

Mercer County Commission Minutes August 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf. Present were Commissioners Mark Pierce, Rick Bauman, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Jamee Folk was absent. Others present during the meeting were States Attorney Todd Schwarz, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Deputy Treasurer Michelle Garrett, Landfill Director Candy Strand, Houston Engineering Sherwin Wanner, Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Recorder Shannan Senger, Tax Director Jennifer Neumiller, Coyote Creek Mining Representatives Jeremy Eckroth and Brad Erickson, NACCO Representative David Straley, , Coteau Freedom Mine Darren Hellman, Westmoreland Beulah Mine Rylan Sundsbak, Bravera Insurance Scott Faehnrich, Lignite Energy Council Jonathan Fortner, Western Dakota Energy Association Executive Director Alison Ritter, John Phillips, and Gregg Hoffner.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Pierce moved to approve the amended agenda. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman moved to approve the August 6, 2025 meeting minutes with the following amendment, change "sell the 500 yards of" to "provided the" on page two, eighth line from bottom. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Gregg Hoffner requested that a county ordinance be put into place in order for "Jake Break" signs to be installed by the ND DOT near several locations. Sheriff Terry Ternes was present during this discussion. Board requested that Mr. Hoffner gather the required map with locations of these signs and return for further consideration.

Bravera Insurance Agent Scott Faehnrich discussed the county insurance and requested an opportunity to give the board a formal insurance proposal for their consideration. Board stated that they would allow this only if it is approved by the State Attorney.

Lignite Energy Council Interim President and CEO Jonathan Fortner gave an updated overview of the Lignite Energy Council and state legislative information impacting the lignite industry.

Recessed at 10:16 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

Western Dakota Energy Association's new Executive Director Alison Ritter introduced herself and answered questions from the board. The Western Dakota Energy Association's Annual Meeting will be held at Watford City on October 8 – 9, 2025.

Bauman moved to set the Mercer County 2026 Final Budget Hearing to be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2025. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Houston Engineering Sherwin Wanner presented the updated Landfill Engineering Service agreement that is renewed every two years and has been

approved by the States Attorney. Landfill Director Candy Strand was present. Voigt moved to approve the Landfill Service Agreement as presented. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the July Recorder's NDRIN Refund Revenues of \$5,870.50. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Pierce moved to approve the purchase of Memorial Highway Signs for Highway 200 for \$1,000. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

J2 Studios estimated costs/detailed floor plan was placed on the next agenda. Portfolio updates were given.

Vouchers were reviewed and tabled.

11:00 a.m. Voigt recused himself. States Attorney Todd Schwarz was present.

Voigt is requesting \$9,000 for the road easement that measures approximately one-half mile. Pierce moved to accept the easement offer of \$9,000 as presented. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voucher review resumed.

Voigt moved to approve the West River Equipment bill for \$11,000. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Pierce moved to approve bills as presented. Bauman seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$311.50; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$2,481.12; BINSTOCK INSPECTION SERVICES, INC. \$2,449.14; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$10,367.96; CAPITAL INDUSTRIES INC. \$1,737.78; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$235.22; CITY OF BEULAH \$129.24; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$8,698.61; County of Grand Forks \$5,250.00; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$659.10; DAKOTA FIRE EXTINGUISHER INC \$1,456.91; DANA SAFETY SUPPLY, INC. \$2,323.00; DISCOUNTELL, LLC \$1,294.10; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$45,621.50; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$101.21; FARMERS UNION SERVICE ASSOC. LTD \$734.00; FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS INC. \$360.90; FLEMMER, RYAN \$14.00; GALLS \$1,324.99; GIERKE, GARY \$51.80; GOOD SOURCE SOLUTIONS \$460.00; GUARDIAN LOCK & SAFE CO. \$47.98; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$73.94; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$898.36; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$219.90; HILL, ASHLEY \$32.40; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$6,203.65; ISTATE TRUCK CENTER \$53.27; J2 Studios \$6,488.52; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES \$109.95; LIGNITE TIRE SERVICE \$4,175.19; LUCKYS TOWING AND REPAIR \$400.00; M & B RENTALS LLP \$675.00; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$891.01; MERCER COUNTY TREASURER \$211.05; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$183.17; NAPA \$1,907.22; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$126.00; NDCEL \$50.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$5,390.16; North Central International, LLC \$899.33; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$592.56; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,185.00; Olson, Curt \$38.58; PFLIGER, METTA \$449.50; PINE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE \$70.00; POITRAS, RACHEL \$182.38; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. \$2,030.95; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$93.24; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC \$783.52; SAILER, SHANNON \$28.00; SCHEID, RICHARD \$13.30; SCHWARZ, TODD \$50.97; SEIFERT, BRADLEY Q \$174.00; SENGEL, JASON \$38.00; SIGN SOLUTIONS \$126.07; SNS AUTOSUPPLY \$518.00; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$57.91; Stein's Inc \$246.06; STERICYCLE, INC. \$22.90; STRAND, CANDICE \$165.12; THE BEACON \$664.65; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$169.79; TROTTER CONSTRUCTION INC. \$137,452.00; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$1,857.50;

VERIZON WIRELESS \$491.99; VOIGT, CASEY LEE \$201.20; WEST RIVER EQUIPMENT \$11,000.00; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$2,500.30; WIEDRICH, WARREN \$440.64; WILSON, MATTIE E \$13.00. (TOTAL: \$276,785.06)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, 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