

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

January 3, 2023

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on January 3, 2023. Chairman Hoffert called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Bohl, Christenson, Bednarz, and Migler present.

Chairman Hoffert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bohl 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 December report from Heart of America Community Service Program from Lisa Coffman, Community Service Coordinator.

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

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to approve Treasurer's checks #6273-#6276, in the amount of \$1071.58, for the month of December. 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-44; Medical Calls-3; Fire Calls-1; Traffic Accidents-4; Assist Other Agencies-5; Prisoner Transports-7; Arrests-6 (1 possession of Methamphetamine, 5 Warrants); Citations-4; Papers Served-16; Warrants Served-5. Siegler said they are trying to get through the cold weather and Holidays. Bohl asked Siegler about someone dumping a vanity & several garbage bags in the ditch, which the blademan reported. Siegler said he would check into it.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, went over the bills for the month of December. Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson 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 82 (ADP). Current inmate count is 79. High of 91 for December. Bookings 36, Releases 44. Pierce County inmate population for December was 8. Deficit of \$10,246.41, for the month of November. Personnel 20/24 officers, 2 to start in the next week, 2 recent resignations- which were female officers, no current applicants, 2 still on medical leave. He was concerned about the 2 female officers resigning as that could affect housing female offenders. He said it is very difficult right now, if they're down officers then it affects how many prisoners they can house. Graner said everyone in the state is struggling right now with high turnovers. Migler asked if they can replace female prisoners with male prisoners. Graner said yes, but then where does the Sheriff take female prisoners to, which county jail? Graner said it is a challenge right now, but they will get through it. Graner reported the DOCR inspection is set for March 29<sup>th</sup>. Hoffert asked about the drug testing issue. Graner said it should have never went to the level it did. Graner said communication is needed. He thought they had better service with the previous testing company. Board discussed the storm closure policy with Graner. He said his staff gets premium pay if they work and the courthouse gets closed. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the financial report for the month of November, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Board reconvened at 9:35 A.M. with all members present.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Connie Mitchell for tax year 2022 (2022-22) on the following described property as parcel 10679000 - Lots 5-6, N3' Lot 7, Block 19, Whites 1<sup>st</sup> Addition, located in the City of Rugby. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bednarz to approve the abatement application for tax year 2022, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board discussed the inclement weather policy again.

Jesse Brandvold, Jessica Tagestad, and Jr. Holen, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. They met with the Board on road project #SC-3548 (057) reshaping & regrading, CMC Route 3548 from McHenry Co., thence East 7 miles, South 1 mile, and East 5 miles to NDSH 3. The projected cost for 3" gravel surfacing is \$1,337,405. They said the county could use the Prairie Dog Funds on this project, which is scheduled to be distributed in the first quarter of 2023. It could be bid as early as March. They will bring preliminary plans to the next meeting.

Brenden Klebe, County Agent, joined the meeting. He said shooting sports are starting, with good numbers participating for archery and air rifles. Air rifles start January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center at the Fairgrounds. On the ag side, he has been doing interviews with specialists in livestock, horticulture, etc. Pesticide training will be in March and area counties will also have training for everyone that needs it sooner. Hoffert asked about his secretary working from home during the storm and wanting it to be fair for everyone. Klebe said they have worked hard to build up the 4-H program again. Their Hippology program has children from other counties joining them. She was able to work on registration for the shooting sports. Klebe felt it was necessary for her to keep up with this. He said if it's a slower time and it storms, then she will need to use vacation or time without pay. Klebe said he appreciates the Board's support.

Board continued to discuss the inclement weather policy.

Migler, Auditor-Treasurer, presented the Pledge of Assets from Merchants Bank, Bremer Bank, 1<sup>st</sup> United Bank (Ramsey Bank), and 1<sup>st</sup> International Bank. Also, reviewed were bank balances as of Dec.31, 2022, Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to accept the Pledge of Assets, as presented, and declare Merchants Bank, Bremer Bank, 1<sup>st</sup> United Bank (Ramsey Bank), & 1<sup>st</sup> International Bank as depositories. Motion carried. Board asked Auditor Migler to request interest rates from all the banks for their next meeting.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to amend the 2021 Budget as follows: Road Dist. #2 \$23,726.99 to \$27,210.80; Road Dist. #5 38,185.28 to \$65,343.61; Road Dist. #6 \$26,595. to \$33,346.84; Road Dist. #7 \$20,620.90 to \$24,740.20; Road Dist. #8 \$34,185.36 to \$49,451.60; Road Dist. #10 \$27,463.20 to \$27,827.40; Road Dist. #14 \$38,130.74 to \$59,214.30; Road Dist. #21 \$17,504.45 to \$34,136.46; Road Dist. #24 \$34,130. to \$42,846.86; Road Dist. #26 \$31,376.23 to \$35,470.40; American Rescue Plan to \$120636.46; Senior Citizens \$54,561.15 to \$67,554.75; State Grant Fund to \$10,773.54; Capital Prj. S1RN 20/20 to \$331,945.37; Road & Bridge HB1505 to \$323,325.90; Motion carried.

Galen J. Mack, States Atty., joined the meeting. Board asked about the road project and avoiding extra costs. Mack said it has to be bid out and follow all the laws. Migler asked about the right of way violaters. Mack said he is sending out letters. Board asked Mack about the county's inclement weather policy. Mack felt it has worked all these years. If anyone feels that is unsafe to come to work, then they should use P.T.O. or a day without pay. Board all agreed they would just stay with the current policy.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 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 19, 2023

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in special session on January 19, 2023. Board member Migler called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M., at the Memorial Hall, with members Chairman Hoffert, members Christenson, Bednarz, & Bohl present. Also present were township officers from all the organized townships, except Alexanter Township. And present were Blademen Lee Wolf, Paul Zeien, Gary Rose, & Rodney Wangler. Also present was Sue Sitter, Pierce County Tribune.

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

Spraying-Migler said Dave Walker did all the spraying again and was also trying to spray trees. Mike Senger, Antelope Lake Township, said Walker is keeping it in check and felt he was doing a good job. Migler said if they see something in their township that gets missed, to give Dave Walker a call or let one of the commissioners know.

Cutting road ditches- Migler said the deadline for cutting road ditches is October 1<sup>st</sup>, so hopefully by the 15<sup>th</sup> it will be done. If not cut, the county will be doing the cutting and the \$300. per mile fee, will be added to the land owner's taxes. He asked the townships and they agreed. Migler said if townships have problem areas, they should call the blade operator or a commissioner to let them know.

Fences & markers- Migler said when putting up signs, put in 14-15 feet away from the road, due to all the larger equipment now. Mike Senger asked about railroad signs. Bill Deck said those have to be a certain distance.

Township agreement per mile for maintaining roads, currently \$215. per certified mile. Cost per mile for 2021 with all expenses was \$746.73 and for 2022 the cost per mile went up to \$919.60.

Building permits-Migler reminded the townships to call Kelsey Siegler, Zoning Administrator, before building.

Road project scheduled for 2023 SC-3548 (057) CMC Route 3548 from McHenry Co., thence East 7 miles, South 1 mile and East 5 miles to NDSH 3 (West of Selz) Reshaping & Regraveling 3" gravel surfacing, total projected cost \$1,337,405. Expecting to get Prairie Dog Funds to use for this project. Prairie Dog Funds per township are expected to be \$9166.15 per township. Each township will need to provide a report on the usage of the funds received.

Daniel Held, Hagel Township, asked if the striping could be repainted on the Selz Road. Paul Zeien, blade operator, said the Balta Highway is really light too. Migler said he would check into getting them repainted.

Migler said the new blade should be delivered in March, normally they would get them in September or October, but due to production delays, it is later.

Migler went over the fuel costs and said they are quite a bit higher. They even made the blade men go down from 5 days to 4, in the fall, to help with the rising fuel costs.

Bill Deck, Truman Township, asked if overtime is being paid, so the blade operators stick around. He said good blade operators are hard to find.

Migler said prices are up, last year went up per mile from \$200 to \$215. He asked the townships what they thought. Rodney Schmitt, Elling Township, said it goes up every year and we're getting less. Motioned by Ken Schaan, Balta Township, to go up \$15. to \$230. per certified mile, seconded by Daniel Held, Hagel Township. Motion carried.

Migler reminded the townships to get their signs up, there are still some roads that don't have their signs up for minimum maintenance roads. If we can save on expenses in the winter, it all helps.

Adam Burckhard, Jefferson Township, asked to get a map of the minimum maintenance roads.

Rodney Schmitt, Elling Township, said there is a road 2 miles North of his place that doesn't need to be maintained in the winter. Migler said he will put up a sign.

Migler said the blade operators have done some ridging, with all the snowfall received.

Mike Christenson said if any of the townships need culverts, to let Lee Wolf know. Migler said the county doesn't sell them anymore and informed the townships that there are also poly culverts and that B&J Excavating has some available.

Bill Deck, Truman Township, said everyone should be paying attention to the Legislature, there is a bill that townships can meet any day in March and they can increase their pay for township board members. There is also a bill to allow township's special road funds to \$500,000., (up from \$100,000).

Townships were dismissed.

Commissioner Christenson motioned to appoint David Bednarz to the Pierce/McHenry Housing Authority, seconded by Bohl. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Bohl motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 PM, seconded by Christenson. Motion carried.

---

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer  
Pierce County, North Dakota

---

Terry Hoffert, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners