

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

February 4, 2025

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on February 4, 2025. Chairman Hoffert called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Bohl, Bednarz, and Migler present.

Chairman Hoffert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz 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 January report from Heart of America Community Service Program from Frank LaRocque, Community Service Coordinator. There were 6 new cases, 15 open cases, 2 closed compliant, and 0 closed noncompliant. Fees received \$325.50. Places where community service was performed were the City of Towner Public Works Dept., McHenry County Courthouse, City of Rugby Public Works Dept., Rugby Eagles Club, Pierce County Fairgrounds, and the Lyric Theater.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve Treasurer's checks #6423-6433, in the amount of \$7,694.76, for the month of January. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to transfer \$4,000. from the General Fund to the Community Service Program. Motion carried.

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

Frank LaRocque, Community Service Coordinator, joined the meeting. LaRocque talked briefly with the Board about the Community Service Program, now that Bottineau County dropped out. LaRocque said that he would line up a meeting with McHenry County and the Community Service Board.

Josh Siegler, Sheriff, met and gave the board a report for the month of January for his department. Total calls-45; Medical Calls-1; Fire Calls-1; Traffic Accidents-0; Assist Other Agencies-15; Prisoner Transports-2; Arrests- 7(1-Disorderly Conduct, 1-Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer, 1-Preventing Arrest, 4-Warrants); Citations-9; Papers Served-18; Warrants Served-4. Siegler reported that there were

no personnel changes. Siegler talked briefly about the generator that was ordered for the communications tower. Migler asked if there was any warranty. Siegler said he would check into that.

Joel Berg, joined the meeting.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

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

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for January, which was 78 (ADP). Current inmate count is 73. High of 85 for January. Bookings 35, Releases 44. Pierce County inmate population for January was 8. Deficit of \$43,528.95, for the month of December. Personnel 19/24 officers. 2 job offers extended, 1 termination. They continue to get some of the DOCR overflow. Graner is following a news story out of Grand Forks County where the State is looking into leasing space from the Grand Forks Co. Jail's new 72 bed expansion. This would affect the overflow that has been coming to Pierce County. Graner reported that the USMS contract is not signed. Berg asked if it expired. Graner said it doesn't have an end date, it just needs to be re-negotiated. He said they are just waiting to hear back from the USMS. Graner reported on their capital project, a new phone system, from NDTc, as the current system is 18 years old. Graner said there were 2 significant incidences at the jail in January. Graner said the DOCR annual inspection is scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to approve the financial report for the month of December, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Galen J Mack, States Atty., joined the meeting.

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

Kelsey Siegler, Tax Director, joined the meeting and presented to the Board information on the agricultural values per acre, for the 2025 assessment. Kelsey's recommendation to the Board was to reduce the average value per acre by 3%, to be within 93% Tolerance Level. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to go with the recommended 3% reduction for agricultural land value for the 2025 assessment. Motion carried.

Mack left the meeting.

Ron Montonye, Veterans Service Officer, joined the meeting. Montonye presented information on the Vetra Spec Software. This software would allow him to enter claims on the computer and upload it into the system. Veterans could then check on the status of their claim. There are benefits to this program. Most County Veterans Service offices are using this software to streamline the process. The fee for the software package would be about \$449. annually. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to approve the purchase of the software. Motion carried.

Terry & Janelle Engstrom joined the meeting. Janelle presented information to the Board about the HB1437 Regional Livestock Planning Grant. She voiced her concerns about this grant, because the State is offering incentives for setting up CAFOs (Confined Animal Feeding Operations). She said these CAFOs keep a large number of animals confined to a small, densely populated space. She said the ND Health Dept. is turning a blind eye to all of this, along with the ND Ag Dept. & Farm Bureau. She said it is all about money, not our health. She believes the CAFOs will affect the water & air quality, decrease residential property values, many health problems, loss of quality of life, etc. The Engstroms encouraged the commissioners not to go along with this grant program.

Jesse Brandvold, Jessica Tagestad, and Jr. Holen, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. Brandvold presented information regarding the requested 2 miles being added to the Federal Aid Route list. Brandvold was waiting to hear back if this will be approved. Brandvold talked about the Prairie Dog Fund, he said the last time he checked, it was at 90%. Once at 100%, it should be distributed out to the counties. Tagestad and Holen talked about the road project in Bohl's district. They said it would be good to be ready and start with the environmental part. Tagestad said if you use Federal dollars, it will be better to go with the reshaping and widening of the road. Bohl said he is waiting to see what the Prairie Dog Funding will be, to determine which option to go with. Tagestad said the next big item will be the seal coats for the highways.

Board reviewed the abatement application on parcel 02888002, (2025-12), for tax year 2024, on the following described property, as Outlot 424 in Govt. Lots 4-5, Sec. 6 156-72, submitted by Little Flower Church. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the abatement application submitted, as recommended by Tax Director, as it qualifies as tax exempt. Motion carried.

Board reviewed the abatement application on parcel 03596001, (2025-13) for tax year 2024 on the following described property, as E462' of S942.86' of SE1/4NE1/4 Sec. 19 – 155-74, submitted by Nicholas Schmaltz & Michael Schmaltz, to lower the true & full value from \$280,423 to \$7,980. Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Migler to approve the abatement application submitted, as recommended by Tax Director, as they qualify for Farm Residence Exemption.

Moved by Berg and seconded by Bednarz to have the Chairman sign the right of way easement with NDTC for their 2025 Fiber Upgrade from the Balta to Harvey Exchange. Motion carried.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Berg to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 A.M. Motion carried.

---

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer  
Pierce County, North Dakota

---

Terry Hoffert, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

## JANUARY EXPENDITURES

POST BOARD \$100, ND CHILD SUPP \$159, STATE TREAS \$1148.13, NDPERS \$670.64, NORTHERN PLAINS ELEC \$220, NDTC \$1312.62, NDTC \$795.13, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$26650.68, PIERCE CO TREAS \$50.95, BALTIMORE CO OCS \$850, ND CHILD SUPP \$347.58, JP MORGAN \$1454.13, OTTER TAIL \$12263.79, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$108902.68, PIERCE CO TREAS \$289.29, AFLAC \$1175.73, COLONIAL \$31.25, SECURITY BENEFIT \$2148.83, NATIONWIDE \$2347.23, QUADIENT \$375.75, MERCHANTS \$15, NDPERS \$30613.47, NDPHIT \$85464.02, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$40205.19, PIERCE CO TREAS \$14.98, HACTC BILLS \$61678.83, BOHL, JOE \$191.10, MIGLER, DAVID \$117.60, RUGBY INS \$106, NDACO \$43277.10, THOMAS LAW \$225, MACK LAW \$398.46, CIRCLE SANITATION \$201.25, CITY OF RUGBY \$635.19, TORMANEN, KEVIN \$13, RUGBY AUTO PARTS \$18.99, STEIN'S \$110, RUNNINGS \$33.87, HARDWARE HANK \$118.89, PIERCE CO TREAS \$31.67, ND CO REC ASSOC \$500, ITD \$3921.93, COMPUTER EXP \$2645, NDACO \$1323, QUADIENT \$1535, OFF OF ATTRY GEN \$630, TRIBUNE \$714.42, SOFTWARE INNOVATIONS \$1350, HACTC \$65.90, NDACO \$418, ND SHERIFF'S DEP ASSOC \$400, BRAD'S TOWING \$111, POST BOARD \$45, HAGER, DUSTIN \$200, HACTC \$8,700, SELZ COMM PARK \$327.50, OFF OF ADJ GEN \$1078.84, ISOLVED \$293.45, DAKOTA DYNAMICS \$2000, HAMC \$163.95, A & R ROOFING \$14440, MOTOROLA \$8193, NDSU EXT \$7143.44, NDACTVSO \$170, LAROCQUE, FRANK \$84, STEERED STRAIGHT \$4,000, BEDNARZ, DAVE \$196.50, ENVISION \$6119.52, RDO \$880, RUGBY LUMBER \$42.95, RUGBY SERVICE CENTER \$1478.35, JD FINANCIAL \$35.24, HIGH PLAINS \$108.85, NEWMAN SIGNS \$217.24, OTTER TAIL \$285.50, ZEIEN, PAUL \$47.60, LINDE \$173.39, HACTC RES FUND \$858.50 GRAND TOTAL \$559660.09