

HAZEN GOVERNMENT

The first meeting of the Village of Hazen trustees was held on September 19, 1914 when F.P. Wernlie, Dan Hartwig, L. Nei, George N. Frier, Carl Lightbody, Forest Vreeland, and John Moen gathered and choose John Moen to act as chairman. He then swore in the elcted officers. From there trustees, F.P. Wernlie was elected to act as chairman, George N. Frier was made Village clerk, Carl Lightbody as treasurer and marshall. They each had to give a \$500.00 bond which guaranteed their faithful performance. Their first order of business was to install a culbert west of the Village and pack dirt around it. On September 23, 1914 the first bid opening for a street project was held. This was to grade Main Street and Central Avenue. The bid went to Stanley Brothers for #375.00.

The Village did not have money for any improvements so an election was held November 7, 1914 to approve bonds for \$3000.00. With these bonds they paid the bill for for grading Main Street, erected 6 light poles, dug 4 wells for fire protection, purchased 700 feet of hose, a hand held pump, and built a jail.

The first landfill was a rented piece of land from Gottlich Oster east of the slaughter house which they paid \$10.00 a year.

On January 21, 1915, a Stanton attorney was paid \$35.00 for securing incorporation papers for the Village.

The first telephones came to Hazen April 15, 1915. A board of equalization was chosen and met June 14, 1915. On July 19, 1915, the Ulmar Brothers were awarded a 20 year franchise for electric light service to the Village. A ditch was dug by workers receiving 30¢ an hour. The Village clerk and marshall worked for \$50.00 a year and the treasurer \$25.00.

Petitions were submitted in April 1916 requesting sidewalks which were constructed.

During these days, it was common for the trustees to pick out vagrant

parties and submit their names to the Village marshall who would give them 3 days to leave the Village. Hitching posts were ordered removed from sidewalks.

In 1916, 3 acres of land were purchased for \$160.00 for a landfill.

At the January 10, 1917 meeting, a petition was filed to extend the Village limits and include blocks 32 through 36.

An epidemic of scarlet fever forced all public places, churches, schools etc. to close for two weeks in 1917. Also an ordinance was passed on zoning and building permits and a resolution declared that creameries, slaughter houses, and cream stations were common nuisances. Water main and water works districts were set up by plans drawn up for the water system. The bid accepted for this came in at \$19,861.80. By June 1920, meters were installed in all structures and a rate of 50¢ per 1000 gallons was charged.

The tax levy was 20 mills which brought in \$2,445.00 to the general fund from the taxable property.

At the March 25, 1921 meeting, the trustees canvassed the votes from the last election. Due to irregularities, it was moved and seconded that the election be declared illegal.

During these first years, there were many resignations and changes to the offices of trustees due to not attending meetings, moving etc.

In the summer of 1923, the Farmers Bank of Mercer County closed with the Village having \$3000.00 in funds which were lost. There was a depository bond with Adam Hannah Co. in which the Village took action against. There being no funds, a bond issue was taken out for \$6000.00 to cover the bills. There were no bids for the bonds so they printed and sold the bonds locally. Whenever the Village received bills, they would issue credits to the people holding the bonds. The bonds were finally purchased by C.B. Little out of Bismarck at 6% interest.

By 1925, over half of the citizens owning taxable property, a petition

was filed giving the electric franchise to Hughes and Deiters Co.. There were 78 signatures out of 105 taxpayers.

In 1927, a street crossing, 5 feet in width was installed at the corner of Alhambra Hotel to connect with the existing Northern Pacific cinder path.

By 1930, sidewalks and curbing levies were put on 27 lots that were plotted in Keeley Acre Addition. Total cost was \$286.30.

Ed Oster charged the Village \$15.00 per year for the use of a swimming hole on his property.

In the early 30's residents would appear before the board to request poor relief and the amount would be decided by the trustees. Sometimes residents would have to sign over their land for this. By 1934, a resolution was passed to have better control on the relief.

In April 1932, an ordinance was passed setting aside certain tracts of land in Hazen for a park that was named George Washington's Memorial Park. The Village then started to set aside \$200.00 per year for its development.

Through the years of the 30's bonds were obtained for a new well, light system improved, water and sewer lines went in and streets. The main complaints were on liquor establishments, some moon shining, dance halls, and of course dogs. An extra effort was put forth to clean up the village streets and lots. The general fund budget stayed around \$5000.00.

On December 5, 1938, John Moses resigned from Village clerk after holding the position since 1918. He had been elected Governor of the State of North Dakota. Mr. T.A. Sailer was appointed to take his place.

Nine light poles were erected on Main Street at a cost of \$300.00 in 1939 and land was purchased from M.L. Keeley for a right-of-way for a drainage ditch and dike.

In 1940, the residents had to pay \$1.00 per month to pay \$5000.00 bonds

and interest that was issued for a water and sewer supply system and water and disposal plant. Some other happenings through the early 40's were problems with goats, rabbits, chickens and turkeys running at large. An ordinance was passed allowing bicycles only in certain areas. A team of horses would be contracted to cut unsightly weeds. By 1942, culverts were purchased and installed to assure proper drainage through out the Village. The war department contacted Hazen asking that a bridge be built on railroad right-of-way for flood control. The answer was no as the board thought it best to wait until after the war. The Village had almost run out of available lots to sell by 1943 and in 1944, 14.5 acres known as 7th Addition was annexed and plotted. The Village board set a price of \$75.00 to \$100.00 each lot. A resolution was passed to prohibit the sale of anymore lots in the downtown area as they had to be saved for business's. A new well was dug for \$6335.00 and Mexicans were hired to help. Later, a water treatment plant was constructed along with a well for \$36,000.00.

A resolution was passed in 1946 to construct a new hospital on the Memorial Park land to replace the one that was too small. The hospital would be operated by the Lutheran Hospital and Homes Association.

Through these years, there was a continuation of building, vacating, and developing. The board would change the time to daylight savings every spring until fall which brought protests from the surrounding farmers.

In 1947 there was even a request for a permit to run a taxi cab service. It was March 20, 1947 that a special election was held for the purpose of considering the question of changing the corporate form of government of the Village to City Commission form. 128 residents voted yes and 38 were against. A certified copy of the patent was then received from the Governor and an election followed to set up the first commission. The by laws and ordinances were also re-done.

Also in 1947, a franchise was granted Montana Dakota Utilities for an

electrical distribution system. Oliver Mercer Electric Cooperative exchanged their present lots in block 2 for 10 lots in block 5 and 51, situated in 7th Addition to construct buildings for a cooperative.

More land was needed and in 1948, the corporate limits were changed and land annexed in, followed by improvements all over the City of water & sewer projects, paving curb and gutter, and sidewalks.

The commission went on record in June of 1949, to bring Highway #25 through the main street of Hazen. A \$4,144.00 bid was accepted to add another street lighting system to Hazen. By now, there was regular once a week garbage pick-up and the hauler was paid \$200.00 per month.

M.D.U. had asked for another franchise in July 1951, but was informed that a three month study had to be done first. The community club helped the city purchase signs to designate streets and avenues so visitors could find their way. A resolution was passed to authorize the city fire department to answer calls outside the city limits.

The City was still having problems with chickens and animals in the city and the black listing of people. Expansion took place to the water treatment plant by Chase Construction, at a cost of \$4,667.00. In December 1952, a resolution was passed for hard surface highway and storm sewers.

In the year of 1953, an ordinance was adopted for the control of morals and conduct to provide peace and order. The students at the school were given permission to use lovers lane for the safety driving course.

A problem arose in 1954, as the city had a diminishing water supply. A resolution was passed to declare it a serious problem and a new well was dug east of the city hall.

A bond issue was approved in the amount of \$40,000.00 for the construction of the Hazen swimming pool. Lot 5 block 8 were transferred to West River Mutual Aid Telephone Association to construct a building. Through the next years, there were many paving curb and gutter projects and water and sewer projects. H.A. Mueller financed the paving, curb and gutter and storm sewer #3 bonds for

3.95%. There were 26 sealed bids for the project.

The city had an active Race Track Association and used the city equipment to keep it up. The Health Department came in and tested dairy products being distributed. As there were reports of contaminated and spoiled products. Ordinance #60 was passed regulating inspections and requiring permits.

The city entered into condemnation procedures to obtain property from Edward Oster for a proposed lagoon, but purchased 25 acres from Henry Schramm instead.

In 1958, the first zoning laws were established and the city was divided into four districts.

Horse meat was purchased every year and mixed with poison to kill rats at the landfill and other areas. A leash law was started during the summer months due to the damage in gardens.

In 1963 and 1964, plans were made and \$50,000.00 worth of bonds were purchased for a new city hall. The Basin Electric Power plant followed by Glen Harold Mine was built three miles east of Stanton along the Missouri River and the commission started to worry about the effect it would have on Hazen. The Chamber of Commerce asked that immediate action be taken to increase the city water supply. They predicted that by 1970, Hazen would have 2500 residents.

Fluoride was added to the water supply in 1966 after a study was done by Dr. E. Vinje to make sure it was not harmful. A resolution was passed to approve \$95,000.00 general obligation bonds for a new school.

During the 4th of July, 1966, a resident was arrested for selling fleischkueckle from a stand that did not have toilet facilities. The city came to her rescue during the hearing.

By 1967, the Governor of N.D., began thinking that all of N.D. should be on the unified time. A petition was signed by 127 residents that favored central time. The time was changed but later changed back. Dr. Rowse made a house

to house check to research the factor that could cause Leukemia because he felt that there were too many cases in the area. The Beulah, Hazen area had reported 20 cases. The Hazen Hospital was given a long term lease for city owned property as it seemed like a better location and larger area than where it originally built. Due to the scare of fall out, a community shelter program was adopted. Rev. Guenthner started the paperwork for establishing Mercer County Federal low rent housing and it was built in 1968.

Due to recent flooding of the City, the Corp. of Engineers were contacted for plans on flood control. In 1969, a resolution was passed to cooperate in a flood protection project on Antelope Creek.

A new 39 bed hospital was built in 1970.

Meetings were still being held in the branch office of the city hall known as the Hazen Barber Shop. In 1972, Hazen received its first Federal Revenue Sharing money.

Reichenberg's I trailer court consisting of 77.6 acres was annexed to the city in 1974. Huber's First Addition was added in 1975. Coal Impact Grants began, a Cable T.V. ordinance was passed and an ordinance extending the zoning to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile beyond city limits.

The National Guard unit came to Hazen in 1976. In 1977 and 1978, Huber's Second, North Star Second, Reichenberg's Second Additions expanded city limits. Then followed by West Hazen, Shafer, and Christman Additions. A new city hall and fire hall were constructed with the help of a loan through the Coal Impact Office and the Hazen By-Pass was designed and constructed. Bike paths went in, a water plant built and ground breaking ceremonies took place on Antelope Valley plant site located north of Beulah for the Gasification plant.

The Energy Development board found it necessary to do a growth management plan as the Gasification plant would bring many people to the area, and they were very coorrect. The Coteau Mine was constructed next to the Gasification plant.

The next few years were very busy ones with all the different projects

for the new areas. Town houses, apartment buildings, recreation complex, North Star Bridge, experimental fly ash dog pound, new swimming pool, hospital expansion, motel, bowling alley, theater, grocery store, lumber yard, many homes and school facilities were among the development that took place. The city doubled in population.

The city had a project dedication day in 1980 which was attended by Governor Art Link and his wife.

The Mida Bonds were obtained by many people to build new business's and were able to get a cheaper interest.

By 1982 and 1983, it was necessary to up date many ordinances, pass new ones, hire extra police and city workers, and zoning laws were strictly enforced.

A tree planting project began in 1983 with the help of Dalles Krause, member of the Hazen Parks & Recreation Commission.

The last annexation was Sunflower Estates in 1984.

Many loans and grants were obtained through the impacted years. Everyone kept very busy and meetings were held sometimes twice a week and lasted until 2 A.M.

By 1985, the question of the continuance of the Coal Gasification Plant, caused the impact to subside and many families moved out to find work in other locations.

Today we are feeling the crunch of the after math of the energy boom and adjusting to lessor funds, a few empty homes, and apartments. The local business's are not prospering like they once were but the residents are proud of their clean, family orientated city and the accomplishments that took place. The population of Hazen today is approximately 2900 and Hazen consists of approximately 896 acres.