

## NOTICE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY HELD BY A MUSEUM OR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The State Historical Society of North Dakota hereby publishes notice of abandoned property pursuant to the North Dakota Century Code 55-12-02. If the property remains unclaimed 65 days after the second publication of this notice, title to the property vests in the State Historical Society, free of all claims of the owner and of all persons claiming through or under the owner:

Name: Max Borner  
 Last known address: Stanton, ND  
 Description of property: Archeological items loaned to the State Historical Society of North Dakota in May 1937. (L0744, L0757, L0792, L0800, L0801)  
 Name: Archie Daniel (A.D.) Brown  
 Last known address: Beulah, ND  
 Description of property: 1 glass pendant loaned to the State Historical Society of North Dakota around 1915. (L0024)

Proof of claim must be presented by the owner to the State Historical Society of North Dakota. If the owner's right to receive the property is not established to the Society's satisfaction within 65 days from the date of the second published notice, the property is deemed abandoned and becomes the property of the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

All claims to title should be submitted to: State Historical Society of North Dakota  
 Attn: Meagan Schoenfelder, Archeology Collections Manager  
 North Dakota Heritage Center  
 612 E. Boulevard Ave.  
 Bismarck, ND 58505  
 mschoenfelder@nd.gov  
 701-328-3552

(03-05-2026)(03-12-2026)

**HAZEN STAR**  
**OFFICIAL PAPER**  
**OF MERCER COUNTY**

## REDUCE YOUR 2026 PROPERTY TAX BILL BY UP TO \$1600!

### Eligibility requirements for the Primary Residence Property Tax Credit:



- Must own a home in ND and reside in it as your primary residence
- One credit per household, no age or income restrictions
- Must apply and be approved annually to receive the credit



**Application Deadline: April 1, 2026**  
**Apply Online: [www.tax.nd.gov/prc](http://www.tax.nd.gov/prc)**

# HAZEN CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

February 16, 2026

Hazen City Hall  
 Present: President Schiferl, Commissioner Stern and Commissioner Wiedrich.  
 Absent: Commissioner Folkerts and Commissioner Haack  
 Others Present: Attorney Donovan, Chief Wolff, Myra Savelkoul, Auditor Erhardt.  
 President Schiferl called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.  
 President Schiferl led the pledge of allegiance and said the prayer.  
 Minutes: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the February 2nd meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.  
 Agenda: Commissioner Stern moved to approve the agenda, as presented, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. Motion unanimously approved.  
**CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY AND ENGINEER**  
 Engineer's Report: The commission reviewed the written engineer's report which contained no action items. The commission also reviewed a proposed letter to Tim Williams, Williams Building Co, regarding corrective work still needed in Expedition Estates. There was discussion on including a date for a response to the letter. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the letter to Williams Building Co, as drafted, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved. Commissioner Stern had a question about the reported service line inventory addresses that still need to be determined and was advised that some of these did not receive a new meter because of occupancy or other issues. No further action taken.  
**REQUEST OF CITIZENS**  
 Local Permit-Raffle – Hazen Bison Trap

**Team:**  
 Local Permit-Raffle – Hazen Public School – Student Council: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve local permit #2026-06 as requested by the Hazen Bison Trap Team to conduct a raffle May 20, 2026, and to approve local permit #2026-07 as requested by the Hazen Public School Student Council to conduct a raffle on April 15, 2026, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.  
**Street Closure Request – Touch-a-Truck:** Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve a request for street closure for the Touch-a-Truck event to be held on July 16, 2026, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved. Main Street will be closed from 1st Ave East to 2nd Ave W, and from the alley north and south of Main Street on 1st Ave West on this date.  
**APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS AND BUILDING PERMITS**  
**Building Permit w/Variance(s) - Stenson:** The commission was asked to address the density variance and construction method for the project as previously submitted. There was a question on other variances approve for pole construction buildings and, at this time, a final building plan was not submitted. No action taken pending further clarification from the applicant regarding final construction plans and building size.  
**REPORTS**  
**Water/Sewer/Garbage:** Commissioner Stern had nothing to report at this time.  
**Street/Cemetery:** Commissioner Haack and PW Director Brousseau were absent. The commission was informed that equipment is prepped and ready for forecasted snowfall.  
**Finance/Busing/Library:** Commissioner Folkerts absent. The commission reviewed a proposed transit procurement plan and

designee form provided by ND DOT. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the state procurement plan adoption and designated Director Brennan as city designee for the plan, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.  
**Police/Fire/Forestry:** Commissioner Wiedrich referred to a proposal of T-M Tree Service for removal of two (2) trees in the city. One tree is on 3rd Ave SW, and it has not been determined if this tree is within the city boulevard. The other tree is in the platted drainage area near Nishu Place. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the removal of the tree in the drainage area at a cost of \$2750 and to wait for action on the 3rd Ave SW tree until further information has been obtained, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.  
**HCD:** Myra Savelkoul informed the commission that the annual meeting for HCD will be held on February 27th, and fifty-three (53) people indicated they will be attending. Local business representatives will be speaking at the meeting. Ms. Savelkoul is still collaborating with a party on bringing a nail salon to the city and that Mr. Saylor is proposing to remodel a portion of his building to accommodate more office spaces in the city. Interviews for HCD director have been conducted and a decision may be made in March. Ms. Savelkoul is still

working with different hotel groups and investors to bring additional lodging facilities to the city.  
 President: President Schiferl informed the board that he attended last weeks CVB meeting with discussion on the SR71 project. More information on the project will be provided to the commission later.  
**CORRESPONDENCE**  
 Hazen High School Yearbook Advertising/Funding Request: Commissioner Stern moved to approve \$300 to Hazen High School Yearbook Committee, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. On roll call vote: Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.  
**NEW BUSINESS**  
 2025 Budget Amendments: Commissioner Stern moved to approve the 2025 budget amendments, as presented, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. On roll call vote: Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried. Amendments approved are as follows:  
 Revenue amendments for amounts exceeding estimates: General Fund – 86,973.07; Highway Distribution Fund - \$15,988.08; Deficiency Fund - \$5,183.85; Cemetery Fund - \$1199.60; DOT Flex Funds - \$48358.99; Promotions/Capital Construction Fund - \$5,040.24; City Sales Tax Fund - \$31,388.37; HCD Sales Tax Funds - \$30,565.55; 2010 Flood Protection Funds - \$14.23; 2010 Sanitary Sewer Fund - \$757.15; 2014 Street Project Fund - \$9,701.16; 2016 Street Project Fund - \$148,384.46; 2018 Street Project Fund - \$299,214.86; 2023/2024 Alley Project Funds - \$51,153.00; Sanitation Utility Fund - \$6,008.61; Library Fund - \$4,087.33. Expenditure amendments for amounts exceeding estimates: Promotions/Capital Construction Fund - \$5,040.24; City

Sales Tax Fund - \$471,789.00; Highway Special Funds - \$637.00; 2010 Flood Protection Funds - \$104.50; 2014 Street Project Fund - \$95.00; 2018 Street Project Funds - \$34,644.37; 2022 Alley Project Fund - \$2,321.25; 2023/2024 Alley Project Fund - \$42,846.51; Sanitary Sewer Project 2024 Funds - \$156,954.81; Sewer Utility Fund - \$11,359.87.  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
 No public comments were received.  
**Approval of Bills and Financial Statement:** Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the bills and financial statements, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: Cenex, 3504.08; Cory Beery, 300.00; D&E Supply Co, 66.09; Evolv Inc, 19.95; Further, 3.25; Hazen Motor Co, 442.41; Hazen Star, 359.07; Hazen Welding, 1597.22; ITD, 105.55; Lucky's Towing, 350.00; Modern Marketing, 1448.00; MDU, 4490.51; Monte Erhardt, 129.21; Moore Engineering Inc, 395.00; ND Dept Environmental Quality, 105.00; ND Dept of Health, 54.00; NAPA, 713.34; OK Tire Store, 183.19; Roughrider Electric Coop, 5704.01; Stamps.com, 112.50; The Hub, 933.64; Trinity Pepperling, 97.41; Vestis, 450.62; West River Telecom, 925.01; High Plains Concepts, 10589.50. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.  
 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2026, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.  
 Approved: Jesse Schiferl, President  
 Attest: Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor  
 (03-05-2026)

# Guenther appointed to commission seat

BY DANIEL ARENS

Hazen resident Steve Guenther was appointed by the Mercer County Commission to fill a vacancy on the board until the November 2026 election, at which time the voters will decide who fills out the remaining two-year term for that seat. Commissioner Gene Wolf moved to approve Guenther's appointment at the March 3 commission meeting, with Commissioner Casey Voigt seconding. The motion passed unanimously.  
 The unanimous motion followed two earlier motions by Commissioners Voigt and Jamee Folk to appoint

Travis Jordan and Chris Renner, respectively, for the seat. Both of these motions failed to receive a second from another commissioner. Guenther is filling the seat previously occupied by Mark Pierce, who announced his intention to resign from the commission in January 2026 due to health concerns in his family. Pierce was elected to the commission in the November 2024 election; the term expired in 2028. Guenther was one of 10 people who filed applications of interest to fill the seat vacated by Pierce. Two of these 10 applicants withdrew prior to the March 3 meeting. Besides Guenther, Jordan and Renner, the

other applicants were Jesse Krieger, Mathew Clarys, Travis Frey, Dale Schwalbe and Frank Bitterman. Guenther said he in his application that he is now retired and interested in serving with the commission, noting his involvement on both the union and management sides of organizations and with a background in farming and agriculture education as well as a career with industry. Commission Chairman Rick Bauman thanked all of the applicants for their interest in serving. Voigt noted the decision was difficult for the commission as there were many qualified candidates who applied.



PHOTO CREDIT OF DANIEL ARENS

Steve Guenther of Hazen (standing at right) recites the oath of office as he is sworn in as the new Mercer County commissioner by Mercer County Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt (standing at left). Guenther was appointed by the commission to fill the seat vacated by Mark Pierce. The seat will be voted on as a 2-year unexpired term in the November 2026 general election; Guenther will fill the seat until that point and is eligible to run for the position in the election.