

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

March 7, 2023

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on March 7, 2023. Chairman Hoffert called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Bohl, Christenson, Bednarz, and Migler present. Also present was Scott Engeland.

Chairman Hoffert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve the consent agenda, with two additions, Elmer Jesme letter of support, and Bednarz had information on job fair. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bednarz to approve those bills previously paid and those yet unpaid were ordered paid. Motion carried.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson to approve caller I.D. for the Tax Director's office. Motion carried.

Board reviewed Officer fee reports and hourly workers time sheets.

Board discussed the Elmer Jesme letter of support in regards to the segment of Hwy. 52 E located between Minot and Voltaire, which they were concerned with safety and the number of traffic deaths. Board members all signed the letter of support.

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

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to transfer \$100,000. from Highway Distribution Fund to Road & Bridge Fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to transfer \$100,000. from General Fund to HACTC Fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to approve Treasurer's checks #6289-#6306, in the amount of \$6293.22, for the month of February. 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 February, for his department. Total calls-44; Medical Calls-1; Fire Calls-1; Traffic Accidents-2; Assist Other Agencies-14; Prisoner Transports-6; Arrests-4 Warrants; Citations-4; Papers Served-14; Warrants Served-4. Bohl asked Siegler

if someone had an event at Buffalo Lake, would they need to get a permit or would Benson County get the permit. Siegler thought they would get it through Pierce County, but said he may have to check with the States Attorney, since Esmond Bar is in Benson County and Buffalo Lake is in Pierce County. Christenson asked Siegler about the Selz Bar. Siegler said everything seems to be going good.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, went over the bills for the month of February. Graner pointed out the bill from Spartan Firearms. Graner said this is to improve the current firearms. Siegler said 4 are original from 2006. Christenson asked why they couldn't get locally. Siegler said because they aren't a government supplier, so they can't get the same deals. Graner said the older ones would be posted internally first, to recoup some of the expense. Graner informed the Board that a Pierce County arrestee was taken to the E.R. and that will be an expense to the county. Graner said new transport vehicle is working great and said the 2006 Ford Expedition could be put out on sealed bids. Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson to approve those bills previously paid and those yet unpaid were ordered paid, for the month of February, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for February, which was 68 (ADP). Current inmate count is 71. High of 80 for February. Bookings 40, Releases 40. Pierce County inmate population for February was 5. Deficit of \$67,684.55, for the month of January. Personnel 20/24 officers, 1 new hire, 1 retirement-Don Parsons retired and Graner wanted to wish him the best. Graner reported that there were still enough female officers to be able to house female prisoners. Bednarz asked Graner about Covid at the jail. Graner said it that it has been good. They are still testing new prisoners.

Graner said the first quarter is always difficult. Graner said with staff shortages, inmate numbers are down, which affects revenue. February will also be down. Graner said the jail is a significant part of public safety and it has always filled a niche and helped for the surrounding counties. Migler asked with the current staff, could they go up in prisoners. Graner said they could go up to at least 80. Graner said ideally he would like to get to 22/24 officers. Bednarz told Graner of the upcoming job fair which will be coming to the Rugby High School. Graner said the DOCR inspection is scheduled for late March. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to approve the financial report for the month of January, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Josh Siegler and Mike Graner left the meeting. Scott Engeland left the meeting.

Board reconvened at 9:15 A.M. with all members present.

Lisa Coffman, Community Service Coordinator met and gave the Board a report for her department. She said February was a slow month, as there was less court, but there were five new cases. March looks to be busier as far as the court schedule. They have an advocate that is trying to get more money for the Community Service Program. If they want Community Service Coordinators to go to Bismarck to support this, she asked the Board if she could go. Hoffert said if there is a good chance to get the funding, then she may need to go.

Kelsey Siegler, Zoning Administrator, met with the Board for the Public Hearing at 9:30 A.M. for the second reading of a new zoning category, Rural Recreation-2 District (A-3), which would allow for recreational lots smaller than one acre. Ted Mertz is wanting to develop five lots which are approximately 130x185'. They would need to have holding tanks. Homes are summer use only. Siegler said this new Rural Recreation-2 would set precedence for any future developments. They would need to apply for a change in zoning, apply for a building permit, which would go through the Health Department for a water and sewer system, then get approval from the Board of Commission. Siegler said they would need to treat everyone the same. Hoffert asked if approved, how small could the lots be? Siegler said the minimum lot area is 5,000 sq.ft. After more discussion, moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson, to add Rural Recreation-2 District (A-3) to the planning and zoning ordinance. Upon roll call vote, Christenson "Aye", Bohl "Nay", Migler "Aye", Bednarz "Aye", and Hoffert "Aye". Motion carried.

Jesse Brandvold and Jessica Tagestad, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. As the hour of 10:00 A.M. was past, Board called for the opening of bids for Project CP-3548 (023) Pierce County, for the re-shaping, subgrade repair, and aggregate surfacing. CMC Route 3548 from McHenry County line, thence East 7 miles, South 1 mile, and East 5 miles to NDSH 3. There were two addendums: one to correct table of contents and one to change gravel surfacing gradation percent passing of the No.8 Sieve from Max:58 to 62. The following bids were received and declared in order: B&J Excavating: \$1,149,531.20 and Farden Construction: \$1,036,763.50. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to accept the bid from Farden Construction, Maxbass, for \$1,036,763.50. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by James Tallant, etal, for tax years 2021 and 2022 (2023-19 and 2023-20) on the following described property as parcel 53008000 – Lot 1, Blk. 2, Wolford Village. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to lower the true and full value from \$5950. To \$875 for tax year 2021 and from \$6411. To \$875, as recommended by the Tax Director, as building has been demolished, provided the City of Wolford approves of it. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Donald Bischoff for tax year 2022 (2023-21) on the following described property as parcel 10665000 - Lots 5-6, Block 18, Whites 1st Addition, located in the City of Rugby. Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson 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 Sharon Boucher for tax year 2022 (2023-22) on the following described property as parcel 10672000 – Lots 19-20, Blk. 18, White's 1st Addition, located in the City of Rugby. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson 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 Bonnie Remmick for tax year 2022 (2023-23) on the following described property as parcel 09055000 – Lot 6, Block 1, Lockwoods Addition, located in the City of Rugby. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bohl to approve the abatement application for tax year 2022, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement applications submitted by Charlene Mygland for tax year 2022 (2023-24 & 2023-25) on the following described property as parcel 09542000 – Outlot 206 – Rugby Outlots and parcel 09544000 – Outlot 218- Rugby Outlots, located in the City of Rugby. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bednarz to approve the abatement applications for tax year 2022, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement applications submitted by Roy Ponzer for tax years 2021 & 2022 (2023-26, 2023-27, 2023-28, 2023-29, 2023-30, 2023-31) on the following described property as parcel 06805000 – parcel in Lot 3 S of BN R/W sec.6 in Township 151N-74W, parcel 06806000 – parcel in Lot 3 lying N & E of GN R/W sec. 6 in Township 151N-74W, and parcel 06806001 – all that part of Lot 3 in NE Cor W90 S452 96' RR 495'N sec.5 in Township 151N-74W. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve the abatement applications for tax years 2021 & 2022, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Allan Brossart for tax year 2022 (2023-32) on the following described property as parcel 01497000 – NE1/4 Section 12 in Township 157N-73W. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bohl to approve the abatement application to lower the true and full value from \$294,365 to \$132,789. for 2022, as recommended by the Tax Director, as it qualifies for Farm Residence Exemption. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement applications submitted by Wanita Olson (Dorothy Slaubaugh LE) for tax years 2021 & 2022 (2023-33 & 2023-34) on the following described property as parcel 00172001 – Outlot #458 sec. 1 in Township 158N-70W. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bednarz to approve abatement application for 2021 to lower the true and full value from \$287,893 to \$2275. and for 2022 to lower the true and full value from \$312,203. To \$2252., as recommended by the Tax Director, as it qualifies for Farm Residence Exemption. Christenson “Aye”, Bohl “Nay”, Migler “Aye”, Bednarz “Aye”, and Hoffert “Aye”. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Joe Axtman for tax year 2023 (2023-35) on mobile home parcel 11000514, located in the City of Rugby. After review, moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to approve the abatement application for 2023 as recommended by the Tax Director, as mobile home was moved out of the city in Fall 2022. Motion carried.

Galen J. Mack, States Attorney, joined the meeting. Mack suggested the Commissioners contact Senator Jerry Klein to oppose HB1213. Board asked Mack about the Buffalo Lake event. Mack said they could fill out a special permit for Pierce County.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson, to impose load limit restrictions-single axle not to exceed 12,000 lbs., tandem axle not to exceed 12,000 lbs., per axle, on all county township roads. Also, speed limit will be 45 miles per hour, while load limits are in effect. With the exception that load limits on 2 ½ miles from Highway #3 to Selz, speed limit set at 35 miles per hour, single axle, not to exceed 15,000 lbs., and tandem axle not to exceed 15,000 lbs. for loaded trucks, while limits are in effect. Restrictions will be enforced the same time as the state restrictions. Motion carried.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson to call for bids for graveling and machine hire, for the 2023 construction season. Motion carried.

Board discussed bid for cement, for County Shop, from Deplazes Redi-Mix, in the amount of \$30,170. Moved by Bednarz to approve the purchase, seconded by Bohl. Motion carried.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to adjourn the meeting at 11:27 A.M. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners