

Mercer County Commission Minutes November 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Travis Frey. Present were Commissioners Rick Bauman, Liza Taylor, Gene Wolf, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Jamee Folk entered meeting at 9:24 a.m. Others present during portions of the meeting were Tax Director Cyndi Zueger, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Road Superintendent Ken Miller, County Engineer Charlie Hankins, Beulah Economic Development Director Beaver Brinkman, NDACo Representative Jason Horning, NextEra Representatives Clay Cameron, Tony Reiss, Mike Knuth, Sara Montone, Julia Fasano, and Wayne Bertsch, Casey Forey, Erik J. Edison, Dina Brown, Tara Fox, Dawn Hellman, and Mark Wallen.

Mercer County Economic Development, Special Assessment 30-day comment period, December 20, 2023, meeting, and Human Resources position were added to the agenda. Bauman made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Wolf seconded. Bauman, Wolf, Taylor and Frey voted aye. Folk was absent. Motion carried.

Wolf made a motion to accept the October 18, 2023, minutes as presented. Bauman seconded. Wolf, Bauman, Taylor and Frey voted aye. Folk was absent. Motion carried.

Board reviewed bills. Bauman made a motion to approve bills as presented. Taylor seconded. Bauman, Taylor, Wolf and Frey voted aye. Folk was absent.

Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment. ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS \$1,231.23; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,001.00; BEULAH LUMBER CO \$68.00; BISMARCK HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER \$457.20; BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$704.39; CARDMEMBER SERVICE \$2,785.10; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$474.40; DAKOTA FIRE EXTINGUISHER INC \$417.50; EIDE FORD LINCOLN \$761.62; FIRESIDE OFFICE SOLUTIONS \$21.95; ISTATE TRUCK CENTER \$633.15; LIEBOLD, SANDRA \$131.50; MINNESOTA VALLEY TESTING LABS INC. \$3,908.30; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$63.42; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 911 \$861.76; ND POST BOARD \$135.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$6,505.18; NORTHERN INTEGRITY HEATING, AIR \$565.00; ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC. \$68.84; PEHL, PAM \$105.00; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$211.70; PROSOURCE SPECIALTIES LLC \$2,482.22; PRO-VISION VIDEO SYSTEMS \$547.48; RDO EQUIPMENT CO. \$254.51; RDO TRUCK CENTERS \$3,961.53; SCHMITT, MARK \$93.00; THEN & NOW CANDY STORE \$550.00; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC. \$31,443.50; VERIZON WIRELESS \$1,542.13; WOLF, GENE \$269.12 (TOTAL \$62,254.73).

Frey made a motion to have the December 20, 2023, meeting at the Mercer County Historical Society Museum in Beulah. Bauman seconded. Frey, Bauman, Wolf and Taylor voted aye. Folk was absent. Motion carried.

Taylor made a motion to set a public hearing on December 6, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. for the special assessment ordinance. Bauman seconded. Taylor, Bauman, Wolf and Frey voted aye. Folk was absent. Motion carried.

Taylor made a motion to accept Tanya Wieler from Dakota Dynamics to do our HR and to help us implement our new HR position per the proposal presented

pending the approval from the States Attorney that it is all legal. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Commission agreed that this expense will be taken out of general fund and a 2023 budget amendment will have to be made. Cyndi Zueger, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator, presented the following conditional use permit case to the board;

- Permit 23-10-01 Oliver Wind IV, LLC to site, construct and operate an approximately (9) mile long 345 kV transmission line, located in Sec. 19-21, 27, 28 T144 R84 and Sec. 22-24, 27, 34 T144 R85 of the 5th Principal Meridian, Mercer County, North Dakota.

Bauman made a motion to approve conditional use permit 23-10-01 pending proper signatures and notary of last two landowners. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Cyndi Zueger discussed ongoing NDPERS retirement issues relating to her position. Frey stated that as of this morning State's Attorney Todd Schwarz has still not heard back from NDPERS regarding his questions on Jim Albers' position. NDACo Representative Jason Horning presented information regarding the NDACo Joint Powers agreement for the collection and distribution of all 9-1-1 fees statewide. Wolf made a motion to approve the NDACo Joint Powers Agreement. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Recessed 9:53 a.m.

Reconvened 10:00 a.m.

County Engineer Charlie Hankins gave an explanation to his report of the Jon Schield's bridge change order.

Road Superintendent Ken Miller requested approval of the purchase of cutting edges for \$17,917.68. Wolf made a motion to approve the purchase of cutting edges for \$17,917.68. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Miller and Hankins discussed projects for flex funding and application is due at end of December 2023. Commission encouraged Miller and Hankins to apply for as many projects as possible.

Miller requested approval of the purchase of a Schulte tractor blower for \$23,825. Wolf made motion to approve the purchase of the tractor blower for \$23,825.

Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Hankins presented the airport road project task order no. 4 for approval regarding requested changes. Bauman made a motion to approve the airport road project task order no. 4. Taylor seconded. Bauman, Taylor, Wolf, and Folk voted aye. Frey abstained. Motion carried.

Beulah Economic Development Director Beaver Brinkman, representing Mercer County Economic Development updated the commission on various economic developments throughout the state that may positively effect Mercer County. These updates included, but not limited to; state oil production; Heartland Hydrogen Hub near Dickinson; the Energy & Environmental Research Center's research on rare earth minerals in coal and extraction possibilities; Talon Metals Company seeking to build a facility within Mercer County.

Portfolio updates were given.

Recessed 10:52 a.m.

Reconvened 11:00 a.m.

Bauman made a motion to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing for delinquent tax land appraisals. Taylor seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Chairman Frey asked if anyone had public comments. No public comments were heard.

Wolf made a motion to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 15, 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