

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

February 7, 2023

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on February 7, 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 Migler to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson 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 January report from Heart of America Community Service Program from Lisa Coffman, Community Service Coordinator. There were 2 new cases, 16 open cases, 4 closed cases that were compliant and 5 closed that were noncompliant.

Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bohl to approve Treasurer's checks #6277-#6288, in the amount of \$4,814.25. Motion carried.

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

Josh Siegler, Pierce County Sheriff, and Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, 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. He pointed out the bill to Rugby Welding, which was for the new transport vehicle. Christenson questioned the bill from Summit Food Service. Mike said there is only one local person working for them right now. Migler asked about increasing the laundry bill. Graner said he would check into it since the cost of the chemicals used and electricity and everything is higher. Christenson asked about the Ward County bill. Josh Siegler, Sheriff, said it was for boarding a juvenile. Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson 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 72 (ADP). Current inmate count is 67. High of 80 for January. Bookings 31, Releases 44. Pierce County inmate population for January was 1. Deficit of \$33,676.68, for the month of December. Personnel 19/24 officers, 1 resignation since last meeting, 1 still on medical leave. He reported that a few of the officers are volunteering for the extra hours and getting the extra stipends. Graner asked the Board what their vision is for the HACTC. Christenson said he would like to see it get to a treatment center again and a break even point. Migler said he wants to see it run as efficiently as possible with the help they have. Bohl agreed with Migler. Hoffert also agreed and questioned if the treatment side is even a possibility. Graner said the focus is to put them into treatment centers and re-entry houses. They want to get them working. They don't want them kept in prison to get help, with little temptation, then send them out in the world. Siegler said capacity problem is also a part of it. Migler added it's hard to get counselors too. Graner talked about the personnel issue and said he had two officers leaving that had a lot of experience. He said this is part of the problem through out the state. It is challenging but they will get through it. Bednarz said Graner is doing a great job. Graner said it is due to the staff, doing their job. Graner said they are trying to run the correction center as efficiently as possible. Migler questioned if they are putting off repairs & improvements and said they should be doing a certain percentage each year, so they won't be hit with a lot of repairs at once. Graner said new flooring needs to be budgeted and new kitchen equipment is needed. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to approve the financial report for the month of December, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

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

Josh Siegler, Sheriff, met and gave the Board a report for the month of January, for his department. Total calls-38; Medical Calls-3; Fire Calls-0; Traffic Accidents-3; Assist Other Agencies-13; Prisoner Transports-2; Arrests- 2 Warrants; Citations-3; Papers served-9;Warrants served-2. Siegler said there were no personnel changes. January was pretty slow. Deputy Towe comes back in May.

Dennis Lynnes, Custodian, joined the meeting. After discussion of his duties, moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz, to do a formal referral with The Village, with consideration of placing him on a Performance Improvement Plan. Motion carried.

Kelsey Siegler, Tax Director, joined the meeting. Siegler went over the Ag value per acre for the 2023 Assessment. Siegler recommended to continue with the 93% tolerance level on all Agland, adjust point breaks to close the gap on Non-Crop. Ending values Crop Land-781.52, Non-Crop Land-187.78, and All Ag Land-636.93 (93% Tolerance) Moved by Christenson and seconded by Migler to adjust the values to the recommended level by the Tax Director. Motion carried.

Migler presented a bid for a garage door, for the Selz Shop, from PS Garage Doors, in the amount of \$8660. Moved by Bohl to approve the purchase, seconded by Bednarz. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to transfer \$15,000. from the Wireless Fund to E9-1-1 Fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson to transfer \$32,581.80 from the General Fund to the

Capital Prj.-SIRN 20/20 Fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Christenson to transfer \$4000. from the General Fund to the Community Service Program. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement applications submitted by James Bohlman for tax year 2021 (2023-1) and tax year 2022 (2023-2) on the following described property as parcel #10016000 – Lot 1A, Block 5 School Addition, located in the City of Rugby. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the abatement applications for tax years 2021 and 2022, as recommended by the Tax Director, in accordance with Veteran's Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Marilyn Sattler for tax year 2022 (2023-3) on the following described property as parcel #08433000 – Lots 11-12-13, Block 4 Comstocks 1st Addition, located in the City of Rugby. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Migler to approve the abatement application for tax year 2022, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Violet Burgess for tax year 2022 (2023-4) on the following described property as parcel #09239000 – West 60' of Lots 1-2-3-4-5, Block 2 R.O., located in the City of Rugby. Moved by Bohl 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 reviewed abatement application submitted by Kenneth Mattern for tax year 2022 (2023-5) on the following described property as parcel #01728000 – SE1/4 (Sec.20) located in Township 157 North, Range 72 West, Pierce County, North Dakota. After review, moved by Christenson and seconded by Bohl to lower the true and full value from \$175,054 to \$132,342 as recommended by the Tax Director, as it qualifies as a farm exemption. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Delilah Scherr for tax year 2022 (2023-6 & 2023-7) on the following described property as parcel #04877002-portion of Lot 2 in road rt/w (sec.29) 153-73 & parcel #04892002-portion of Lot 3 in road rt/w (sec.32) 153-73. After review, moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson to approve the abatement application for tax year 2022, as recommended by the Tax Director, as r.o.w. easement was removed from taxation in 1958. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Roger Sitter for tax year 2022 (2023-8) on the following described property as parcel #10562000- N1/2 of Lot 4, Block 5 Southview Estates, located in the City of Rugby. After review, moved by Bohl 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 reviewed abatement application submitted by Hubert Hotchkiss for tax year (2023-9, 2023-10, 2023-11, & 2023-12) on the following described property as parcel #53074000- Lots 1-2, Blk. 12 Wolford Village, #53076000-Lots 11-12, Blk. 12, Wolford Village, #53072000-Lot 10, Blk. 11, Wolford Village,

& #53071000-Lots 7-9, Blk.11, Wolford Village. After review, moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the abatement applications for tax year 2022, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Bernadine Meckle for tax year 2021 (2023-13) and tax year 2022 (2023-14) on the following described property as parcel #08523000 - Lots 1-2-3, Block 1, Comstocks Northside Addition, located in the City of Rugby. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to approve the abatement application for tax years 2021 & 2022, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Brian & Sue Blessum for tax year 2021 (2023-15) & tax year 2022 (2023-16) on the following described property as parcel #02901001-parcel in NW1/4 less N200', less parcel 2-2 NDDOT (sec.8) located in Township 156 North, Range 72 West, Pierce County, North Dakota. After review, moved by Christenson and seconded by Bednarz to lower the true and full value from \$142,767 to \$5,596 for 2021 and to lower the true and full value from \$153,433 to \$5,559 for 2022, as recommended by the Tax Director, as they qualify as farm exemptions. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Samuel & Renae Brossart for tax year 2022 (2023-17) on the following described property as parcel #02503000- NW1/4 less rt/w 12.11A (sec.11) Township 156 North, Range 74 West, Pierce County, North Dakota. After review, moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to lower the true and full value from \$208,547 to \$114,402, as recommended by the Tax Director, as it qualifies as a farm exemption. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Loraine Ohm for tax year 2022 (2023-18) on the following described property as parcel #10723000-Lot 5, Blk.1, White's 2nd Addition, located in the City of Rugby. Moved by Bohl 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 reviewed bids on interest rates on money market accounts and certificate of deposits from Merchants Bank, Bremer Bank, and First International Bank & Trust. After further review, moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to accept all bids received from Merchants Bank, Bremer Bank and First International Bank & Trust. Motion carried.

Jesse Brandvold, Jessica Tagestad, and Jr. Holen, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. They explained the preliminary plans of road project #CP-3548 (023) reshaping & regrading, CMC Route 3548 from McHenry Co., thence East 7 miles, South 1 mile, and East 5 miles to NDSH 3. Jr. Holen recommended they go with option #2 which has a cement stabilized subgrade. It would be a \$250,000 savings from option #1 which is an aggregate & geosynthetic subgrade. Holen explained the process to the Board and said he highly recommends it. Road project will be bid in March, to be completed by Oct.14, 2023. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to bid this project and go with option #2 cement stabilized subgrade. Motion carried.

Board reviewed information from Pierce County Recorder, Lori Miron, explaining the refund which she receives from NDRIN, is split out to the General Fund & Preservation Fund. The Preservation Fund is

used to pay for all of the Recorder's computers, scanners, label printers, and maintenance & support contracts. It started getting split out in 2020. Some counties have continued to put the entire refund in their Preservation Fund. With the cost of computers, equipment, and maintenance contracts continuously increasing, she was requesting that the entire refund be added to the Preservation Fund as it was prior to 2020, to be able to pay for those items without taxpayer funds. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to allow the NDRIN refund to be deposited in the Preservation Fund. Motion carried.

Chad Johnson, RDO Equipment joined the meeting. He talked about the new blade the County purchased and encouraged the blade operators to attend an upcoming training session at the end of February, which would show the latest technology. He said they would be able to get maintenance and operational tips from John Deere factory reps.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 A.M. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

JANUARY EXPENDITURES

Pierce Co. Payroll \$44025.45, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$421.57, ND PERS \$623.11, ND Child Support \$92.50, JP Morgan \$1488.58, Northern Plains Electric \$258, NDTC \$1573.73, Otter Tail \$7221.92, \$7799.87, NDTC \$795.56, Pierce Co. Payroll \$91069.30, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$791.71, Family Support Registry \$782, Pierce Co. Payroll \$100431.12, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$817.30, AFLAC \$1204.36, EBIX \$29.76, Colonial Life \$31.25, Security Benefit \$1747.27, Nationwide \$2053.03, \$1230, ND PERS \$27066.19, ND Child Support \$846, ND PHIT \$69213.96, ND PERS \$620.32, HACTC Bills \$55726.56, ND Child Support \$119, Otter Tail \$275.17, Bohl, Joe \$105.46, Hoffert, Terry \$26.20, Migler, Dave \$234.49, ND Clerks Association \$100, Office of Attny Gen. \$245, ND Auditor's Assoc. \$100, ND Co. Treasurer's Assoc. \$100, Mack Law \$383.70, Mack, Galen \$312.37, ND Co. Records' Assoc. \$200, Rugby Hardware Hank \$109.33, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$107.04, \$4235.06, Advanced Business Methods \$208.61, ND Assoc. of Counties \$17, Brad's Towing \$131, Spartan Firearms \$1690, HACTC \$29.26, \$9329.02, Ward Co. \$7155.05, Redwood Toxicology \$844.74, Anderson Funeral Homes \$1125, Hager, Dustin \$225, American Solutions for Business \$787.24, Isolved \$266.17, PRO I.T. \$500, Circle Sanitation \$156, B & M Laundry \$193.86, Stein's \$29.65, City of Rugby \$706.94, Pierce Co. Tribune \$686.07, Gaffaney's \$295.50, Software Innovations \$1600, \$10100, Staples \$70.09, Quadiant Finance \$1000, Quadiant Leasing \$1035, Computer Express \$3899, ND Assoc. of Counties \$341.78, \$400, ND State Radio Communication \$120, \$1019.12, Rugby Service Center \$1156.29, Envision \$15784.87, Butler \$653.83, RDO \$1256.03, \$203500, Linde \$299.92, NAPA Harvey \$68.29, NAPA Rugby \$30.58, Johnson Plumbing \$301.95, H.E. Everson \$9.43, John Deere Financial \$60.80, NDTC \$203.66, Polar Communications \$9, Clute \$41.96, ITD \$44894.33, Wieler, Tanya \$1000, NDSU Extension \$6375.52, NDSU \$694, Balta Twp \$10000, Ness Twp \$10000, White Twp \$10000, Balta Wildlife Club \$3000, Rugby Public Schools \$50000, Zeien, Paul \$184.42, \$279.03, Zeien, Audrey \$150, One Call Concepts \$1.30, ND Assoc. of Counties Tribal Veteran Service Officers \$120, \$50, Fosness Construction \$600, Sign Solutions \$2574.11, Wolford Fire Protection Dist. \$190, PS Garage Doors \$4330

Grand Total \$836,393.66