

**Mercer County Commission Special Budget Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Travis Frey. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Liza Taylor, Rick Bauman, Gene Wolf, and Auditor Carmen Reed. Dan Arens of the Hazen Star was absent. Others present during portions of the meeting were, Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Gwyn Bosch, Jason Anderson, and Ashley Miller.

Bauman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The updated 2024 budget with approved increases from the October 4, 2023 commission meeting has over run the preliminary appropriations amount by \$158,329.90. The final budget has to have both the appropriation line item and levy amount line item at or below the preliminary amounts.

Wolf made a motion to change employee's cost of health, vision and dental insurance to 5 percent and county to pay 95 percent. Bauman seconded. Wolf, Bauman voted aye. Folk, Taylor and Frey voted nay. Motion failed.

Recessed at 8:04 p.m.

Reconvened at 8:09 p.m.

Folk made a motion to eliminate the following appropriations; \$10,000 from Auditor Budget, \$50,000 for Mercer County Economic Development, and \$114,000 for employee health insurance for a total of \$174,000. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman made a motion to restore employee health portion to 10 percent of total cost. Taylor seconded. Bauman requests to rescind his motion and Taylor agreed to pull her second. Motion rescinded.

Bauman made a motion to restore employee health, vision and dental insurance portion to 10 percent of total cost. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Folk requested to have the approved changes updated in the budget and the effected pages to be printed out for commission review before final approval.

Bauman made a motion to suspend this special budget meeting in order to open up the second special delegate meeting. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Suspended at 8:43 p.m.

Reconvened at 9:22 p.m.

Wolf made motion to approve the revised 2024 Budget with total levy amount of \$4,579,171.72 or 84.27 mills as presented. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 18, 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