

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

August 5, 2025

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on August 5, 2025. Chairman Hoffert called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Berg, Bohl, Bednarz, and Migler present.

Chairman Hoffert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Moved by Migler and seconded by Berg to accept the July 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 sheet.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to approve Treasurer's checks #6475-#6491, in the amount of \$12,615.37, for the month of July. Motion carried.

Board reviewed the financial report. Moved by Migler and seconded by Berg to accept the financial report for the month of July. 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 July for his department. Total calls-48; Medical Calls-1; Fire Calls-2; Traffic Accidents-3; Assist Other Agencies-10; Prisoner Transports-7; Arrests- 5 (1 -Fleeing Law Enforcement in a Motor Vehicle, 1-Driving Under Suspension, 3-Warrants); Citations-23; Papers Served-14; Warrants Served-3. Siegler informed the Board that Deputy Jacobs will graduate August 22nd from the Academy. Board asked Siegler about the Jt. Powers Agreement with Benson County to combine/share functions since they are without a Sheriff until a new one is hired. Siegler said Pierce County is short one deputy until Jacobs graduates. Siegler said they will help out whenever they can. He said if there is an urgent situation, they will help out.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

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

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for July, which was 80 (ADP). Current inmate count is 81. High of 84 for July. Bookings 32,

Releases 27. Pierce County inmate population for July was 7. Deficit of \$14,793.29, for the month of June. Personnel 21/24 officers. 2 resignations, 2 impending medical leaves & 1 military leave. Graner said maybe they will have to look at having a sign on bonus with possibly a 2-3 year commitment. Graner reported that the camera upgrade is still pending. Graner informed the Board that Evolution Counseling, with the DOCR inmates that meet the criteria, will begin on Sept. 2nd. Graner said It will be a great program and is a guarantee of the inmate's stay at our facility. Graner informed the Board of Sapphire Health, a comprehensive medical software system that eliminates paper charts. It is an electronic health record with great technology when providing medication for the inmates. It has been added to the 2026 budget for the HACTC. Graner asked the Board to adopt the Public Safety Plan with NDPERS. It would be cost neutral at this time. Graner felt it would attract employees as it has more benefits than the main plan. A motion was made by Commissioner Migler for Pierce County to affirm to ND Public Employees Retirement System that Pierce County is formed pursuant to N.D.C.C.11-01 and is neither a non-profit corporation nor a for-profit corporation, to join the NDPERS Public Safety Defined Benefit Retirement Plan and offer the plan to all eligible peace officers, firefighters, correctional officers, dispatch and emergency medical service (EMS) employees of Pierce County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berg. The Board approved joining the NDPERS Public Safety Defined Benefit Retirement Plan effective January 1, 2026. All in favor, motion carried. Graner informed the Board that the BCI lease has been updated to \$15. /square foot. Graner also informed the Board that he is completing paper work to be able to train correctional officers for their basic training on site, with eventually, opening up the training to other counties. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve the financial report for the month of June, for the HACTC. All in favor, motion carried.

Board reconvened at 10:00 A.M., with all members present.

Don Jelsing, Pierce County Fair, joined the meeting. Jelsing thanked the Commissioners for the \$25,000. donation to the Fair Association and for all the donated gravel for the new land at the fairgrounds. Jelsing said the new land was well received with what has been done. He informed the Board that the Pierce County Fair Association has received a \$100,000 grant with a \$50,000 match. Jelsing said they will do the most with it and be cost efficient. Jelsing brought plans to show them and would like to take each commissioner to the fairgrounds and show them the plans that the Fair Board has.

Denton Heisler, Lake Region District Health Unit Administrator, joined the meeting. Heisler went briefly over the 2026 budget. He informed the Board that Lake Region District Health is asking the same amounts as last year from each county. Migler said since we were without a public health nurse for some time, with the savings on salary & benefits, it should be less for Pierce County. Heisler said that was a question to take back to the Health Board. Heisler said it is hard to fill nursing positions. Lake Region District Health's budget will be approved at the October 7th meeting.

Jesse Brandvold and Jr. Holen, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. Brandvold brought information on the Flexible Transportation Fund Program. Wold Engineering will be filling out applications for local funding and need the commissioners to get letters of support. They will be applying for funding for the Wolford Project-7 miles and the CM3521 SPUR-2 miles.

Galen Mack, States Atty., joined the meeting. The Board asked Mack about the Jt. Powers agreement with Benson County. Mack agreed that our Sheriff Dept. can only help out as they are able to, since one deputy is still in the academy. The Board asked Mack about taking out the phone service at the county shops. All the road workers have cell phones and use the land line phones very seldom. Mack said if they don't need them for any emergency use, then it should be alright. Mack asked the Board to consider paving the road to the West on 64th St. NE, with the increasing numbers of residents along that road.

A motion was made by Migler to disconnect the land line services for all the county shops, seconded by Bohl. Motion carried.

Board discussed the 2026 budget. Board will meet again on August 8th to finalize the preliminary budget.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 AM. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS OF PIERCE COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
August 8, 2025

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in special session on August 8, 2025. Chairman Hoffert called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Bohl, Bednarz, and Migler present. Berg joined the meeting by phone.

Chairman Hoffert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board discussed the preliminary budget for 2026. Board discussed adjusting the road worker's wages. Board also discussed the commissioner's wages. Bednarz said looking at the salary study on the ND Assoc. of Counties website, most counties are paying their commissioners the same wage. Migler said most of the counties have a road superintendent. Migler said they could all be paid the same if we had a road superintendent, but he felt they should be paid differently if they are taking care of roads and unorganized townships. Bednarz said every county commissioner is important. Bednarz said that 80% of the counties don't have a Road Superintendent and get the same wages. Berg agreed that they should keep everyone the same. Hoffert said the commissioners have never given themselves more of a raise than the employees. Bednarz said there should be a base salary. Berg said it should be fair.

Hoffert said before anyone runs for this position they can see the salary. Hoffert said he hopes they can still get good people to run for these positions now that they don't offer health insurance. Hoffert said their job is to be the voice of the people. Bednarz said there are people that will still run. Berg said you are doing it for the wrong reason if you are just doing it for the salary. Berg said he felt that the salary covers his mileage. Migler said they are entitled to mileage for the wear & tear on their vehicles from gravel roads. Bohl said to move on and leave it as proposed. The proposed was the average of the five commissioners, for Dist. 2, 3, & 4 (\$18,082.66), with Dist.1 & 5 staying at their present amount + 1% (\$19,309.17 & \$23,921.66). Bednarz wanted all the new commissioners coming in to have the same wage, with the exception of the chairman that gets \$100. more per month. After roll call vote, Berg – Yes; Bohl – No; Migler- No; Bednarz- Yes; and Hoffert – Yes. Motion carried.

Board reviewed the rest of the budget.

After more discussion, a motion was made by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the preliminary budget, with either up to a 1 step + 1% or 2 steps. After roll call vote: Berg- Yes; Bohl – Yes; Migler – Yes; Bednarz – Yes; Hoffert – Yes. Motion carried. The public hearing on the budget will be held on October 7th at 10:00 AM.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 AM. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

JULY EXPENDITURES

NDPERS \$669.58, ND CHILD SUPP \$199.50, NDDEQ \$600, NORTH PLAINS ELEC \$115, HACTC RES FUND \$821.50, STATE TREAS \$1161.61, JP MORGAN \$3067.30, NDTG \$2100.54, PIERCE CO. PAYROLL \$45977.39, PIERCE CO. TREAS \$103.32 PIERCE CO. PAYROLL \$112709.08, PIERCE CO. TREAS \$278.66, AFLAC \$1175.73, SECURITY BENEFIT \$2148.83, NATIONWIDE \$2454.25, OTTER TAIL \$7406.84, NDPHIT \$85478.30, NDPERS \$32306.21, PIERCE CO. PAYROLL \$90853.48, PIERCE CO. TREAS \$46.60, BALTIMORE COUNTY \$850, ND CHILD SUPP \$387.60, CREDIT BUREAU OF BIS \$873.48, MESSERLE & KRAMER \$560.79, HACTC BILLS \$59702.59, BOHL, JOE \$136.50, MIGLER, DAVID \$296.80, MACK LAW OFF \$389.05, HARDWARE HANK \$154.51, RUNNINGS \$71.83, STEIN'S \$201.48, CITY OF RUGBY \$1033.18, CIRCLE SAN \$201.25, COLUMN \$508.16, TRIBUNE \$266.50, SOFTWARE INNOV \$2500, MERCHANTS BANK \$231.46, NORTH CENT PRINT \$1368, QUADIENT \$1535, FIRESIDE OFF SOL \$164.90, PIERCE CO. TREAS \$58.82, ITD \$3964.44, JACOBS, MICHEAL \$39.92, BRAD'S TOWING \$121, RUGBY SERV CTR \$1764.08, HACTC \$6,745, INTOXIMETERS \$250, HAGER, DUSTIN \$100, AXTMAN, MICHAEL \$620, PC FAIR ASSOC \$25000, COMPUTER EXPRESS \$1450, DAKOTA DYNAMICS \$1,000, RUGBY LUMBER \$83.70, NDPHIT \$360, AM SOL FOR BUS \$673.10, NDACO \$93.80, VANGUARD \$150, MATTHEW BENDER & CO \$515.61, ISOLVED \$293.45, OFF OF ADJ GEN \$120, OFF OF ATTRY GEN \$325, HACTC \$7.49, TACTICAL ADVANT \$5,059.15, OTTER TAIL \$239.68, NDACO & TRIBVET SERV \$120, NDSU EXT \$5886.27, KHND RADIO \$125, RUGBY BROADCASTERS \$197.50, HEARLD PRESS \$117, ENVISION \$11918.89, RDO \$2990, SELZ WATER \$510, DAK FIRE EXTING \$170.51, LINDE GAS \$360.69, NEWMAN \$117.69, RITTERMAN \$41492.80, B & J EXCAV \$12580, SUSAG SAND & GRAV \$6820, ANDERSON, LONNIE \$2960. GRAND TOTAL \$596573.61