

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

February 3, 2026

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on February 3, 2026. Chairman Bednarz called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Bohl, Berg, Hoffert, and Migler present.

Chairman Bednarz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Hoffert 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.

Jay Reinke, joined the meeting.

Moved by Hoffert and seconded by Bohl to approve Treasurer's checks #6507-6521, in the amount of \$10,347.12, for the month of January. Motion carried.

Board reviewed a letter from Ashley Berg informing them that she will no longer be on the Souris Basin Planning Council, after serving on it for 5 years. Her recommendation for a replacement was David Bednarz. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Hoffert to appoint David Bednarz to the Souris Basin Planning Council. 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 January for his department. Total calls-28; Medical Calls-0; Fire Calls-0; Traffic Accidents-0; Assist Other Agencies-5; Prisoner Transports-1; Arrests- 1 Warrant; Citations-10; Papers Served-13; Warrants Served-1. Siegler reported that there were no personnel changes.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, went over the bills for the month of January. Graner pointed out the cost of the bills for training. He said we continue to be the training grounds for the new officers, then they go to other agencies that pay better. Moved by Migler and seconded by Hoffert 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 77(ADP). Current inmate count is 75. High of 81 for January. Bookings 29, Releases 35. Pierce County inmate population for January was 3. Profit of \$1314.60, for the month of December. Personnel 19/24 officers. 1 retirement and 2 resignations. Graner said he will need to implement a combination of a referral bonus and a recruitment bonus to entice new employees to join the HACTC staff, as correction officers. Graner said with the high turnover they need to get more of the young officers certified. Graner said we need to offer more to provide a living wage. Migler said the cost of living is cheaper here but realizes that there is more to do in the larger towns. Moved by Migler and seconded by Hoffert to offer any Pierce County employee \$2000. for a referral of a correction officer. If the referred officer stays on, the employee would receive \$1000. after 3 months and the other \$1000. at 18 months. Then they discussed the recruitment bonus. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Berg to offer the new correction officer a \$2000. recruitment bonus with \$1000. paid at 6 months and the other \$1000 at 24 months. Motion carried. Graner said he would like to get a legal agreement drawn up for this and said he will talk to the States Attorney. Graner said he would like to bring on a nurse. This position would be doubled up until August when there will be another retirement. He would like to bring this nurse on now so she would be here as the Electronic Health Record goes live in March. Graner informed the Board that with the new FCC rulings, the Securus revenue will be decreased, as the new ruling puts a cap on what inmates can be charged. Graner informed the Board that the DOCR site inspection will be April 1-2 of which he doesn't expect any concerns. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve the financial report for the month of December, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Board reconvened at 9:30 A.M., with all members present.

Dan Smith, local photographer, joined the meeting. Smith had concerns with the wind tower lights. He said they have been on all night long for four months. Smith said the wind tower company should have detectors working so they will come on automatically when anything comes within 3 miles of the area. He said this is affecting his quality of life and his business of photography. He photographs the Northern Lights and is not able to do it at night because the tower lights are always on. He has to drive 30 to 40 miles to get what he needs. Smith said there are photographers from all over the world that come here to get those photographs. He said they bring in local revenue with restaurants and lodging. He would just like to see the wind tower companies comply with the State law. Berg and Hoffert would check into what can be done with the Public Service Commission.

Reinke left the meeting.

After reviewing the financial report for the month of January, moved by Bohl and seconded by Hoffert to transfer \$25,000. from Wireless Fund to E911 Fund. Motion carried. Upon further review of the financial report, a motion was made by Bohl and seconded by Hoffert to accept the financial report for the month of January. Motion carried.

Karla Harmel, Tax Director, joined the meeting. Harmel presented the Board a schedule of what she has planned throughout the year. Harmel requested an upgrade of Vanguard Camavision to Pro Version,

with the cost of \$3525. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Berg to go ahead with the upgrade of Vanguard Camavision to Pro Version. Motiion carried.

Jesse Brandvold, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. Brandvold presented information regarding the Flexible Transportation Fund & Prairie Dog as Grants Funds that were awarded from the State. Pierce County was selected for funding through the Prairie Dog as Grants. When and if they become available, the 2 mile segment of CMC 3521 Spur Project would receive funding. Brandvold said the bids for the seal project will be opened at the April Commission meeting.

Berg discussed the problem of trees in the ditches. The Board said it is the land owner's responsibility.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Hoffert to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 A.M. Motion carried.

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Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer  
Pierce County, North Dakota

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David Bednarz, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

## JANUARY EXPENDITURES

STATE TREAS \$1234.64, NDPERS \$685.54, ND CHILD SUPP \$171.50, PIERCE CO. PAYROLL \$94815.27, PIERCE CO TREAS \$26.69, MESSERLI & KRAMER \$682.10, JP MORGAN \$5484.94, NORTHERN PLAINS ELEC \$157.00, OTTER TAIL \$13584.55, NDTC \$1840.10, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$107119.07, PIERCE CO TREAS \$202.06, AFLAC \$1339.58, SECURITY BENEFIT \$2202.93, NATIONWIDE \$2409.25, STATE AUDITOR \$6462.64, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$41156.95, PIERCE CO TREAS \$13.02, NDPHIT \$92029.33, NDPERS \$33416.21, HACTC BILLS \$5,254.74, BOHL, JOE \$142.83, MIGLER, DAVID \$140.65, ND CO AUD/TREAS \$400, LEEVERS \$20.57, CITY OF RUGBY \$668.31, HARDWARE HANK \$87.41, RUNNINGS \$32.87, BRAD'S TOWING \$120, STEIN'S \$121.63, CHRISTENSON ELEC \$690.48, JOHNSON PLUMB \$2728.55, CIRCLE SANITATION \$207.25, DACOTAH PAPER \$192.70, ENVISION \$416.58, COLUMN \$298.74, PC TRIBUNE \$831.20, QUADIENT \$1035, PIERCE CO TREAS \$155.37, MACK LAW \$478.31, SOFTWARE INNOVATIONS \$600, IDT \$4186.83, CITY OF RUGBY \$454.72, STONE'S \$24.44, ND SHERIFF & DEPUTY \$400, UNIFORM CENTER \$468.96, BRAD'S TOWING \$200, RUGBY SERV CTR \$1578.28, ATTY GENERAL \$305, HACTC \$6633.50, ANDERSON FUNERAL \$550, SIEGLER, KELSEY \$2000, BALTA WILDLIFE CLUB \$2838.02, COMPUTER EXPRESS \$1550, DAKOTA DYNAMICS \$1000, ISOLVED \$293.45, OFFICE OF ADJ GEN \$1159.36, NDACO \$1811.20, TYLER TECH \$477, NDATVS \$170, NDSU EXT \$7580, WIBE, NATALIE \$1048.03, MEAT SHACK \$284.80, ZEIEN, PAUL \$206.63, OTTER TAIL \$277.71, RDO \$4259.96, B & J EXCAVATING \$790, ENVISION \$7810.07, SUSAG \$1755, LINDE GAS \$191.85, HACTC RES FUND \$874, CITY OF RUGBY \$2453.47, NDACO \$41958.48. GRAND TOTAL \$564247.32