

Mercer County Commission Minutes October 1, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Rick Bauman, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Mark Pierce was absent. Others present during the meeting were States Attorney Todd Schwarz, HR/EM Director Alice Grinstein, Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Landfill Director Candy Strand, Mercer County Extension Craig Askim, Sheriff's Administrative Assistant Ashley Hill, Crowley Fleck Representative Erik Edison, Minnesota Power Representative Mitchell Bettenhausen, Allele Representative Johan Hollingsworth, Lucille Sailer, and Rick Meyhoff.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Bauman moved to approve the September 17, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the September 23, 2025 special meeting minutes as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman moved to approve zoning case 25-09-01, Minnesota Power, 230-Kilovolt Transmission Line, .3-Mile-Long Line in Section 36, T141N, R88W of the 5th P.M. Mercer County, ND. Folk seconded. Bauman rescinded his motion.

Voigt moved to approve zoning case 25-09-01, Minnesota Power, 230-Kilovolt Transmission Line, .3-Mile-Long Line in Section 36, T141N, R88W of the 5th P.M. Mercer County, ND, as presented. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Landfill Director Candy Strand presented cost estimates for upcoming equipment maintenance. Folk moved to approve the Cat 950H Loader transmission maintenance for \$1,910. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Folk moved to approve the Cat 816F compactor axle maintenance work for \$12,710. Bauman seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried. Folk moved to approve the 950H loader preventive maintenance for \$22,378. Voigt seconded. Folk, Voigt, and Wolf voted aye. Bauman voted nay. Motion carried. Strand also discussed raising the landfill fees. Board requested Strand to research and bring back a new rate proposal.

States Attorney Todd Schwarz presented updated opioid litigation information regarding Perdue monies. These funds will be held until usage is identified.

Recessed at 9:56 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:04 a.m.

Bauman moved to approve the August Sheriff's Revenues of \$35,740.86. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Discussed the Highway 27 road chipping job and will hold the Astech bill of \$518,315.59 until concerns regarding the quality of work and liquidated damage questions are answered.

Folk made a motion to move the October 15, 2025 regular meeting to 8:00 a.m. verses 9:00 a.m. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Portfolio updates were given.

Folk moved to approve all bills except for Astech Corporation for \$518,315.59.

Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$1,886.13; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$1,031.28; AUTO VALUE \$166.40; BAKER, ADAM \$169.99; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,196.67; BOESHANS, JAYME \$28.00; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$243.78; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$414.92; DAKOTA PUMP & CONTROL CO., INC. \$895.00; DIRECT MED \$69.99; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$11,451.00; FARMERS UNION SERVICE ASSOC. LTD \$238.00; FLEMMER, RYAN \$14.00; GIERKE, GARY \$51.80; GUARDIAN LOCK & SAFE CO. \$562.00; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$159.72; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$792.00; LEXIS NEXIS MATTHEW BENDER \$1,018.74; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$285.33; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$808.37; MIDWEST DOORS INC \$448.00; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$56.10; MOORE ENGINEERING \$31,985.25; NAPA \$543.96; NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$450.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$6,089.80; NEW AGE HEATING & AIR \$379.00; NSC MINERALS LTD \$3,439.83; PUMP SYSTEMS INC \$1,837.05; RUD PROPANE LLP \$743.77; SAILER, SHANNON \$28.00; SCHEID, RICHARD \$12.60; SEIFERT, BRADLEY Q \$155.49 TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$24,368.39; VERIZON WIRELESS \$84.44; VOIGT, CASEY LEE \$218.00; WALK-N-ROLL INC \$354.28; WARNE CHEMICAL AND EQUIPMENT CO. \$253.09; WOODWORTH LAW OFFICE, PLLC \$60.00; ZAZESKI, KURT \$23.31. (TOTAL: \$94,084.88)

Board discussed the 2026 Budget.

At 11:00 a.m. Folk moved to close the regular meeting and open the County Final Budget Hearing. Bauman seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried

Resident Rick Meyhoff questioned the budget bump ups, average wages, and wanted to know the process of how purchases are authorized and approved. No further questions or comments were heard from the Public. Folk moved to close the County Final Budget Hearing and reopen the regular meeting. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Board discussed the possible purchase or lease of an additional motor grader for the county. Item was placed on the October 15, 2025 regular meeting agenda. The following 2026 Budget changes were requested: (1) Add another \$0.50 to County Road employee Rachel Grimm's bump up, and (2) Change general fund retirement share from \$695,000 to \$524,000. A Special Budget meeting will be held on Monday, October 6, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. in the commission board room. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 8:00 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