

MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES

September 2, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Rick Bauman.

Present were Commissioners Jamee Folk, Steve Guenther, Gene Wolf, Casey Voigt, Auditor Carmen Reed, and Dan Arens of the Hazen Star. Others present during the meeting were States Attorney Todd Schwarz, Sheriff Terry Ternes, Tax Director/Land Use Administrator Jennifer Neumiller, NDSU Extension Agent Metta Pfliger, Deputy Auditor Mark Erhardt, NextEra Energy Representatives Chase Dauenhauer, Ben Sand, Kristy Smith, Highway Assistant Supervisor Dennis Olheiser, Andy Thomas, Renee Carlson, Kevin Hafner, Allison Ritter, Lori Hammer, Michael Berg, Kaylene Berg, Weston Berg, Wes Klein, Linette Irwin, Judy Knoell, Darlys Roth, Sheila Roth, Lanssa Eslinger, Kay Korschak, and Elizabeth Lundstrom.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Folk moved to approve the amended agenda with the following changes: add "Sheriff's August Revenues of \$39,565.74" under Other Business, strike the word "Public" from the Public Grievance Hearing, and add "Public Comment Policy" under Other Business. Wolf seconded. Folk, Wolf, Voigt, and Bauman voted aye. Guenther voted nay. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the March 3, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Wolf moved to approve the August 19, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Due to petitioners not being properly notified, the grievance hearing was rescheduled to be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota. It is understood that all grievance petitioners present, which include Linette Irwin, Elizabeth Lundstrom, Michael Berg, and Kaylene Berg have been officially notified of this hearing date and a phone call will be made to notify Darwin Knutson, who was unable to attend this meeting.

Highway Assistant Supervisor Dennis Olheiser presented the following Roughrider Electric Utility Permits:

- Wolf moved to approve Permit#1781(26), Mercer Roads 7 ST SW/65 AVE N 2 miles

from City of Zap, Sections 3, 10 & 11- T144W, R89N a dual bore as presented. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- Guenther moved to approve Permit#1782(26), Mercer Road 65 AVE, North 2.5 miles from City of Zap, Section 31- T145W/ R88N, & Section 3 - T144W, R89N a dual bore as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- Wolf moved to approve Permit#1783(26), Mercer County Road 13, in the north ½ mile of City of Zap, Sections 14 & 15, Township 144W, Range 89N a single bore as presented. Voigt seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- Folk moved to approve Permit#1784(26), Mercer County Road 67 AVE/CR13, North 3 miles from City of Zap, Section 32 - T145W, R88N a single bore as presented. Guenther seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- Wolf moved to approve Permit#1785(26), Mercer County Road 67 AVE/CR13, North 1/2 mile from City of Zap, a single bore as presented. Folk seconded. Voigt moved to table motion until more information is received. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion tabled.

NDSU Extension Agent Metta Pfliger requested to attend the Black Hills Recreation Leadership Lab from September 19-25, 2026. Pfliger stated the cost is within her budget and the training is approved by her NDSU Supervisor. Voigt moved to approve the requested travel as presented. Guenther seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the August Recorder Revenues of \$5,333.65. Folk seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to approve the August Sheriff's Revenues of \$39,565.74. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Guenther motioned to move the November 4, 2026 regular commission meeting to November 10, 2026, due to the general election being on November 3, 2026. Voigt seconded. Guenther rescinded his motion. Guenther motioned to move the 9:00 a.m. November 4, 2026 regular commission meeting to 5 p.m. due to the general election being on November 3, 2026. Folk seconded. Guenther, Folk, and Wolf voted aye. Voigt and Bauman voted nay. Motion carried.

Public comment policy discussion. States Attorney Todd Schwarz was present during this discussion.

The following people spoke during public comment: Michael Berg, Sheila Roth, and Wes Klein.

Recessed at 09:55 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

Discussed tabled motion for Permit #1785(26) with additional information of ¼ mile north of Zap Sections 13 and 14 – T144N/R89W crosses 67 Ave. All voted aye on original motion. Motion carried.

States Attorney Schwarz explained the corrective deeds will correct a land surveying error and a warranty deed error from 1989. Wolf moved to approve the corrective tax deed to the county and corrective county deed as presented. Folk seconded. All aye. Motion carried.

Voigt moved to table addressing grievances from the August 24, 2026 Public Hearing until all the grievances are heard. Guenther seconded. Voigt and Guenther voted aye. Folk, Wolf, and Bauman voted nay. Motion failed. Folk moved to make a motion to not make any changes to our current ordinances. Wolf seconded. Folk, Wolf, Guenther, and Bauman voted aye. Voigt voted nay. Motion carried.

States Attorney Schwarz clarified by stating this approved motion means the ordinances that are the subject of the grievances, you're approving as is, but as always, subject to change if needed, as per the ND Century Code.

2027 Budget discussion. Wolf moved to approve a special meeting will be held on Friday, September 4, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for the 2027 Budget. Voigt seconded. Wolf rescinded his motion. Voigt move to have a special meeting on Friday, September 4, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. with the following agenda items; 2027 Budget and possibly hiring the auditor some help to work with the budget. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Portfolio updates were given.

Folk moved to approve the bills as presented. Wolf seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried. The following bills were approved for payment: BEULAH ND HARDWARE \$17.49;

BUTLER MACHINERY CO \$2,538.80; CITY AIR MECHANICAL, INC. \$1,641.00; D & E SUPPLY CO INC \$863.89; DACOTAH PAPER CO \$1,263.00; DAKOTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC \$410.99; DAKOTA FIRE EXTINGUISHER INC \$378.80; DIRT PRO SERVICES \$165.00; ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INC \$1,287.06; FARMERS UNION SERVICE ASSOC. LTD \$1,174.00; GUENTHNER, STEVE \$335.76; HAZEN HARDWARE HANK \$176.92; HAZEN STAR \$55.00; JOHNSON CONTROLS FIRE PROTECTION LP \$4,142.32; KIESLER POLICE SUPPLY \$182.05; KREBS AUTO BODY LLC \$447.50; KRIS ENGINEERING, INC. \$4,928.84; LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC. \$324.52; MERCER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT \$2,903.79; MIDCONTINENT

COMMUNICATIONS \$177.05; MIDWEST DOORS INC \$394.00; MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES \$65.20; NAPA \$1,105.56; ND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES \$189.00; ND DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY \$735.00; ND SECRETARY OF STATE \$36.00; NEUBERGER OIL COMPANY \$27,676.46; North Central International, LLC \$1,056.45; NORTHWEST TIRE AUTO SERVICE INC. \$333.50; OLSON ELECTRIC \$626.50; RDO EQUIPMENT CO \$273.92; SIGN SOLUTIONS \$344.20; SWANSTON EQUIPMENT \$32,740.00; T-MOBILE USA, INC \$87.35; THE HUB CONVENIENCE STORES, INC. \$133.60; TYLER TECHNOLOGIES \$1,476.76; UNDERGROUND VAULTS & STORAGE INC. \$400.32; VERIZON WIRELESS \$1,069.20; VOIGT, CASEY

LEE \$566.80; ERHARDT, MARK \$142.88; GRINSTEINNER, ALICE \$938.48. (TOTAL: \$118,751.54)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the boardroom of the Mercer County Government Center in Stanton, North Dakota. Meetings can be viewed live at <https://www.youtube.com/@MercerCo>

Approved: Rick Bauman, Chairman
Attest: Carmen Reed, Auditor

(09-24-2026)