

PROCEEDINGS OF PIERCE COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 2, 2024

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on April 2, 2024. Chairman Hoffert called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Bohl, Christenson, Bednarz, and Migler present. Also present was Tim Ostrem.

Chairman Hoffert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to approve the consent agenda, with the addition of Tim Ostrem, Christenson Township resident and David Bednarz to discuss the steps at the Memorial Hall. Motion carried.

Tim Ostrem, Christenson Township resident, told the Commissioners that the road from Gooseneck Implement to his place is like a washboard. He felt that if it got maintained more often, at least every two weeks, then it would be in better shape. Ostrem said it lasts about 5 days after the maintainer goes over it, then it is back to being like a washboard. Ostrem said this road is being driven a lot. He said there are 39 residents and 10 farmsteads, they're all paying taxes too. Ostrem said Gooseneck Implement uses it a lot too and some of their large equipment damages the road. Ostrem said you don't need to re-do the road, just gravel & regular maintenance. After some discussion, Migler and Bohl said the County will do what they can.

Ostrem left the meeting.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to accept the March minutes as mailed. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve those bills previously paid and those yet unpaid were ordered paid. Motion carried.

Board reviewed Officer fee reports and hourly workers time sheets.

Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Christenson to approve Treasurer's checks #6365-6376, in the amount of \$8,008.52, for the month of March. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to accept the financial report for the month of March. Motion carried.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson, to transfer \$100,000 from General Fund to HACTC Fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to transfer \$25,000 from Wireless Fund to E911 Fund. Motion carried.

Josh Siegler, Pierce County Sheriff, joined the meeting.

Josh Siegler, Sheriff, met and gave the board a report for the month of March, for his department. Total calls-51; Medical Calls-3; Fire Calls-3; Traffic Accidents-1; Assist Other Agencies-8; Prisoner Transports-7; Arrests- 7 Warrants; Citations-7; Papers Served-29; Warrants Served-7. Siegler reported that there were no personnel changes. Siegler reported that he met with Rolette, Bottineau, & McHenry counties to create a multi-county drug task force. They would like to collaborate and pool their money towards hiring a person to focus on enforcement, surveillance, & investigating of opioids and methamphetamine.

Kelsey Siegler, DES Coordinator, joined the meeting. Siegler informed the Board that the State Fire Marshal & Forest Service re-did their fire guidance for open burning any time the fire danger was high. Bohl made a motion to go with the same guidelines as last year, seconded by Migler. Motion carried. The Board of Pierce County Commissioners issued a Fire Emergency Declaration and Burn Restrictions to include the restriction of recreational burning, open burning (Any burning that takes place in an unenclosed space. Includes the burning of leaves, grass clippings, garbage and pits, construction debris, fallen trees, crop residue or hay land, sloughs and bonfires.); also, restricting the use of fire to demolish structures when the ND Fire Danger Index is in the "High, Very High or Extreme" Index and/or a "Red Flag Warning" has been issued for Pierce County. However, these restrictions do not ban the use of grills or commercially sold enclosed firepits, but it is required that grills or enclosed fire devices be on a hard non-organic surface and be a minimum of 15 feet away from any dry vegetation when the Fire Danger Index is High, Very High, or Extreme. The use of Fireworks is prohibited when the fire index rating is High, Very High or Extreme or a "Red Flag Warning" has been issued. Be it also required that any controlled burn occurring within the limits of Pierce County be reported to the Law Enforcement Center by calling (701) 776-5245 & supplying the name of the responsible party, contact number and location of the burn along with any other requested information. These burn restrictions are in effect for Pierce County, but do not apply to the incorporated cities of Balta, Rugby, or Wolford. These restrictions have been issued for Pierce County, ND expiring on October 31, 2024.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

Josh Siegler, Sheriff, went over the bills for the month of March. Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson to approve those bills previously paid and those yet unpaid were ordered paid, for the month of March, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Joah Siegler, Sheriff, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for March, which was 66 (ADP). Current inmate count is 72. High of 74 for March. Bookings 39, Releases 33; Pierce County inmate population for March was 11. Deficit of \$51,866.43, for the month of February. Personnel 23/24 officers, 3 female officer hires. Siegler informed the Board that they are interviewing for the Director of Security position. Siegler reported that the DOCR inspection was done on March 12th & 13th and they made some recommendations. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz, to approve the financial report for the month of February, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Board reconvened at 9:28 A.M., with all members present.

Frank LaRocque, Community Service Coordinator, joined the meeting. LaRocque reported that there were 5 new cases, 16 open cases, 4 closed compliant, and 0 closed noncompliant. Fees received \$230.00. Miles driven 404. Workers helped at Father's Farm, Lyric Theatre, Rugby Public Works, Fairgrounds, Rugby Eagles, City of Towner, Bottineau Chamber, & Dunseith Fitness Center.

Steve Jacobson joined the meeting.

As the hour of 9:30 A.M. was past, the chairman called for the opening of the bids for Clay and Graveling and Machine Hire, for the 2024 construction season. After reviewing the bids for Claying and Graveling and Machine Hire, moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson, to accept all bids. Motion carried.

Board discussed gravel qualities from the different areas.

Jacobson left the meeting.

Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bohl that annual payment be made from the Road Districts to Road & Bridge Fund, for blading and snow removal, for township roads with motorgrader. Motion carried.

Board reviewed the following abatement applications: on parcel 03566000, (2024-36 & 42), for tax years 2022 & 2023, on the following described property, as S1/2SE1/4 (sec. 15) 155-74; on parcel 03620000, (2024-37 & 43), for tax years 2022 & 2023, on the following described property, as S1/2SW1/4, S1/2N1/2SW1/4 (sec.22) 155-74; on parcel 03659000, (2024-38 & 44), for tax years 2022 & 2023, on the following described property, as E1/2NW1/4, NW1/4NW1/4 (sec. 27) 155-74; on parcel 03668000 (2024-39 & 45), on the following described property as W1/2SW1/4 (sec.28) 155-74; on parcel 03676000, (2024-40 & 46) for tax years 2022 & 2023, on the following described property as SE1/4 (sec.29) 155-74; on parcel 03691000, (2024-41 & 47), for tax years 2022 & 2023, on the following described property as NE1/4 (sec.32) 155-74 - submitted by Nick Bachmeier; all as approved by Jefferson Township and recommended by the Tax Director, as qualifies for inundated land . Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson, to approve all of the applications submitted. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application on parcel 10036000, submitted by Evangeline Gerig for tax year 2023 (2024-48) on the following described property, as School Add, N75' Lot 7, Block 6, located in the City of Rugby. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to approve the abatement application for tax year 2023, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application on parcel 00449001, (2024-49) for tax year 2023, on the following described property, as Outlot 545 in SW1/4NW1/4 (sec.10) 158-71, submitted by Scott Monson, to lower the true & full value from \$210,302 to \$4,175. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to approve application submitted, as recommended by Tax Director, as it qualifies for Farm Residence Exemption. Motion carried.

Board reviewed correspondence letter from ND Insurance Reserve Fund, pertaining to electing a representative in the "Counties" category, to serve on the Board of Directors. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz authorizing the chairman to cast a proxy vote, to elect Travis Frey to the Board of Directors, to represent counties on the ND Insurance Reserve Fund. Motion carried.

Hoffert and Bednarz informed the rest of the Board that the Minot Housing Authority would like to dissolve the Pierce/McHenry Housing Authority, as it would eliminate a lot of the paperwork. Vouchers would all go to Ward County. They assured them that if Pierce County needs vouchers, they will still get them. This was tabled until the next time they meet.

As the hour of 10:45 A.M. was past, the Chairman called for the opening of culvert bids. One bid was received from True North Steel. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to accept the culvert bid from True North Steel. Motion carried.

Board discussed placing a mill levy request on the upcoming Primary Election.

RESOLUTION TO PLACE MILL LEVY REQUEST ON THE BALLOT

WHEREAS, NDCC 57-15-06.7 (2) authorizes the Board of County Commissioners for Pierce County, North Dakota, to levy annually a tax not exceeding two (2) mills for the purpose of extension work as provided in NDCC 11-38-01.

WHEREAS, Board of County Commissioners may submit to the electors at a primary or general election question of approval of voter-approved additional levy authority for extension work, for a period not exceeding ten (10) years, and if approved by a majority of the electors voting on the question, the Board of County Commissioners may levy an additional tax not exceeding an additional two (2) mills pursuant to NDCC 57-15-06.7 (2).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the question of levying up to an additional one (1) mill if needed for county extension work (i.e., not to exceed a total of three (3) mills) be submitted to the voters of Pierce County, North Dakota, at the Primary Election to be held June 11, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor-Treasurer, for Pierce County, North Dakota, be instructed to place the above question on the ballot at the 2024 Primary Election.

Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Bohl, to approve this Resolution and the placement of the matter on the ballot at the 2024 Primary Election. All in favor, resolution was unanimously passed and is declared adopted.

Bednarz discussed the condition of the steps at the Memorial Hall. He asked the rest of the Board if they could just blow out the cracks and then seal them. They agreed and told him to get a good product to seal them.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 A.M. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

MARCH EXPENDITURES

NDTC \$1295.52, Northern Plains Electric \$196, Quadient Finance \$200, Pierce Co. Payroll \$68680.89, \$18177.25, \$36.08, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$52.44, JP Morgan \$5094.35, Otter Tail \$4770.79, \$8954.03, NDTC \$831.31, Quadient Leasing \$182.97, Pierce Co. Payroll \$82686.82, \$22712.98, \$37.20, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$219.10, Security Benefit \$1951.10, AFLAC \$1223.08, Nationwide \$1321.23, \$1816, Colonial Life & Accident \$31.25, ND PERS \$29815.32, Otter Tail \$266.85, ND PHIT \$74414.99, Pierce Co. Payroll \$28257.27, \$7698.57, \$64.40, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$13.02, HACTC Bills \$31815.37, ND PERS \$665.52, HACTC Resident Fund \$891, Bednarz, Dave \$60.30, Bohl, Joe \$125.96, Christenson, Mike \$174.87, Migler, Dave \$196.31, Migler, Karen \$324.10, Mack Law Office \$388.70, Rugby Hardware Hank \$115.71, Schaan Oil \$17, Circle Sanitation \$201.25, Johnsons Plumbing \$385.95, Pierce Co. Tribune \$589.68, Quadient Finance \$500, ITD \$3863.03, Rugby Insurance Agency \$45866, CDW Government \$12291.72, Peace Garden Peace Officer Assoc. \$60, HACTC \$38.45, \$8004.06, Bottineau Co. Sheriff \$735, Redwood Tox. \$281.85, Hager, Dustin \$75, City of Balta \$875, Computer Express \$1450, Motorola \$750, ND Dept. of Corrections & Rehabilitation \$150, Isolved \$279.48, Matthew Bender & Co. \$286.81, NDACO \$400, Maddock Construction \$390, Wolford Fire \$180, ND Dept. of Transportation \$570.51, RDO \$4937.91, City of Wolford \$404, Home of Economy \$897.99, Opdahl Enterprise \$9338.75, Montonye, Ron \$40.62, Computer Store \$499.98, Scherr, Sandra \$258.44, ND Weed Association \$285, Tritech Software \$7685.40, Polar Communications \$3, Rugby Lumber \$17.50, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$9.80, \$84.35, Larocque, Frank \$310.88, Lysne, Daren \$53.60, Zeien, Paul \$298.15, Envision \$4245.35, Rugby Service Center \$2387.60, Brad's Towing \$108, Office of Attorney General \$465, Stein's \$68.36, City of Rugby \$621.88, Rugby Welding \$2006.61, Deplazes Redi-Mix \$30170, Linde Gas & Equipment \$155.65, Souris Basin Planning \$3582, Nexus Planning \$7000

GRAND TOTAL \$549935.26