

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

January 7, 2025

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on January 7, 2025. Chairman Hoffert called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Bohl, Berg, and Migler present. Bednarz absent.

Chairman Hoffert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Berg to accept the December 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 Migler and seconded by Berg to approve Treasurer's checks #6416-6422, in the amount of \$1,676.43, for the month of December. Motion carried.

After reviewing the financial report for the month of December, moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

Josh Siegler, Pierce County Sheriff, and Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, joined the meeting.

Josh Siegler, Sheriff, met and gave the Board a report for the month of December for his department. Total calls-38; Medical Calls-2; Fire Calls-0; Traffic Accidents-3; Assist Other Agencies-7; Prisoner Transports-4; Arrests-5 (2 Warrants, 1 DUI, 1 Driving Under Suspension, 1 Harboring a Runaway Juvenile); Citations-19; Papers Served-9; Warrants Served-2. Siegler informed the Board that he is still one officer short. He does have 1 applicant, but he lives in Benson County. Migler asked if that would be a good fit. Siegler said it would be better to be more centralized, but will try it. He has to go through training first.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

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

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for December, which was 71 (ADP). Current inmate count is 85. High of 84 for December. Bookings 34, Releases 20. Pierce County inmate population for December was 6. Deficit of \$69,572.23,

for the month of November. Personnel 21/24 officers, no applicants, 2 officers going on paternity leave. Graner reported that they continue to receive the DOCR overflow. Graner said they are still negotiating their contract with the USMS. Graner talked about the ND Public Safety Plan and it was agreed on that they would wait and see what happens in this Legislative session before they join. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Berg to approve the financial report for the month of November, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Board reconvened at 9:26 AM, with Hoffert, Bohl, Berg, and Migler present.

Siegler requested that the rate per call for the County Coroner be raised from \$75. to \$100. Board agreed to that amount.

Board discussed the request from the NPHSZ for closing offices for President Carter's funeral. It was agreed that we don't follow all of the Federal closings.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Roger Sitter (2025-1) for tax year 2024 on the following described property N1/2 of Lot 4, Block 5, Southview Estates, City of Rugby. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve the abatement application for tax year 2024 as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed Inundated Land abatements submitted by Larry Slaubaugh (2025 2-9) on the following described property located in Township 158 North, Range 70 West: S1/2NE1/4, Lots 1-2 (sec.2) to lower the true & full value from 148,940 to 125,867; Lots 3-4-5-6 (sec.2) to lower the true & full value from 132,626 to 111,834; Lot 7, NE1/4SE1/4 (sec.2) to lower the true & full value from 70,241 to 20,261; Lake Bottom Lots 31-32-33 (sec.10) to lower the true & full value from 16,281 to 2,122; Lot 6 (sec.10) to lower the true & full value from 5,317 to 161; Lot 7 (sec.10) to lower the true & full value from 12,458 to 310; Lake Bottom Lots 22-23-24 (sec.10) to lower the true & full value from 14,187 to 2,878; and Lake Bottom Lots 1-2-3 (sec.11) to lower the true & full value from 35,485 to 3,247. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Berg to approve the abatements for tax year 2024, submitted by Larry Slaubaugh, as recommended by the Tax Director, as they qualify as inundated acres. Motion carried.

Auditor-Treasurer-Migler, presented the Pledge of Assets from Merchants Bank, Bremer Bank, First United Bank, and First International Bank & Trust. Also reviewed, were the bank balances as of December 31, 2024 and rates that were submitted. Moved by Comm. Migler and seconded by Comm. Bohl, to accept the Pledge of Assets, as presented, and declared Merchants Bank, Bremer Bank, First United Bank and First International Bank & Trust, as depositories. Also, declared Cornerstone Bank as a future depository. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to amend the 2024 Budget as follows: Road Dist. #1 \$27,265. to \$30,079.60; Road Dist. #2 \$23,535. to \$24,956.; Road Dist. #3 \$29,540. to \$40,972.83; Road Dist. #8 \$34,640. to \$45,329.60; Road Dist. #10 \$27,489. to \$34,752.; Road Dist. #12 \$31,045. To \$32,195.80; Road Dist. #14 \$39,775. to \$44,074.78; 2017 Fema to \$6801.36; American Rescue Plan to \$201,767.47; Opioid Settlement to \$9,460.75; Hwy. Dist. \$360,000. to \$535,500.; State Grant to \$750.; Road & Bridge HB1505/Pr.Dog \$100,000. to \$326,709.01; Motion carried.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Migler and seconded by Berg to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 A.M. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PIERCE COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 22, 2025

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in special session on January 22, 2025. Board member Migler called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M., at the Memorial Hall, with members Chairman Hoffert, members Berg, Bednarz, & Bohl present. Also present were township officers from all the organized townships, except Alexanter & Torgerson Townships. And present were blade operators Lee Wolf, Paul Zeien, Gary Rose, & Rodney Wangler. Also present were Traci Sletmoe, with NDDOT and Dale Schmitz with District 2 NDTOA.

Handouts were given to all the townships present, on the costs of the shops, blades, and motorgrader operators.

Migler introduced the new commissioner, Joel Berg. Migler also introduced Traci Sletmoe, with NDDOT and Dale Schmitz, with District 2 NDTOA.

Culverts- Migler said we have 15 organized townships and 15 unorganized townships, we budgeted \$50,000 and used \$47,000. Migler said to get it approved by the commission first if you will need one.

Spraying-Migler said Dave Walker has agreed to do the spraying again this year and asked the townships if they have any concerns to let him know. Roger Tank, Reno Valley Township, said if he comes to their township, it's usually too late. Migler said if you have to do spraying, you can submit a bill, but it shouldn't be an excessive amount. Migler said townships should at least spray the trees and shelterbelts. He said the weed board will discuss it at their next meeting and maybe supply some chemical. Tank asked if they submit a bill, would it be by the mile? Migler said by the hour. Dale Schmitz said the Wells County Weed Board allows the townships to hire their own people to spray. Schmitz said 9 to 13 townships turn in bills. Schmitz said you have to be right of way certified with commercial license.

Cutting road ditches- Migler reminded the townships that the deadline for cutting road ditches is October 1st. If not cut, the county will do the cutting and the \$300. per mile fee, will be added to the land owner's taxes.

Fences & markers- Migler reminded the townships that were present, that land owners need to make sure they aren't farming in road right of way. The county has to sign a letter each year to NDDOT stating that they are following all the guidelines for Federal funding. He said there would be a \$500. fine if they are farming in the right of way. Letters would be sent.

Township agreement per mile for maintaining roads, is currently \$250. per certified mile. Migler said that by looking at the costs on the handouts, they could see how much costs continue to be for the motorgrader, fuel, parts, etc., but added that for this year it will remain at \$250 per certified mile. Tank asked if they could lease motorgraders. Migler said it is too expensive to lease.

Migler said there aren't any road projects lined up, but if funding becomes available, there would be a road project in Joe Bohl's district. Migler said the county has 10 ¼ miles of pavement and said the upkeep is costly. Striping was done on those highways in 2024 at a cost of \$17,902.

Building permits-Migler reminded the townships to call Kelsey Siegler, Zoning Administrator, and get permits if they have any plans to do any building.

More discussion was held about trees in right of way. Dale Schmitz said if there are trees right on the line with the township road, it is the landowner's responsibility, but some can be very expensive to remove. He said the township could work something out with the land owner. Migler said that's why it's important to spray.

Traci Sletmoe, with NDDOT, reminded township officers about the flexible transportation funding that is available. She said there were 22 projects awarded last year. Traci said they can apply for the design for a project, re-graveling, culverts, grade raises, etc. Sletmoe said she would help the townships with filling out their applications. She said their township needs to be at 18 mills in order to apply for the funding. Sletmoe said there is no local match, but they would need to go through the County if they were awarded funds.

Dale Schmitz told the township officers that there are 65 different bills that are going to be introduced this Legislative session that affects townships. He reminded the townships to make sure they are up on their zoning. He said go through your zoning ordinances and have everything in place. Schmitz encouraged the townships to attend the Capitol Connection Days on February 18th & 19th. He would like to see them sit in on some of the sessions.

There being no further business, moved by Hoffert and seconded by Bohl to adjourn the meeting at 1:48 PM. Motion carried.

DECEMBER EXPENDITURES

NDPERS \$621.04, Pierce Co. Payroll Acct \$36351.48, Pierce Co. Treas \$13.02, ND Child Supp \$127, Leever's \$600.53, Northern Plains Elec \$177, JP Morgan \$2194.13, HACTC \$39374.12, NDTC \$1298.98, Otter Tail \$3855.55, City of Rugby \$856.94, Quadiant \$2500, Software Innovations \$3900, Pierce Co. Tribune \$677.76, Hardware Hank \$455.37, B&M Laundry \$85.86, Dacotah Paper \$192.70, US Rec Midwest \$345, ISolved \$279.48, Am Legion \$295.10, Graner, Mike \$79.10, Rugby Golf \$300, Goldade, Joe \$200, Zeien, Paul \$263.31, Rugby Welding \$117.05, HE Everson \$59.06, NDAE4-HYW \$100, NDAAEA \$75, POLAR COMM \$3, Steered Straight \$4000, Susag Sand & Gravel \$1122.95, B&J Excavating \$2380, Deplazes \$5700, Pierce Co. Payroll Acct \$85669.07, Pierce Co. Treas \$40.05, Baltimore Co. OCS \$850, ND Child Supp \$669.60, C. A. Carlson \$286.47, Pierce Co. Payroll Acct \$102413.63, Pierce Co. Treas \$235.25, AFLAC \$1175.73, Colonial \$31.25, Security Benefit \$1951.10, Nationwide \$2197.23, Pierce Co. Treas \$480, Frey, Joshua \$7225.81, Fireside \$3302.63, West River Striping \$17902.65, Vanguard \$2480, NDPHIT \$82351.12, NDPERS \$29228.31, Pierce Co. Payroll Acct \$38584.70, Pierce Co. Treas \$14.93, HACTC \$30710.54, Bohl, Joe \$138.02, Migler, David \$150.08, Balta Wildlife \$3000, ND Co. Comm Assoc \$1725, ND Co. Aud/Treas Assoc \$400, Mack Law \$383.70, Pierce Co. Treas \$99.28, Stein's \$130.02, Hardware Hank \$112.35, Circle Sanitation \$201.25, Johnson Plumbing \$53.95, Leever's \$115.09, Runnings \$55.04, Gworks \$3032, City of Rugby \$645.31, Fireside \$757, Computer Store \$529.97, Dakota Bus. Solutions \$39, Software Innovations \$950, Computer Express \$260, Off of State Aud \$8901.20, NACO \$450, Intoximeters \$250, ITD \$3922.02, Brad's Towing \$446, Seigler, Josh \$231.64, Uniform Ctr \$99.99, HACTC \$9048, Off of Atty Gen \$745, Portraits by Misti \$135, Otter Tail \$226.89, Rugby Auto Parts \$99.96, Rugby Serv Ctr \$1493.53, Christenson Elec \$174.60, Newman Signs \$437.69, Linde Gas & Equip \$169.40, RDO \$3142.78, Zeien, Paul \$109.21, Envision \$8775.59, Montonye, Ron \$65, Larocque, Frank \$53.60, Polar Comm \$3, TriTech Software \$8453.94, Eidi Bailly \$619, B&J Excavating \$865. GRAND TOTAL \$578,095.70