

PICK CITY 2025 FUND BALANCES

FUND ACCOUNTS		BEGINNING BALANCE	
REVENUE	TRANSFERS IN	TRANSFERS OUT	EXPENDITURES
ENDING BALANCE			
GENERAL		16,494.75	
101,465.63	32,000.00	-	(100,774.58)
49,185.80			
SPECIAL REVENUE: MUNICIPAL HWY		2,524.86	
8,169.50	11,479.41	-	(18,634.45)
3,539.32			
SPECIAL REVENUE: FLEX FUND		-	
2,607.69	-	-	-
2,607.69			
SPECIAL REVENUE: EMERGENCY		1,973.70	
2,204.74	-	-	-
4,178.44			
SPECIAL REVENUE: TOURISM TAX		31,937.89	
11,439.86	-	-	(263.94)
43,113.81			
SPECIAL REVENUE: PRAIRIE DOG		7,806.21	
22,592.98	-	(11,479.41)	-
18,919.78			
DEBT SERVICE: BND #73		33,364.00	
9,972.80	-	-	(14,780.00)
28,556.80			
DEBT SERVICE: BND #200		-	
-	19,075.00	-	(19,075.00)
-			
DEBT SERVICE: BND #286		-	
-	8,060.00	-	(8,060.00)
-			
ENTERPRISE: WATER		296,549.62	
128,139.35	-	(19,075.00)	(103,966.40)
301,647.57			
ENTERPRISE: SEWER		146,208.25	
36,174.25	-	(8,060.00)	(12,153.19)
162,169.31			
ENTERPRISE: GARBAGE		85,187.64	
35,327.34	-	(32,000.00)	(31,174.63)
57,340.35			
AGENCY: PARK / RECREATION		6,542.81	
2,216.44	-	-	(2,216.44)
6,542.81			
AGENCY: FIRE DEPARTMENT		27.04	
4,463.74	-	-	(4,463.74)
27.04			
TOTAL FUND BALANCES:		628,616.77	
364,774.32	70,614.41	(70,614.41)	(315,562.37)
677,828.72			

BANK ACCOUNTS		BEGINNING BALANCE	
TRANSFERS IN	TRANSFERS OUT	EXPENDITURES	DEPOSITS
ENDING BALANCE			
CHECKING: GENERAL		140,817.58	
1,000.00	-	(163,494.82)	190,484.29
168,807.05			
CHECKING: WATER		299,942.05	
-	-	(119,056.66)	128,139.35
309,024.74			
CHECKING: SEWER		152,110.40	
-	-	(18,230.89)	36,174.25
170,053.76			
CHECKING: WID #3		33,293.28	
-	-	(14,780.00)	9,972.80
28,486.08			
INVESTMENTS: CD		1,000.00	
-	(1,000.00)	-	-
-			
INVESTMENTS: SAVINGS		1,453.46	
-	-	-	3.63
1,457.09			
TOTAL BANK BALANCES:		628,616.77	
1,000.00	(1,000.00)	(315,562.37)	364,774.32
677,828.72			

LOAN ACCOUNTS		BEGINNING BALANCE	
DEPOSITS	TRANSFERS IN	TRANSFERS OUT	EXPENDITURES
ENDING BALANCE			
BND #73: TREATMENT PLANT		26,000.00	
-	-	(14,000.00)	-
12,000.00			
BND #200: PUMP HOUSE & LOOPING		323,000.00	
-	-	(5,000.00)	-
312,000.00			
BND #286: SANITARY SEWER IMPRV		153,000.00	
-	-	(11,000.00)	-
148,000.00			
TOTAL LOAN BALANCES:		502,000.00	
-	-	(30,000.00)	-
472,000.00			

(02-19-2026)

HAZEN STAR

OFFICIAL PAPER OF

MERCER COUNTY

Dr. Kelsey Wiseman, MD



She’s right here.



MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES

January 21, 2026
The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Rick Bauman.
Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Gene Wolf, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star.
Mark Pierce was absent. Others present during the meeting were Sheriff Terry Ternes, States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner, Treasurer Dawn Grannis, Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller, Moore Engineer Tom Weigel, Coteau Freedom Mine Representative Darren Hellman, and Darwin Knutson.
Pledge of allegiance was said.
Folk moved to approve the amended agenda. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
Voigt moved to approve the January 7, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
Voigt moved to approve the January 7, 2026 special meeting minutes as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
The following planning and zoning cases were presented by Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller:
• Zoning Case 26-01-01-Andy & Sarah Thomas- Non-Farm Residence- W2W2 T144 R85 S5. Folk moved to approve Zoning Case 26-01-01 as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
• Zoning Case 26-01-02-Coteau Properties-Amend existing Cond Use Permit 02-12-01-W2 of Section 1 & 12, portion of Section 2 & 11 T144 R89 & E2 of Section 32, T145, R88. Coteau Freedom Mine Representative Darren Hellman was present for clarification and to answer any questions regarding this case. Voigt moved to approve Zoning Case 26-01-02 as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
• Paula Lavelle Abatement request due to removal of buildings from property. Voigt moved to approve abatement as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
• Neumiller gave an update regarding the use of SRF Consulting services for completing the ordinance rewrite project.

Maintenance Supervisor Jim Albers presented updated skid steer quotes. Folk moved to approve the purchase of the New Lease Return Cat 260 Model Skid Steer for \$63,825. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
Albers presented the jail kitchen repairs cost of \$6,375, that need to get completed as soon as possible. Folk moved to approve the jail kitchen repairs for \$6,375 as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
The purchase and maintenance of the Roughrider RV property was discussed. Folk moved to create the Beulah Building

Maintenance Department. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
Treasurer Dawn Grannis explained how county funds are maintained and how important it is to make sure she has some heads up when large bills are going to be paid in order to properly move monies.
Grannis presented the pledge of assets and designated depositories for approval. Voigt moved to approve the pledge of assets as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Wolf moved to approve the designated depositories as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Grannis requested approval to travel out of state to attend the Nation Treasurer’s Convention. Wolf moved to approve the Treasurer’s out of state travel request as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
Recessed at 10:02 a.m.
Reconvened at 10:09 a.m.
HR/EM Director Alice Grinsteinner presented the Mercer-Oliver Joint Powers 1-year agreement for HR/EM services. Voigt moved to approve the Mercer-Oliver Joint Powers agreement as presented with changes in dates. Folk seconded. Voigt rescinded his motion. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion rescinded. This item was placed on the February 4, 2026 meeting agenda. Grinsteinner requested that the state mileage be changed from \$0.725/ mile to \$0.73/mile. No action was taken on this item.
Sheriff Terry Ternes requested permission to forgive mobile home taxes on several abandon trailer homes.
Voigt made a motion to remove the following mobile homes from the Mercer County tax rolls and to forgive the outstanding taxes on 305 Center Ave. S, Beulah, 515 Central Ave. S, Beulah and 513 Central Ave. S, Beulah, with a total tax amount of \$734.87. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
Moore Engineer Tom Weigel reviewed the 2026 engineering tasks. Folk moved to approve Task No 2 for on-call consulting services as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Folk moved to approve Task No 3 for Design and Plan Preparation as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. Folk moved to approve Task No 4 for Design and Construction Inspection as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
The Pick City Cabin site #2 Special Assessment District Road Project was discussed with States Attorney Todd Schwarz. Voigt moved to approve the Public Hearing for the Special Assessment District Road Project be set for February 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Resident Darwin Knutson presented information regarding the Coal Severance and Conversion information and commended Commissioner Voigt on his efforts to update amounts of revenue to the county. Folk moved to approve the quarterly County Nurse’s report as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolf moved to accept Commissioner Pierce’s resignation letter for March 1, 2026. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. States Attorney Schwarz explained to the Board that NDCC 44-02-05 states that if the commission can’t agree on the replacement of this vacancy immediately, then the Treasurer will fill this vacancy until the next General Election.
Folk moved to appoint Andy Thomas to the Planning & Zoning Board. Voigt seconded. Folk and Voigt voted aye. Wolf and Bauman voted nay. Motion tied and moved to next meeting.
Wolf moved to re-appoint Folk to the Dakota Central Zone Board. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.
Portfolio updates were given.
Folk moved to approve all bills as presented except for the 3D Specialties Bill for \$32,786.23. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: BRAUN INTER-TEC CORPORATION \$1,525.50; HAZEN WELDING \$75.40; KNIFE RIVER VETERINARY CLINIC \$280.02; NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE \$15,899.40; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$120.00; WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS \$2,509.89; CAPITAL TROPHY INC. \$107.50; CHI ST ALEXIUS HEALTH \$209.41; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$531.45; DIRECT MED \$550.38; FARM & HOME PUBLISHERS, LTD. \$450.00; FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS INC. \$360.90; FITTERER OIL HAZEN LLC \$8.25; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$184.40; HAZEN STAR \$185.00; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT \$6,171.25; J2 Studio \$3,773.70; LANGOWSKI, GONTRAN \$100.00; MCLEAN COUNTY SHERIFF \$17,000.00; MERCER COUNTY PROPERTIES INC. \$8,914.00; MID-STATE ORGANIZED CRIME INF CENTR \$150.00; MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS \$183.17; NAPA \$334.88; ND SECRETARY OF STATE \$36.00; NORTH DAKOTA ONE CALL \$6.00; OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL \$2,513.08; OFFROAD SOFTWARE, INC. \$4,500.00; QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC. \$1,000.00; QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC. \$682.29; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC \$730.87; RUD PROPANE LLP \$6,073.08; SCHWARZ, TODD \$395.20; THE BEACON \$20.00; THURN’S SALES, LLC \$1,800.00; VERIZON WIRELESS \$592.35; ESLINGER, MIKE \$31.18; HAFNER, KEVIN \$47.13; RENNER, CHRIS \$33.35. (TOTAL: \$78,085.03)
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 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: Rick Bauman, Chairman
Attest:Carmen Reed, Auditor

(02-19-2026)

CENTER/STANTON PUBLIC SCHOOL REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2026
Chairman Richard Schmidt called the regular board meeting of the Center/Stanton School Board to order at 6:30 p.m. on January 14, 2026. Roll call was taken, and board members present in addition to Chairman Schmidt were John Schwab, Shiloh Becher, Jesse Krieger (Via Teams), and Kelly Erhardt. Administrators present were Superintendent Adam Hill, Elementary Principal Ashley Tietz, and Secondary Principal Alicia Nitschke (Via Teams). Also, present was Business Manager Jacob Erhardt.
Set Agenda. K. Erhardt made a motion to set agenda as amended with the addition of After Prom Donation Request to letter D under new business. Schwab seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried (M/C).
Approval of Minutes. Krieger moved to approve the minutes from December 10, 2025 meeting. Becher seconded the motion. All in favor. M/C
Financial Reports. Monthly Financial Reports consisting of the General Fund, Activity Fund, Building Fund, Hot Lunch Fund and December payroll totals were presented to the Board. Schwab moved to accept the financial reports (consent agenda) until audited. K. Erhardt seconded the motion. All in favor. M/C.
Bills. Krieger moved to pay the following bills as presented: ADVANCED BUSINESS METHODS 1,939.69; BISMARCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS 105.00; CARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL 25,501.00; CENTER COAL COMPANY 10,549.06; CENTER MACHINE INC 3,010.63; CENTER REPUBLICAN 281.68; CITY OF CENTER 437.50; COAL CONVERSION COUNTIES 848.00; COLE PAPERS INC 1,288.21; ECKROTH MUSIC 51.10; EMERGENT 3 INC 1,000.00; FREEDOM TRUCK CENTER 13,938.25; GERRELLS SPORTS CENTER 360.00; GOVERNMENT LEASING & FINANCE 86,979.60; HARLOW’S BUS SALES 214.67; HEART RIVER CTE CENTER 3,715.80; HILL, ADAM 51.67; I-STATE TRUCK CENTER

138,939.50; JAYMAR BUSINESS FORMS 257.99; JW PEPPER & SON 64.29; KIMS APPLIANCE SERVICE 448.50; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT 311.65; MENARDS 516.23; MDU 4,273.51; MORTON COUNTY NEWS JOURNAL 52.00; NDCEL 575.00; NETWORK CENTER 716.00;OLIVER COUNTY TREASURER 768.66; OMSPED 21,066.85; QUINLIVAN, STEVEN 550.00; RDO EQUIPMENT 911.20; ROTO ROOTER 365.00; ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 35.00; RUD PROPANE 3,992.21; SAAFE LLC 1,709.21; SCHWAB, JOHN 142.80; SFBND-VISA 1,523.10; SIGNS BY JAN 242.00; SPIFFY BIFFS 240.75; STATEWIDE SERVICES 699.00; STEINS 264.66; TWIN CITY ROOFING 1,150.00; VITEK, KEITH 1,402.30; WRT 1,021.50 . General Fund Total: 332,510.77. K. Erhardt seconded the motion. All in favor. M/C.
Visitor. No visitors.
Administrative Reports:
Elementary Principal’s Report. Mrs. Tietz reported on RTI meetings; New Para; PBIS Bowling; Janitorial Staff Appreciation; Reading Month and Swimming; Handbook Training; Playground Committee; NextEra; and Enrollment.
Secondary Principal’s Report. Ms. Nitschke reported on Enrollment; Concert; Fall banquet; Testing; Calendar Committee; Upcoming Events.
Superintendent Report. Mr. Hill reported on Boiler Update; Carrington Bus; Future Cost Sheet; Boys Basketball; Calendar Committee; Human Trafficking Presentation; State Superintendent Visit; NAEP Testing; and Parking.
Committee Reports:
• Personnel Committee Meeting (12/17/2025). Personnel Committee met and discussed staffing and hiring of a 6th grade teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.
• Budget Committee Meeting (1/12/2026). The Budget committee discussed current budget and some things to look ahead for the 2026-2027 school year.

New Business:
A. 6th Grade Position. The Personnel committee recommends the hiring of Katelyn Frank for the open 6th grade position for the 2026-2027 school year. K. Erhardt made a motion to accept the hiring of Katelyn Frank (\$47,250.00) for the 2026-2027 school year pending proper licensure. Becher seconded the motion. All in favor. M/C.
B. Tuition Agreement/Open Enrollment. Hill presented a tuition agreement and open enrollment for a student looking to attend Center-Stanton from Hazen school district. Becher made a motion to accept both the tuition agreement and open enrollment for the Hazen student coming to Center-Stanton. Schwab seconded the motion. All in favor. M/C.
C. Playground Account. K. Erhardt made a motion to open an account at Security First Bank of ND for the playground fund now that donations have been received. Becher seconded the motion. All in favor. M/C.
D. After Prom Donation Request. Schmidt read an after-prom donation request for 2026 after prom party. Becher made a motion to table the donation request until an after-prom committee member can be in attendance. Schwab seconded the motion. All in favor. M/C.
Meeting Dates.
School Board Retreat – January 20, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. CT
Building/Grounds/Transportation Meeting – January 29, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. CT
Extra-Curricular Meeting – February 11, 2026 5:30 p.m. CT
Regular Board Meeting – February 11, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. CT
Schwab moved to adjourn the meeting. K. Erhardt seconded the motion. All in favor. M/C.
Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m. CT.
These published proceedings are subject to review and revision by the Board.
Erhardt, Business Manager
(02-19-2026)