Commission Conflict of Interest policy with States Attorney Todd Schwarz advising that the board lacked the authority to adopt this policy.

Frey moved to approve States Attorney Schwarz proceed with requesting an AG's opinion on the Commission Conflict of Interest policy. Taylor seconded.

Frey, Taylor, Folk, and Bauman voted aye. Wolf voted nay. Motion carried.

Frey moved to adopt the Mercer County Credit Card policy as presented.

Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

It was agreed to have the County Road Superintendent position interviews done at a special meeting on Monday, July 29, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

It was agreed to have the Veteran Services Officer position advertised and all applications due August 6, 2024. Schwarz will verify county's responsibility regarding the Veteran's Service Officer vacancy.

Wolf made a motion to approve the following preliminary resolution to the commission: Be it resolved by the Mercer County Commissioner, to wit:

WHEREAS, The Mercer County Commission redesignates the elective county offices of the Auditor, Treasurer and Recorder as appointive and

WHEREAS, NDCC 11-10.2-02(1) provides the board of county commissioners may by resolution adopt a preliminary resolution incorporating a proposed plan for redesignating an elective county office as appointive, subject to the right of referendum and WHEREAS, the job duties are quite extensive for each office and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appointment of each office, shall be made by the Mercer County Commission. Taylor seconded. Wolf, Taylor, Frey, and Bauman

voted aye. Folk voted nay. Motion carried. Public hearings will be set at the August 7, 2024 meeting. Comments were heard from the public. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 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.mercercounty.com

Approved: _____
Gene Wolf, Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor