

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

May 7, 2024

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on May 7, 2024. Chairman Hoffert called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Bohl, Christenson, Bednarz, and Migler present. Also present was Duane Johnston.

Chairman Hoffert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the consent agenda, with the addition of Duane Johnston and B & J Excavating. Motion carried.

Duane Johnston informed the Board that the American Legion had around 1,000 flags that needed to have a ceremonial retirement. He asked the Board if it could be done at the County Shop on June 14th (Flag Day). He said they would use a 55 gallon barrel to contain the burning. Board gave them their approval. Johnston left the meeting.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to accept the April minutes as mailed. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson 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.

Board reviewed the April report from Heart of America Community Service Program from Frank LaRocque, Community Service Coordinator. There were 4 new cases, 13 open cases, 2 closed compliant, and 0 closed noncompliant. Fees received \$155.00. Places where community service was performed were the Lyric Theater, Pierce Co. Courthouse, Rugby CVB, Pierce Co. Fairgrounds, City of Towner, and the Bottineau Chamber Office.

Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Migler to approve Treasurer's checks #6377-6383, in the amount of \$2,052.66, for the month of April. Motion carried.

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

Josh Siegler, Pierce County Sheriff and Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, joined the meeting. Also joining the meeting was Anthony Hauf. Graner introduced Hauf to the Board, as the newly hired Director of Security for the HACTC.

Josh Siegler, Sheriff, met and gave the board a report for the month of April for his department.

Total calls-41; Medical Calls-5; Fire Calls-1; Traffic Accidents-1; Assist Other Agencies-6; Prisoner Transports-3; Arrests- 3 (2 Warrants, 1 Driving Under Suspension); Citations-6; Papers Served-18; Warrants Served-2.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, went over the bills for the month of April. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve those bills previously paid and those yet unpaid were ordered paid, for the month of April, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for April, which was 72 (ADP). Current inmate count is 74. High of 77 for April. Bookings 41, Releases 40. Pierce County inmate population for April was 5. Deficit of \$39,521.81, for the month of March. Personnel 20/24 officers, 1 termination & 2 resignations, 1 previous officer possibly returning. Graner said the costs of incarceration continues to increase to \$104. per inmate per day, while the collections are \$81 to \$87 per day. Graner said he will need to raise county boarding expenses. Graner will be negotiating with the US Marshals for the Federal prisoner rate to increase to no less than \$104 per day. They usually offer three different options. He said the HACTC is very accommodating to them, between transporting & boarding. Graner said he would like to see 60 to 65 Federal prisoners per day with the staff he has right now. He said they can could handle a few more local prisoners as well. Graner informed the Board that the DOCR inspection had a couple of corrections, cleaning up inventory issues & with rounds. The HACTC has been issued full compliance. Graner said there will be a TEAM update, (where inmates buy items), that they will need to create another checking account for. He said they would need approval for this inmate funds account. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the second checking account. Graner requested that the Commissioners consider joining the NDPERS public safety plan, which is for licensed peace officers, and certified correction officers. The county's contributions would be 1.78% higher than the current plan. The commissioners will have to look at it at budget time. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to approve the financial report for the month of March, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Board reconvened at 9:25 A.M., with all members present.

Kelsey Siegler, Planning & Zoning Administrator, joined the meeting. Siegler informed the Board that all four permits were approved by the Planning & Zoning Board. As the hour of 9:30 A.M. was past, the Board held four public hearings. The first hearing was for B & J Excavating for a conditional use permit for aggregate mining operations located in the following areas: SE1/4 of Sec.7 156-74; SW1/4 of Sec.21 156-73; SW1/4 of Sec.3 153-73; NE1/4 of Sec. 13 156-73; SW1/4 of Sec. 15 158-72; E1/2 & SE1/4SW1/4 of Sec.20 158-71; W1/2NW1/4 & SW1/4 of Sec. 21 158-71; NE1/4 & N1/2SE1/4 of Sec.29 158-71. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to approve the conditional use permits requested by B & J Excavating. Motion carried. The second hearing was for Scott Monson. Monson requested a variance to the shelterbelt setback requirement for Outlot 545 in the SW1/4NW1/4 in Sec. 10 158-71. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bednarz to approve the variance requested by Scott Monson. Motion carried. The third hearing was for Josh Anderson who requested a variance to the setback requirement for the construction of a shop and placement of a shelter belt in the SW1/4SW1/4 of Sec. 17 158-71.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson to approve the variance requested by Josh Anderson. Motion carried. The fourth hearing was from Schneider Aerial Inc., requesting a variance for constructing a building within the recommended setbacks in Sec. 25 157-73, along Hwy. 3 on the airport property. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Migler to approve the variance requested by Schneider Aerial Inc.. Motion carried. All permits recommended for approval by the Planning & Zoning Board.

Tom Alexander, Minot Housing Authority met with the Board. Alexander requested that the McHenry/Pierce Housing Authority divest the HCV program, due to the struggle of securing enough landlords willing to participate in the HCV program. The MCHP HA has consistently maintained an average of vouchers under contract. By divesting the HCV program it will greatly reduce an administrative burden for the Minot Housing Authority and it would transfer the HCV vouchers to Minot Housing Authority. Alexander said several housing authorities have combined around the State. Alexander said Pierce County struggles to use all their vouchers right now as there is a lack of housing. Hoffert said as long as vouchers are still available to the public, it should be fine. A motion was made by Bednarz and seconded by Bohl to dissolve the McHenry/Pierce Housing Authority and have one representative from our area. This would take effect January 1, 2025. Motion carried.

Ted Keller, General Roofing, joined the meeting. Keller informed the Board that the Phase 3, Cornice Restoration of the Courthouse, has been completed. He said this crew of four men were out of Minnesota and knew what they were doing. It took a 1/3 of the time to complete. He said the labor was less time but the material was more expensive. Keller informed the Board that there was a grant available to replace courthouse windows for law enforcement security. Keller said they would be bullet resistance glass, with the different degrees of bullet proof grade. Keller said he will contact the Pierce Co. Emergency Manager to get the information and apply for this grant.

Brenden Klebe, County Agent, joined the meeting. Klebe informed the Board of the upcoming activities planned. He said there will be an increase in animals this year at the 4-H Achievement Days, more goats & sheep. There are plot tours coming up in July at the Paul Overby farm and one West of Rugby, where there will be a variety of canola. There will be another horseshow and they will be teaming up with Granville.

Galen J Mack, States Atty., joined the meeting. Mack informed the Board that Josh Frey, States Atty. for McHenry & Towner counties will be taking on a couple of cases for him. Mack said this will come out of his contingency fund. Mack said there is a shortage of attorneys right now.

Board reviewed the following abatement application: on parcel 08255001, (2024-50), for tax year 2023, on the following described property, as Lot 5, Block 1, Blessums 1st Addition, located in the City of Rugby, submitted by Nancy Voeller. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bohl to approve the abatement application for tax year 2023, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to accept the 2023 year-end financial report. Motion carried.

Jesse Brandvold and Jr.Holen, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. They talked about the available grants. They said next time Pierce Co. may have more of a chance to get one. They talked about the Wolford Road Project #SC-3521, CMC Route 3521 from NDSH 17, S 7 miles, N 3 miles to Rolette Co. line, and what the options would be, now that they didn't receive the grant. Bohl said the N 3 miles aren't as bad, but need to do the 7 miles. Holen recommended that they widen the road where the two low spots are. Board told them to figure out the different options and get back to them.

Steve Jacobson, B & J Excavating, and David Kraft joined the meeting. Their plan is to build shop condos, south of the storage units in section 7 of Meyer Township. Jacobson said it has been approved to be annexed into the City of Rugby and approved for sewer. Jacobson said they were looking for approval to cut across the road (30th Ave NE) and put in sewer line. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to approve cutting across the road (30th Ave NE), depending upon approval by Meyer Township. Motion carried.

Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Migler, to call for bids, for the purchase of one (1) newer or 2024 four-wheel drive motor grader, with front wheel assist. Bids to be opened on June 4th at 11:45 A.M. Motion carried.

Board talked briefly about the remaining ARPA funds. Board told Christenson to get the costs for new lighting at the Memorial Hall.

Board called Curt Brown, custodian, into the meeting. Discussion was held on his job performance and then relieved him of his duties. Board will advertise for the position.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 P.M. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

APRIL EXPENDITURES

ND Child Support \$58, State Treasurer \$971.90, City of Rugby \$2274.32, NDTC \$1283.02, Northern Plains Electric \$200, Pierce Co. Payroll \$70211.12, \$18168.87, \$36.64, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$23.08, JP Morgan \$1689, UPS \$70.40, NDTC \$801.61, Otter Tail \$9714.83, \$4575.83, Rink, Angela \$3953.75, Pierce Co. Payroll \$84752.26, \$23180.56, \$38.32, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$232.90, Security Benefit \$1951.10, AFLAC \$1223.08, Nationwide \$1321.23, \$1791, Colonial Life \$31.25, Subway \$700, Pierce Co. Payroll \$28492.36, \$7669.23, \$34.40, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$13.02, \$64750, \$55250, ND PHIT \$79456.71, ND PERS \$35057.42, Postmaster \$620, ND PERS \$664.48, HACTC Bills \$63966.52, ND Secretary of State \$36, ND Child Support \$30, Otter Tail \$281.91, Northern Plains Electric \$151, Bohl, Joe \$168.84, Migler, Dave \$285.42, Mack Law Office \$383.70, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$1337.34, Circle Sanitation \$201.25, Rugby Hardware Hank \$98.44, Schaan Oil \$17.50, Dakota Fire Extinguishers \$320.22, City of Rugby \$614.92, ITD \$3846.86, Pierce Co. Tribune \$752.82, Rugby Service Center \$1936.01, Envision \$8816.29, CDW Government \$831.76, Brad's Towing \$107, HACTC \$45.81, \$7941.31, Hager, Dustin \$75, ESS \$20.30, Computer Express \$1450, Gaffaney's \$591, Quadient Finance \$1500, Quadient Leasing \$1035, American Solutions for Business \$684.74, ISolved \$279.48, NDACO \$89.78, Office of Adj. Gen. \$1253.08, The Village \$1560, RDO \$5627.50, City of Balta \$396, High Plains Equipment \$75.67, Home of Economy \$2.69, Newman Signs \$91.77, Sign Solutions \$1407.20, Zeien, Paul \$66.33, General Roofing \$129450, Montonye, Ron \$342.40, Klebe, Brenden \$294.62, Scherr, Sandra \$704.72, NDSU Ext. \$6726.06, NDSU \$144, LaRocque, Frank \$310.88, Redwood Toxicology \$56.37, Leever's \$109, Rugby Welding \$624.20, Linde Gas & Equip. \$163.15, Office of Atty. Gen. \$490, Rugby Broadcasters \$198, Johnson's Plumbing \$83, ND Comm. Corrections Assoc. \$219.70, Buffalo Lake Sportmans Club \$3000, Welk, Myron \$500, Polar Comm. \$6, Wieler, Tanya \$1000, Tao Interactive \$599.95, NDSAA \$300, Hagen, Yvonne, \$542.16, Taylor Print Impressions \$1868.89, Retriever, LLC \$530, Clubhouse Hotel & Suites \$288.90, Lysne, Michelle \$94.20

Grand Total \$758,284.35