**PP**

PICK CITY NEWS

MAY 2024



Council present: Mayor, Arvid Anderson, Lori Davis, Brandan Reiser, Scott Bather. Absent: Westman Also present: Terry Focke, Vance Herman, PWD- Jim Sailer, Consultant- Amy Ones, Attorney- Mark Kaffer and Auditor- Diane Johnson.

Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. May 1, 2024

**Motions made and carried:**

Davis motioned, second Bather to approve the agenda, meeting minutes from BOE (4-16-24), regular meeting (4-3-24), and bills.

Reiser Motioned, second Davis to approve Hazen Winter Sports gaming site at Little Bar & Grill.

Davis motioned, second Bather to designate Hazen Star as Pick City’s official newspaper.

Davis motioned, second Reiser to approve the building permit for Derrick Leithold (addition to deck & ramp).

Bather motioned, second Davis to have S & M Lawn Services spray Lagoon & City.

Other business:

MCED membership fee was discussed, it was tabled to next meeting.

Discussion on the contract Mercer County Commission signed with Vanguard with the city’s reappraisal fee estimate at $47,484.00. The contact doesn’t state who is responsible for this fee. Attorney will check into this with the county.

City received Pledge of Securities from USB in the amount of $600,000.00.

Park Report: Set up a date to build Storage shed.

**Water Report:**

Received an email from O. Anderson asking for a variance to allow the water system in new building as proposed. Anderson also stated in email that he has not heard back from our city attorney. He was not present and no taken was taken on the matter.

Mr. Herman had questions about his delinquent utility bill. No action taken.

Reiser motioned, second Davis to approve the 3-year contract with Interstate Power (for generator at water plant). Motion carried.

Mayor called MSRWD, concerning the 6” water line that broke below the dam, and was replaced with 4” section last winter. He was concerned if Pick City would ever have a major fire, would that line support refilling our reserve clear well tank. MSRWD said AE2S Engineering ran the figures on 4” repair, and stated there would be negligible effect keeping the clear wells full both, for Pick City & the Park.

There been no further business meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

General Fund: payroll/ins/reimb-3464.90,Bette Boeshans – 972.50,ND Pers- 234.00

US Treasury –1430.30, WRT-121.72, RRE-662.93, DOC-33.48, H. Hank –8.49

Hazen Star – 49.00, Hazen Star – 137.23, Ones Consulting-850.00, Scott’s –97.72, Circle-2215.50

Water Fund: payrol1343.15, J. Sailer –50.00, WRT –42.23, RRE –323.96, Core & Main –1538.70

NDDH –25.00, USPS –106.00, One call –1.30. Sewer: Payroll-$671.45

**City of Pick City Board of Equalization Meeting-** April 16, 2024 5:00pm

Council present: Lori Davis, Kel Westman, Brandon Reiser, Mayor, Arvid Anderson

Absent: Bather. Also present: MC Tax Director; Jen Neumiller, Assessor; Bette Boeshans, Auditor Diane Johnson. Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Davis motioned, second Reiser to approve consent items.

Tax director, Neumiller performed a 3 year value ratio for the City of Pick City, it came in at 88%. (State requirement is 90%). A 2% increase will be added to residential and no increase for commercial.

Reiser motioned, second Davis to approve the 2% tax increase. Motion carried.

There was no public present to contest.

Neumiller also informed the council that the Mercer County Commission signed an appraisal agreement with Vanguard to assess the entire county on 9-20-2023. Making it fair & equitable across the entire county. Field review to start 2-01-2025 thru 8-01-2025.

Pick City’s reappraisal estimated cost: $47,484.00.

Westman motioned, second Davis to approve (8) eight -2024 Homestead Credits. All in favor. With no further discussion, meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

**Notices:**

**This is a hidden Gem in Mercer County, Located in Beulah, ND (108 – 7th St. NE- by the fairgrounds).**

**With your membership you will receive a quarterly newsletter:**

**With the permission of the editor, here are some articles from the current newsletter.**

Summer hours on Memorial Day and will be open every Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (CT) through Labor Day and all Wednesdays year around from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (CT).

We will gladly accommodate visitors on any other days. Please call (701) 873-5070 and set up a time

****

[MCHS@westriv.com](mailto:MCHS@westriv.com) MercerCountyMuseum.org facebook.com/mercercountymuseum

**Mercer County Historical Society PO Box 1134, Beulah ND 58523**

E\_\_\_\_\_\_

S\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Application Form:** Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(January 1st to December 31st)

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Individual (1 person) - Annual Membership **$10** Business - Annual Membership **$25**

Individual (1 person) - Life Membership **$100** Business - Life Membership **$500**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ New Member\_\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Memorial: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Honor of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Donation: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for (area) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(General operating expense, building fund, military, western, brides, church or other.)

**-**

Your monetary support of the Mercer County Museum is very much appreciated.

Your membership dues are used exclusively for operating expenses of the museum.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything was transported by ship. It was before commercial fertilizer’s invention, so large shipments of manure were common. It was shipped dry as in this form; it weighed a lot less than wet.

Once seawater hit it, it not only became heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, creating methane gas. As the manure bundles were stored below the deck, and as the methane was building up, the first time someone came down below at night with a lantern, BOOOOM!!! Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening.

After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the term “Ship High in Transit,” (abbreviated as S. H. I. T.). This alerted the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that as water came in, the manure would stay dry.

This is the recorded history of this term and its abbreviation, which came down through the centuries and is still in use today in the shipping industry.

**Coins Left on a Military Gravestone**

If you notice a penny on a gravestone, this signifies that a person, family member, friend, etc. has visited the headstone. It is an act of gratitude for the person’s service.

If there is a nickel on the gravestone, this means that the visitor who left it went to boot camp with the person buried.

If you see a dime on their stone, that signifies that the visitor served with the deceased military member.

Seeing a quarter has a particularly heavy association. This signifies that a previous visitor was present when the soldier passed away.

**To celebrate Mercer County’s birthday, in the next several issues of the society newsletter we are providing our readers with the history of the 50+ so called ‘Ghost Towns’. In the beginning days of Mercer County, post offices were established in farm and ranch homes with the owners designated as postmasters. When the Post Masters decided not to carry on those responsibilities, another house was selected. One of these early post offices, Broncho, moved five times.**

**Fort Primeau** 1831 was an obscure, short-lived fur trading post, said to have been located a few miles north of Fort Clark. It was named for founder Charles Primeau, who was a clerk for the American Fur Company at Fort Union, 43 miles southwest of Williston. Primeau sold it to A.C. Howley and James B. Hubbell. Two years later that firm abandoned the fort, and the American Fur Company then occupied it.

**Fort Tilton** 1822-1824 (144-88 Sec.16) was built by James Kipp three miles upriver from Fort Clark and was operated by Tilton & Company, also known as the Columbia Fur Company. It was named for J. P. Tilton, who led a six-man garrison at the post. Actual construction occurred May-November 1823, in response to an Arikara uprising, but the venture proved to be uneconomical, and the site was abandoned in 1824. It was sometimes called **Tilton’s Post** or **Tilton’s Fort**.

**Fort Vanderburg** 1822 (146-85 Sec.13) was operated by the Missouri Fur Company and was located near Manuel Rock and the Rock Village on the old **Fort Lisa** site. It was named after Capt. Wm. H. Vanderburgh, a member of General Leavenworth’s Company who had subdued an Arikara uprising, in part resulting in this venture. It proved to be economically impractical, and the post was soon abandoned.

**Friedenthal** 1908-1909 (145-88 Sec.26) was established six miles north of Beulah with Peter Boeckel as the Postmaster. It was named by settlers from Friedental, Crimea, South Russia, which had been settled by Germans in 1804 in the Suja District.

**Gilma** 1916-1917 (142-90 Sec. 2) Gilma was an inland post office nine miles south of Golden Valley, with Knute C. Star as Postmaster. He came here in 1906 from Norway, operated the Triplet Spring Farm and he named the post office for his wife, the former Gilma Pederson.

**Hub** 1907-1912 (144-85 Sec. 26) This rural post office six miles SW of Stanton was established in 1906 as **Beaumont.** In 1907 Postmistress, Sarah Jane Brown changed the name to **Hub** for her husband, Hub Brown.

**Kasmer** 1908-1915 (146-88 Sec.21) Kasimir Mastel, who had a blacksmith shop on his farm near Ree, established a post office, and called it Kasmer. It was located eleven miles north of Zap. Eli Gunderson and Ole Viken erected a store building and a small creamery. J. B. Field and Associates from Minnesota established a bank. The *German-American* newspaperwas published by Lee Dreveskracht, printed on his homestead, and was mailed from the post office at Kasmer. With the event of the railroad, most of its businessmen moved to Zap.

*(Information condensed from History of Mercer County by C .B. Heinemeyer and Mrs. Ben Jassen and North Dakota Place Names, Douglas A. Wick).*

**Expansion** 1899-1922 (144-86 Sec.27) was a pioneer Missouri River port established 14 miles north of Hazen. It was founded by John Bloodgood of New Salem and Jacob Kruckenberg of Hazen in 1899. These gentlemen, assisted financially by the farmers of that vicinity, built the steamboat “*Expansion*,” the first to be erected in Mercer County. Miss Kathryn Gallagher christened the boat with a bottle of real champagne.

The first storekeeper was Henry Sagehorn, who came from Ft. Yates where he was the postmaster and had been in charge of the soldiers’ canteen. Later John Bohrer, Sr., who also erected an elevator, bought the store. In 1905 the I.P. Baker interest established a lumber yard with John Bohrer, Jr., as manager. One year later, it was taken over by Benjamin Stoelting. Expansion is now underwater due to the creation of the Garrison Dam in the 1950s.

**Farrington** 1910-1914 (144-87 Sec. 30) was a rural post office established in 1909 as **Thomas** one mile east of Beulah. In 1910 the name was changed to **Farrington**, both names honoring postmaster Thomas P. Farrington. It was discontinued in 1914.

**Fort Clark** 1829 (144-84 Sec. 36) was a trading post that was established on the Missouri River in 1829, in the extreme SE corner of Mercer County by the American Fur Company. They built a building 197’ x 132’, and named it for William Clark (1770-1838) of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. James Kipp was the first manager of the fort. It was the center of the terrible smallpox epidemic of 1837 that killed most of the Mandan Indian tribe. It was abandoned in the 1860s.

**Fort Clark** in Oliver County 1909-1969 **(**144-83-31) In 1909 this town site along the Missouri River was platted in by Robert W. Livingston immediately ESE of the abandoned ruins of the old fur trading post of this name. It was discontinued as a post office in 1969.

**Fort Kipp** 1827 was operated by James Kipp and located near the Hill Top (Mandan) village. Very little is known about this fort.

**Fort Defiance** 1845-1860s this was a short-lived fur trading post founded in 1845 by Alexander Harvey and Francois A. Chardon, supposedly to show their defiance toward their former employers at Fort McKenzie, MT. They had been dismissed because of their lawlessness and their abuse of the Indians. They established an opposition company known as Harvey Primeau & Company. They erected their headquarters post, six miles above the Big Bend in the Missouri River and continued in business for several years.

**Fort Lisa** 1809-1812 (146-85 Sec. 13, 19, & 24) was an early fur trading post on the Missouri River 10 miles north of Stanton. It was built in 1809 under the direction of Manuel Lisa, a Spaniard from New Orleans, Louisiana who came into the Missouri Basin in 1807 and established many posts along the upper portion of the river. The post was sometimes called **Fort Lewis** for its operator, Reuben Lewis, brother of Meriweather Lewis of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, and also known as **Fort Manuel Lisa**.