

Mercer County Commission Special Meeting Minutes July 25, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Chairman Travis Frey. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Rick Bauman via zoom, Gene Wolf, Liza Taylor entered meeting at approximately 9:03 a.m., Auditor Carmen Reed, and Treasurer Dawn Grannis. Others present during portions of the meeting were Landfill Supervisor Candy Strand, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Road Superintendent Ken Miller, Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Tax Director Cyndi Zueger, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Clerk of Court Wanda Knudson, Extension Agent Craig Askim, Interstate Engineer Charlie Hankins, Ashley Miller, Casey Voigt, Mark Kaffer, and Steve Frovarp.

Folk made a motion to approve the agenda. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Landfill Supervisor Candy Strand discussed the Landfill budget. Stand requested that all fines and metal sales revenue received go into the operational account for future landfill project expenses. This request will be on the August 2, 2023, commission meeting agenda for discussion.

Sheriff Terry Ternes presented the Sheriff's budget, that now includes the Task Force and Youth Bureau. Requests were made for all sheriff department personnel either give a five percent raise across the board or a flat rate amount equivalent to five percent of the average wage in his department. Ternes stressed the difficulty in retaining employees and getting applicants to apply at the present pay rate he can offer. Requesting to implement the NDPERs safety retirement plan and to contract with Dr. Kasper as our medical director and coroner. Both items will be on the August 2, 2023, commission meeting agenda for discussion.

Recessed at 9:47 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:56 a.m.

Highway Superintendent Ken Miller and Charlie Hankins presented all aspects of the Highway Department budget. Various line item changes were made and noted for update within the budget. Discussed applying for infrastructure grant monies for road projects.

Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers discussed the Building & Grounds, Janitor, and Risk Management budgets. Albers stated wage concerns and is requesting a dollar or at least a five percent raise for his employees.

Recessed at 10:46 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

NDSU Extension Agent Craig Askim presented the Extension Service budget. Clerk of Court Wanda Knudson presented the Clerk of Court budget. Noting that she will be hiring part time help to train and eventually replace retiring personnel. The state pays approximately \$12,000 per month to support this department. States Attorney Todd Schwarz presented his budget. Schwarz requested a five percent raise for both his employees. Requesting that the office secretary's total income be moved to the victim/witness salary line item due to her qualifications. Tax Director Cindy Zueger presented the Tax Equalization budget. Zueger discussed the wage differential between herself and her deputy, requesting the commission consider bringing it up so it is within a five-dollar range of the

director's salary. This request is made due to qualification and training that the deputy possesses and work she does within the tax office and the planning and zoning board. Discussed the Vanguard contract, which will be on the August 2, 2023, commission meeting agenda.

Casey Voigt and Mark Kaffer discussed the County Water Board budget, projects being worked on and an outlook of future goals.

Steve Frovarp presented the Regional Airport budget and discussed completed airport maintenance work. Presently, the airport is in the process of the three-year required airport layout plan, which is done every ten years.

Treasurer Dawn Grannis presented the Treasurer budget.

Recessed at 12:02 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:33 p.m.

Auditor Carmen Reed presented various budgets including; Superintendent of Schools, Veteran Services, Weed Board, Historical Society, Ambulance, Library, Fair Board and all other auditor budgets. A request was made by commission members to budget for human resource expenses within the auditor's budget. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 2, 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

Approved: _____
Travis Frey, Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor