

HAZEN CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

January 19, 2026
Hazen City Hall
Present: President Schiferl, Commissioner Folkerts, Commissioner Stern and Commissioner Wiedrich.
Absent: Commissioner Haack.
Others Present: PW Director Brousseau, Attorney Donovan, Chief Wolff, Editor Arens, HCD Director Savelkoul, Aaron McKenna, and 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 Folkerts moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the January 5th meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.
Agenda: Commissioner Folkerts 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. No further action taken.
REQUEST OF CITIZENS
Local Permit–Raffle(s) – Hazen Lions Club: Local Permit-Bingo – Hazen Chamber of Commerce: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve local permit #2026-02 as requested by the Hazen Lions Club to raffle events from March 1 to June 30, 2026, and to approve local permit #2026-03 as requested by the Hazen Chamber of Commerce to conduct bingo games on February 21, 2026, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.
APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS AND BUILDING PERMITS
RZ Application – Entzel – Expedition Estates:
RZ Application – VanDyke – Expedition Estates: The commission reviewed Renaissance Zone applications of Wanda & Victor Entzel (1008 Otter Creek Loop) and Walton & Andrea VanDyke (1045 Otter Creek Loop). The Renaissance Zone committee met on January 9th and recommended approval of both applications for 8 years, structured as done in the past. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve both renaissance zone applications for exemption (5 years 100%, year 6-75%, year 7-50%, and year 8-25% exemption), second by Commissioner Folkerts. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Nay", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.
REPORTS
Water/Sewer/Garbage: Commissioner Stern reported that an applicant for the public works position was interviewed and a conditional offer of employment was sent to the applicant. No response has been

received as of this date/time. Commissioner Stern was contacted by Mr. Saylor concerned that the staff following the city ordinance whereby items not contained in the garbage cart are no longer being picked up and his dumpster is now receiving a lot of garbage, which is not his. There was some concern that city crews still have discretion about when additional items may be picked up, and the commission was informed that the reason behind the ordinance is to protect the workers from picking up large/heavy items that may injure them. Commissioner Folkerts commented that dumping in a privately owned dumpster is illegal and that improper dumping of refuse should be referred to the police department. No further action taken.
Street/Cemetery: Commissioner Haack absent. When asked, PW Director Brousseau said the new loader should have arrived in Bismarck this date so he will check when delivery is expected.
Finance/Busing/Library: Commissioner Folkerts informed the board that the "Public Transit" needs to be removed from the two buses the city purchased by the city and that advertisement for a transit driver continue after updating the need for a Class C, driver's license with passenger endorsement. Commissioner Folkerts brought up the stop sign placement at 8th Ave and 7th ST NE and to consider relocating them to stop traffic on 7th Street to better accommodate the ambulance service when responding to emergency calls. There was discussion on the benefit of moving the signs. Commissioner Folkerts moved to have the stop signs relocated to stop traffic on 7th Street NE and to have this completed as soon as possible but, no later than June 1st, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. On roll call vote: Folkerts, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.
Police/Fire/Forestry: Commissioner Wiedrich reported that two (2) bids of the same amount were received for the 2016 Expedition of the police department. The commission directed the auditor to invite both bidders to appear and conduct "auction" bidding for the vehicle and to award to the highest bidder. Attorney Donovan suggested rejecting both bids prior to conducting the auction. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to reject the bids for the 2016 Expedition, and re-open it to both bidders, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Motion unanimously approved. Chief Wolff advised that the new in-vehicle laptops are ready to go and they are waiting for a firm install date of the camera systems by Axon. HCD: Myra Savelkoul apologized for recent absences from the commission meeting and reported that HCD did not hold a regular meeting in December. Ms. Savelkoul reported that she has been involved in showing some of the properties around town and that West Dakota Lumber is looking to build out a portion of their business for a business and Sassy Sasquatch is open for business. HCD's annual meeting will be held on February 17th, and the commission was advised that the city covers the cost of the meal for them and a guest. Ms. Savelkoul is also still working on information for a hotel in the city.
President: President Schiferl informed the board that he reviewed the city's capital improvement plan with the city engineer and the commission will need to look at this in more detail, after the election, and consider ranking and priority of the different projects.
CORRESPONDENCE
HCD Dues: The commission reviewed a letter from HCD Director Savelkoul regarding membership fees. Ms. Savelkoul stated the city is not required to pay the fee.
OLD BUSINESS

Hazen Winter Sports Building Addition – City Rep for Project Committee: The commission was advised that Hazen Winter Sports would like a city representative for the building project committee to assist in determining some of the building amenities and future use/operation. Commissioner Wiedrich volunteered to represent the city commission on the committee.
NEW BUSINESS
Quote – Floor Scrubber (C. Hall) Stein's Inc: The commission was informed that the current scrubber used to maintain the floors of city hall is beginning to fail and that replacement parts are hard to obtain. This scrubber was purchased from Stein's Inc in 2010 at a cost of \$5746.55 and the quote for a new scrubber is \$6,224.55. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the purchase of a new floor scrubber from the general fund equipment budget for \$6,224.55, second by Commissioner Folkerts. Upon discussion, Commissioner Stern asked about the old scrubber and was advised that it has no value, but the city could try to advertise it for sale. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.
GSA Reimbursement Rates: The commission reviewed the 2026 GSA reimbursement rates and was advised that meal and incidental rates are unchanged and only personal vehicle mileage changed from \$0.70/mile to \$0.725/mile. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to adopt the GSA rates for per diem reimbursement, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.
PUBLIC COMMENTS
No public comments were received.
Approval of Bills, Transfers, and Financial Statements: Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the bills, transfers, and financial statements, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: MDU, 5171.58; Roughrider Electric Coop Inc, 4288.13; West River Telecomm, 925.01; API Garage Door, 356.00; Bobcat of Mandan, 89.23; Cenex, 5155.21; Christy Metz, 19.00; Dakota Fire Extinguishers, 969.08; Donovan & Kaffar PLLP, 1640.00; Evolv Inc, 19.95; Fuelman Fleet, 698.24; Hazen Motor Co, 121.06; Hazen Motor Farm Equip, 110.00; Hazen Welding, 1686.77; ITD, 34.50; Marmon Custom Leather, 15.00; Mercer Co Treasurer, 6479.10; MOCIC, 100.00; Millennium Express, 12.00; Monte Erhardt, 38.50; ND Dept of Health, 54.00; ND Safety Council, 415.00; Power Plan, 320.00; Rough Rider Ind, 2000.00; Sanitation Products Inc, 381.53; Stamps.com, 211.93; The Hub, 2027.67; Titan Machinery, 434.62; Union State Bank, 37583.79; Vestis, 429.09; WSI, 4006.55 and the following transfers: PD Vehicle reserve to GF, 24056.38; GF to Fire Truck Rsv, 15,700.00; Highway Fund to Lg Equip Rsv, 3000.00; Highway Fund to New Equip Rsv, 3000.00; Transportation Fund to New Equip Rsv, 5000.00; Utility Water Fund to Equip Rsv, 5000.00; Utility Sewer Fund to Equip Rsv, 5000.00; Garbage Fund to Equip Rsv, 3000.00; GF Equip to PD Veh, 50000.00; Sales Tax to GF, 44500.00. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Folkerts, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Schiferl, "Aye", motion carried.
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, February 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

(02-12-2026)

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA INSURANCE & SECURITIES DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE MERGER OF SOUTHWEST MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY WITH AND INTO FAMILY HOME MUTUAL INSURANCE PETITION

[¶1.] The undersigned, as counsel for Family Home Mutual Insurance Company, pursuant to N.D.C.C. Chpts. 26.1-07 and 26.1-13, hereby petitions the North Dakota Insurance Commissioner for approval of the merger of Southwest Mutual Insurance Company with and into Family Home Mutual Insurance Company according to the terms and conditions of the Agreement and Plan of Merger duly adopted by the boards and the policyholders of both county mutual companies. The Agreement and Plan of Merger is on file with the North Dakota Insurance and Securities Department. The surviving company shall be Family Home Mutual Insurance Company.

[¶2.] If approved, the merger shall have

an effective date upon acceptance of filing of Articles of Merger with the North Dakota Secretary of State.

[¶3.] Petitioner hereby requests the North Dakota Insurance Commissioner to set a time and place for a public hearing on this Petition and publish the order of notice and the petition in five newspapers, one of which must be a daily newspaper published at the state capital, at least two weeks before the hearing upon the Petition.

Dated this 5th day of January, 2026
CROWLEY FLECK PLLP
By: /s/ Blaine T. Johnson
Blaine T. Johnson, ND Bar #07080 100 W. Broadway Ave., Ste. 250 PO Box 2798
Bismarck, ND 58502-2798 701-223-6585
bjohnson@crowleyfleck.com
Attorneys for Family Home Mutual Insurance Company

(02-12-2026)(02-19-2026)

NOTICE OF SOUTHWEST MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY’S PROPOSED MERGER WITH FAMILY HOME MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the North Dakota Insurance and Securities Department will hold a public hearing to address Southwest Mutual Insurance Company's proposed merger with Family Home Mutual Insurance Company at 9:30 am central time, on February 24th, 2026 in the Sakakawea room of the State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota.
If you plan to attend the public hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the North Dakota Insurance and Securities Department at the 701-328-

2440 at least seven days prior to the public hearing.
DATED this 4th day of February, 2026.
/s/ Jamie L. Struthers
Jamie L. Struthers #06485
Legal Counsel
N.D. Insurance and Securities Department
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 401
Bismarck, ND 58505
(701) 328-2440

(02-12-2026)(02-19-2026)

NOTICE OF PERMIT REVISION APPROVAL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Coteau Properties Company
Case No. RC-25-211
Revision 3, Permit NACT-1801
Application
NOTICE OF PERMIT REVISION APPROVAL
February 5, 2026
Preliminary Statement
On June 19, 2025, the Reclamation Division received The Coteau Properties Company's application for Revision 3 to Surface Coal Mining Permit NACT-1801. Revision 3 updates various sections of the permit for the next 5-year permit term including the legal information, certificate of liability insurance, business entity/ compliance information, identification of interests and rights of entry, equipment list, surface water hydrology, and various sections in the permit to account for bond released acres.
The Commission has completed its

review of the application and approved the permit revision. The revision will give Coteau Properties Company the right to modify Permit NACT-1801 as described in Revision 3.
Notice
Any person with an interest which is or may be adversely affected by this revision approval may request a formal hearing with the Commission within thirty days of the publication of this notice. The request should be addressed to the Public Service Commission, 600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480. You may contact the Commission at the following telephone numbers: 701-328-2400 or Relay North Dakota TTY: 1-800-366-6888.
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, Commissioner
Randy Christman, Chair
Jill Kringstad, Commissioner

(02-12-2026)

HAZEN PUBLIC SCHOOL REGULAR BOARD MEETING

December 08, 2025
HS Room 102
Present at the meeting were board members Brian Nolan, Steph Huber, Laura Zingg, Jen Wallender, Marti Raad
Also present were Supt. Ken Miller, Business Manager Billie Jo Peterson, Principal Paul Richter. Principal Jacob Kraft. Principal Trevor Sinclair and AD Brett Johnsrud were absent. The guests present were Dan Arens and Elise Weir. The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.
Minutes for the regular December monthly meeting were presented. Raad moved to approve, seconded by Huber. All voted aye. M/C
Financial Reports: a.) December Financial Statement; b.) January Bills totaling\$ 164,997.04 JP Morgan, 25,702.33; Mercer County Treasurer, 21,679.29; Western Steel Builders, 18,660.00; Bismarck Career Academy, 22.00; Everspring Inn & Suites, 280.00; Farmers Union Oil, 83.78; Harlow's School Bus Service, 27,160.01; Heart River CTE Center, 7,431.60; The Hub, 13.61; MDU, 9,502.54; ND FFA Organization, 20.00; Martha Raad, 50.00; Record Keepers, 52.50; Krause's Super Valu, 769.57; AED Everywhere, 80.43; Center Coal Co., 4,848.19; City of Hazen, 1,469.34; Coal Conversion Counties, 2,417.00; D&E Supply Co., 710.40; David Mittelsteadt, 275.00; Eric Nikiforoff, 421.00; Fastenal, 122.59; Hazen Chamber of Commerce, 700.00; Hazen Hardware, 604.05; Hazen Motors, 3,164.05; Hazen Welding, 1,311.25; Hot Lunch Program, 881.10; IXL Learning, 2,812.50; Jaymar Business

Forms, 114.04; John Flemmer, 2,834.34; Menard's, 70.41; Mercer Co. Landfill, 481.05; Midwest Sports, 29.00; Jayden Miller, 14.00; Tina Miller, 219.00; Oliver Mercer Spec. Ed., 26,656.25; Aimee Oyen, 14.00; Pitney Bowes, 400.00; Smart Apple Media, 390.10; Stein's Inc., 118.34; West Dakota Lumber, 379.98; Western Lighting Tech., 718.40; Western Steel Builders, 1,050.00; Trisha Wolff, 14.00; Workforce Safety & Insurance, 250.00. c.) Food Service Report; d.) Activities Report; e.) Investments; f.) Bank Statement; g.) Pledge of Securities; h.) School Vehicle Mileage Report. Huber moved to approve a-h; second by Raad. All voted aye. M/C
New Business:
2026-27 School Calendar Recommendation: Raad moved to approve the school calendar for the 2026-27 school year. Second by Huber. All voted aye. M/C
Staffing Recommendation for 2026-27: Finance and personnel committee met to go over the Reduction In Force (RIF) policy. The committee has no recommendations at this time for non-renewals.
Administrative Reports:
The Principals and Superintendent presented their reports.
The next Regular School Board Meeting will be held on February 09, 2026, at 5:30 pm .
with no further business, President Nolan adjourned the meeting at 5:35pm.
Brian S. Nolan, School Board President
Billie Jo Peterson, Business Manager

(02-12-2026)



Card Shower for Carol Kessler



She was the Mercer County Treasurer and a very active member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Stanton for many years.
(She also still likes to get snail mail.)

NOW SHE'S TURNING 80 ON FEBRUARY 27!
Celebrate Carol Kessler's special birthday by sending a message to her Bismarck address if you have it OR to her daughter's address at: P.O. Box 362, Stanton, ND 58571
Whether you know her as a loving relative, friend, public servant, associate, or just a good person, she would love to hear from you!