

**Mercer County Commission Minutes
December 17, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Wolf.

Present were Commissioners Rick Bauman, Jamee Folk, Mark Pierce, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during the meeting were Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, Moore Engineer Tom Weigel, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller, Dakota Mornings Michael Bell, Energy Sands Solutions Andy Thomas, Coteau Freedom Mine Darren Hellman, Westmoreland Beulah Mine Rylan Sundsbak, Summit Carbon Solutions Amanda Hoffer, and Mercer County Resident Kevin Hafner.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Bauman moved to approve the December 3, 2025 meeting minutes as presented.

Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner requested approval of the Perry Weather Safety Alert System 1-Year contract for \$22,700. This system would be installed and used in the Beulah and Hazen Bay Areas, stating that both Hazen and Beulah Park Boards are in agreement to support this system. Mercer County Resident Kevin Hafner stressed the need and importance of this system. Commission requested that Park Boards need to pay for initial costs and put into writing their plan of continued support of this system. This item was placed on the January 7, 2026 meeting agenda.

HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner presented the updated Holiday Policy. Chairman Wolf asked if there was a motion to approve the Holiday Policy. No motion heard. No change in Holiday Policy. Grinsteinner presented the updated Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing Policy. Chairman Wolf requested a motion to accept the updated Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing Policy.

Voigt made a motion to discuss the updated Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing Policy. Bauman seconded. Voigt retracted his motion. Chairman requested a motion to accept the updated Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing Policy. No motion heard. No change to Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing Policy.

Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers presented the Audio/Video, Lawn Mower and Skid Steer Quotes. Pierce moved to accept the Blue Hawk Audio/Video Quote of \$46,732.46. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Folk moved to accept the RDO Lawn Mower bid of \$13,273.86 with a trade in of \$4,450. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The skid steer bids were discussed and item was placed on the January 7, 2026 agenda.

Recessed at 10:06 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:11 a.m.

Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller presented to following items:

- Temp Use # 657 Casey Voigt---Scoria Pit--NW4 31-143-88. Voigt recused himself. Folk moved to approve Temp Use #657 as presented without restrictions. Bauman seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.
- Temp Use # 658 Antelope Creek Trucking--Scoria Crushing—E2 29-144-88.

Folk moved to approve Temp Use #658 as presented without restrictions. Voigt seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.

- Temp Use #659 Randy Byrum-Sand Pit & Overburden Pit--20 Acres w/in the E2 of SE4 of 32-145-87. Voigt moved to approve Temp Use #659 as presented without restrictions. Folk seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.
- Temp Use #660—Randy Byrum—Scoria Pit—S2N2 of 33-145-87. Voigt moved to approve Temp Use #660 as presented without restrictions. Folk seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.
- Temp Use #661—Mercer Co Highway Department—SE4 & SW4 26-145-87. Pierce moved to approve Temp Use #661 as presented without restrictions. Bauman seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.
- Temp Use #662 Basin Electric—Laydown Yard—NE4NE4 20-144-84. Folk moved to approve Temp Use #662 as presented without restrictions. Bauman seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.
- Temp Use #663 Wayne Boeshans--Gravel Pit--SW4 21-146-88. Voigt moved to approve Temp Use #663 as presented without restrictions. Folk seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.
- Temp Use #664 Bechtold Paving—Asphalt Plant—NW4 14-144-88. Bauman moved to approve Temp Use #664 as presented without restrictions. Voigt seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.
- Temp Use #665 The Coteau Properties—Test Hole Drilling—Section 32 T145 R88; Sections 1,2,3,11,12 T144 R89; Sections 25&36 T146 R87; Sections 28,29,30,31,32,33 T146 R86; Sections 4 & 5 T145 R 86. Pierce recused himself. Folk moved to approve Temp Use #665 as presented. Bauman seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried. Coteau Representative Darren Hellman gave a brief update.
- Temp Use #666 Summit Carbon Solutions-Test Wells--NE4NE4 22-142-88--BK Fischer. Temp Use #667 Summit Carbon Solutions ---Test Wells--NE4 35-141-88--Milton Flemmer. Temp Use #668 Summit Carbon Solutions ---Test Wells--S2S2 12-142-88--Archie Erickson. Voigt moved to approve Temp Use #666, 667, and 668 as presented. Pierce seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried. Temp Use #669 LeeRoy Fischer—Scoria Pit—SE4 3-143-89, Voigt moved to approve Temp Use #669 as presented. Folk seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried. Folk recused herself.
- Temp Use #649-2—Ramsey Hill Exploration--Aggregate Materials Operations--NE4 23-144-86. Bauman moved to approve Temp Use #649-2 as presented. Pierce seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.
- Temp Use #650-2—Ramsey Hill Exploration--- Haul Road-W2 14-144-86. Pierce moved to approve Temp Use #650-2 as presented. Voigt seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.
- Temp Use #638-2 Energy Sand Solutions--Sand mining--S2 5-144-85. Folk moved to approve Temp Use #638-2 as presented. Bauman seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried.

- Temp Use #651-2--North Dakota Proppant ---Sand and gravel mining--W2 10-144-85. Voigt moved to postpone permit approval until owner is compliant with bond requirements. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- Planning & Zoning Board Applications received from Andy Thomas and Jennifer Gabel. Folk moved to appoint Andy Thomas to the Planning and Zoning Board. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- John Bornemann abatement request due to property damage by fire. Folk moved to approve the John Bornemann abatement request as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

County Landfill Property Easement request for crossing of a SW water pipeline for Ryan Wolf was discussed. Item was postponed.

Due to Public Notice stating appointments for the Planning & Zoning Board to be made at January 21, 2026 Commission meeting, Folk rescinded her motion and put this item on the January 21, 2026 meeting agenda. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman moved to reappoint Folk to the Western Plains Public Health (WPPH) Board. Pierce seconded. Folk recused herself from this vote. Bauman, Pierce, Voigt, and Wolf voted aye. Motion carried.

States Attorney Todd Schwarz stated he would work on the utility easement documentation for the County Landfill Property Easement request from Ryan Wolf. Bauman moved to approve the Sundre Sand & Gravel bill of \$495,000 for the crushing of 90,000 tons of scoria at T145N-R87W Section 36 @\$5.50/ton. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Bauman moved to approve the royalty payment of \$270,000 to Brad Gunsch for 90,000 tons of scoria at T145N-R87W Section 36. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Moore Engineer Tom Weigel presented the following resolution for approval:

MERCER COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT AND PROJECT APPROVAL

CONSOLIDATED COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING

WHEREAS, Mercer County has identified the need to develop a Consolidated County Services Building to support the efficient delivery of county services and to meet current and future operational needs.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Mercer County, North Dakota, that:

1. The Board hereby approves the proposed Consolidated County Services Building project.
2. The Board affirms that the project satisfies the requirements of Mercer County and is consistent with County policies and regulations.
3. The Board confirms that Mercer County shall own, or otherwise support and maintain, the public infrastructure developed as part of the project and has the capacity to support such infrastructure.
4. The Board authorizes County staff to submit this resolution as documentation of local governing body approval in support of applicable funding applications and project implementation activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners is authorized to execute any documents necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Folk moved to approve the Mercer County, North Dakota Resolution of Support and Project Approval Consolidated County Services Building as presented. Bauman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman moved to approve \$15,000 purchase of a 1,000-gallon fuel tank for the Sheriff's department. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman motioned to move the expense of the Back the Blue Fund Bonus from the following Sheriff Accounts: Elected Officials Salary #1001.42110.112, Deputy Salaries #1001.42110.113, Administrative #1001.42110.116, and Jailers & Dispatchers #1001.42110.131 and pay out of a separate account since this was a state payment and not in Sheriff's budget. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Bauman motioned to move the Sheriff's Agri-Bank Safety Grant funds of \$34,058.00 into the Sheriff's grant fund. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Transfer sheet was discussed. When monies are transferred or grant monies actually received these items will be put on the agenda to keep commission updated.

Folk moved to approve all bills as presented. Pierce seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: ASKIM, CRAIG \$524.10; AUTO VALUE \$176.70; BAUMAN, RICK \$3,281.80; BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \$1,196.67; BLOOM'N HOUSE \$57.00; Blue Hawk Audio Video \$180.00; BOBCAT OF MANDAN INC. \$1,049.41; CHARM-TEX, INC. \$47.60; CITY OF STANTON \$6,723.67; CIVICPLUS LLC \$5,309.98; CORE FACILITY SOLUTIONS \$27,550.00; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$305.89; DAKOTA AWARDS, INC. \$49.98; DAKOTA FIRE EXTINGUISHER INC \$163.56; DONOVAN & KAFFAR PLLP \$13,401.00; EGGERS ELECTRIC MOTOR CO \$199.54; FARMERS UNION OIL CO \$66,047.00; FITTERER OIL HAZEN LLC \$153.72; FOLK, JAMEE \$1,098.80; GALLS \$115.87; GUNSCH, BRAD & CAMEY \$270,000.00; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$22.99; HAZEN HEALTH PHARMACY \$228.96; HAZEN MOTOR CO \$791.40; HAZEN STAR \$75.00; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$6,171.25; JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL \$37,379.26; KIM'S APPLIANCE SERVICE, INC \$591.96; KRAUSE SUPER VALU \$12.64; KRIS ENGINEERING, INC. \$19,745.47; LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES \$180.00; LITTLE FALLS MACHINE INC \$680.37; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$495.34; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$183.17; MOORE ENGINEERING \$31,470.00; NAPA \$592.19; NATIONAL SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION \$125.00; ND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASS'N \$100.00; ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION \$11,390.52; NDSU CUSTOMER ACCOUNT SERVICES \$80.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$32,758.84; NEXUS PLANNING & CONSULTING LLC \$8,402.50; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$3,561.70; OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL \$1,130.00; PFLIGER, METTA \$547.10; PHARMCHEM, INC. \$543.15; PIERCE, MARK L. \$1,052.70; POSTMASTER \$440.00; PRESORT PLUS \$5,368.07; PRINT EVER \$1,004.40; PRO VISION \$62.40; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. \$2,079.44; REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY \$4.23; REVIZE LLC \$1,200.00; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC \$863.14; RUD PROPANE LLP \$3,099.24; SEIFERT, BRADLEY Q \$78.00; SOUTHWEST WATER AUTHORITY \$60.91; STERICYCLE, INC. \$22.90; SUNDRE SAND & GRAVEL, INC. \$495,000.00; T-MOBILE USA, INC \$85.47; TAYLOR PRINT & VISUAL IMPRESSIONS \$361.28; THE BEACON \$103.00; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$217.55; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$5,624.75; VANGUARD APPRAISALS INC. \$5,939.40; VERIZON WIRELESS \$534.44; WEST RIVER EQUIPMENT \$98,500.00; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$2,499.39; WESTERN PLAINS

PUBLIC HEALTH \$3,755.85; WOLF, GENE \$358.20; WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE \$100.00; BIEBER, GERALD \$37.10 ; CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY \$29.75; ESLINGER, MIKE \$30.10; HAFNER, KEVIN \$45.50; REED, CARMEN A \$132.20; RENNER, CHRIS \$32.20.
(TOTAL: \$1,183,612.71)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 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