

Mercer County Commission Minutes October 7, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Rick Bauman. Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Steve Guenthner, Gene Wolf, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during the meeting were Sheriff Terry Ternes, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller, Building & Grounds Supervisor Jim Albers, Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, NextEra Energy Representatives Chase Dauenhauer, Ben Sand, Wayne Bertsch, Kristy Smith, Mike Knuth, Basin Electric Kay Konschak, John Schuh, Coyote Creek Mine Representative Jeremy Eckroth, Highway Assistant Supervisor Dennis Olheiser, ND Proppant Representative Tim Barth, Lori Hammer, Linette Irwin, Judy Knoell, Kay LaCoe, Michael Berg, Weston Berg, Roger Leutz, Phyllis Luetz, Wes Klein, Andy Thomas, and Elizabeth Lundstrom.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Voigt moved to approve the amended agenda with the following changes: Cancel Agenda Item at 9:05 a.m. as per requester Floyd Robb, add "Duplicate Check Request Warrant# 55979 for \$419.04 to Erica Tunge," under "Other Business," add "ND Trust Lands Easement" under "Coyote Creek Mine Road Closure," and move "2027 Budget" to 10:30 a.m. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the September 9, 2026 special grievance hearing meeting minutes as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Guenthner moved to approve the September 16, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the September 29, 2026 special budget meeting minutes with the following change; Under #2. County Road Changes, In the 2027 Budget, Item "c." Replace \$90,000 with \$41,000. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Guenthner moved to approve the October 1, 2026 special public hearing minutes as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Guenthner moved to approve the October 1, 2026 County Budget Hearing minutes as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Roger Leutz presented concerns and requests regarding the maintenance of his roads in T142N-R89W, Sections 29, 32, & 31. Highway Superintendent Elroy Opp, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, and Commissioner Jamee Folk will go out to look at this road situation and report back to the board.

Coyote Creek Mine Representative Jeremy Eckroth presented the Application of Coyote Creek Mining Company's order to temporarily close the east-west section line road between the S ½ of Section 1, TWN142N-R89W, and N ½ of Section 12, T142N, R89W. Discussed the ND Department of Trust Lands easement agreement wording.

Voigt moved to postpone road closing temporarily. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. This item was added to the next regular meeting agenda on October 21, 2026.

Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller presented the following:

- Appraisals for Unredeemed Properties: Heath & Donavon Knight, LOT 3 BLK 103 N STAR 1ST ADD (HH14486211303)-\$1,158.23. Heath & Donavon Knight, LOT 4 BLK 103 N STAR 1ST ADD (HH14486211304)- \$1,732.49. Heath Knight, LOT 5 BLK 103 N STAR 1ST ADD (HH14486211305)- \$5,070.44. Christopher Sailer, LOT 3 BLK 3 HUBERS 1ST ADD (HH14486260303)- \$10,729.29. Melvin & Joy Ward, E 119' Lot 1, Blk 1, Homesite Add (BB14488160101)- \$3,818.37. Larry Fischer, Lot 2, Blk 1, SW Add (PP14785020102)- \$5,663.42. Andy Deterding, Airport Hanger (03144860016202)- \$951.88. David Kunkel, .15 Acre parcel in S2SW4 (27144880025602)- \$157.87. Voigt moved to approve the appraisal of unredeemed properties as presented along with the amended Beulah Parcel of \$3,818.37, and set the Public Hearing for November 4, 2026 at 5:05 p.m. in the boardroom of Mercer County Government Building in Stanton, ND. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- Neumiller requested to close office for the Vanguard Conference on October 20th & 21st. Voigt moved to approve the closing of the Tax Director's Office on October 20 & 21, 2026 for the Vanguard Conference. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- Temp Use Permit # 651-2 North Dakota Proppant—Sand & gravel mining—W2 10-144-85. Voigt moved to approve Permit #651-2 as presented until end of this year. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- 2nd Reading to amend Mercer County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 4 Special Provisions, New Section (XII)- Un-muffled Compression Brake Regulations. Guenthner moved to approve the New Section (XII)- Un-muffled Compression Brake Regulations as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- Fee Schedule was reviewed. Voigt moved to approve changing the percentage on the Industrial CUP fee schedule to one tenth of 1% with a cap of \$500,000. Wolf seconded. Guenthner moved to amend motion to add Industrial Use Permit fee will be paid 50% upfront, then 25% midpoint of timeline given, then remaining 25% at end of project. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Amendment carried. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Bauman turned meeting over the Vice Chairman Folk at approximately 9:30 a.m. and then left the meeting.

Recessed at 10:04 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

Weston Berg, Linette Irwin, and Elizabeth Lundstrom spoke during the public comment period.

Building & Grounds Supervisor Jim Albers gave an update on the Beulah Building project. The contract with Arrow Services has been signed and an insurance claim check for \$136,507.77 has been received. Albers is requesting a purchase of two hanging heaters to sufficiently heat the building for winter and presented the following bids; Northern Plains bid \$16,674 & City Air bid \$24,696. Voigt moved to approve the purchase of two heaters from Northern Plains for \$16,674. Wolf seconded. Voigt voted aye. Wolf, Guenthner, and Folk voted nay. Motion failed. Sheriff Terry Ternes requested that the Buffalo Hill Tower site emergency generator be moved and installed at the Beulah Building location using monies from the Game & Fish fund (2123). Voigt moved to approve the moving and installation of the Buffalo Hill Tower site emergency generator at the Beulah Building, using the Game & Fish funds. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

2027 Budget update was given by the Auditor, stating that as of 10/07/2026 with the additional changes made on the 10/01/26 special budget meeting left us under the Countywide 6% cap by \$6,513.04. Voigt moved to approve the 2027 Budget as presented. Guenthner seconded. Voigt and Guenthner voted aye. Wolf and Folk voted nay. Motion tied. Special meeting scheduled for Friday, October 9, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

Appointment of the Mercer County State Fair Board Delegate discussion.

Wolf moved to approve the county nurse quarterly report as presented.

Guenthner seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the Sheriff's September revenues of \$38,368.41. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the increased in-state lodging rate to \$113 as of October 1, 2026. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Guenthner moved to appoint Gary Knell as the Mercer County State Fair Board delegate. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the duplicate check for warrant #55979, originally issued on 12/23/2016, in the amount of \$419.04 to Erica Tunge. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt provided the finance officer position information description and costs, for the board to review. Finance Officer was put on the next agenda.

Portfolio updates were given.

Wolf moved to approve the bills as presented. Guenthner seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: 3-D SPECIALITIES \$111,997.67; ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$2,632.50; ALBERS, JAMES \$139.84; ARMOR INTERACTIVE \$1,982.49; ARROW SERVICE TEAM \$10,764.56; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,196.67; BEULAH ND HARDWARE \$14.94; BRODKORB, VICKIE \$587.73; BRONSON'S MARKETPLACE \$10,318.70; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$7,551.81; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$395.62; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; CITY OF STANTON \$7,707.99; CLIFTONLARSONALLEN, LLP \$18,900.00; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$723.79; DAKOTA AWARDS, INC. \$26.99; DAKOTA PUMP & CONTROL CO., INC. \$914.50; DAKOTA REFRIGERATION, INC \$774.00; DIRECT MED \$153.43; DOWNTOWN GAS AND AUTO \$1,744.85; DUPPONG'S INC. \$856.55; ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE INC \$224.23; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$4,567.06; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$167.70; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$181.28; GALLS \$131.75; GUENTHNER, STEVE \$168.56; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$241.93; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$107.53; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$2,444.30; KELLER, MARK \$110.00; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES \$90.00; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$324.52; LUCKYS TOWING AND REPAIR \$900.00; M & B RENTALS LLP \$695.00; MENARDS \$42.47; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$4,032.22; MERCER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT \$293.65; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$177.05; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$76.70; NAPA \$414.32; NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$450.00; NDLTAP \$500.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$47,850.01; NEUMILLER, JEN \$243.20; NOVA FIRE PROTECTION, INC. \$1,135.00; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,690.00; OFFROAD SOFTWARE, INC. \$4,500.00; OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY \$337.50; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$351.45; RDO EQUIPMENT COMPANY \$470.18; REICH, JAYDEN R \$34.00; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC \$175.00; S & M LAWN SERVICE \$440.00; SIGN SOLUTIONS \$324.69; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$63.70; SRF CONSULTING GROUP, INC \$599.56; STERICYCLE, INC. \$24.50; T-MOBILE USA, INC \$87.35; TAO INTERACTIVE INC. \$614.90; TAYLOR PRINT & VISUAL IMPRESSIONS \$4,088.52; THE BEACON \$985.50; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$149.19; TOWER COMMUNICATIONS INC \$555.00; VERIZON WIRELESS \$84.46; VOIGT, CASEY LEE \$285.60; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$2,591.79; WEX BANK \$52.40; WOLFF, JIM \$47.80; Burge, Alexandra \$239.40; CITY OF BEULAH \$191.63; GRINSTEINNER, ALICE \$762.40; OLHEISER, DENNIS \$150.00. (TOTAL: \$264,879.38)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota. Meetings can be viewed live at <https://www.youtube.com/@MercerCo>

Approved: _____
Rick Bauman, Chairman & Jamee Folk, Vice Chairman

Attest: _____
Carmen Reed, Auditor