

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

June 6, 2023

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on June 6, 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 Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

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

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

Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bednarz to approve Treasurer's checks #6314-#6319, in the amount of \$377.15, for the month of May. Motion carried.

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

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Balzer Welk for tax year 2022 (2023-45) on the following described property as parcel #10465000, Lot 11 Blk. 3, Solems 1<sup>st</sup> Addition, City of Rugby. Moved by Migler 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 Richard Hoffart for tax years 2021 & 2022 (2023-46, 2023-47) on the following described property as parcel #01236000, Lots 1-4 Section 4 Township 157-N 74-W. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bohl to lower the true & full value from \$78,605 to \$69,745 for tax year 2021 and to lower the true & full value from \$78,097 to \$69,473 for tax year 2022, as recommended by the Tax Director, as inundated land filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Rosemarie Armstrong for tax years 2021 & 2022 (2023-48, 2023-49) on the following described property as parcel #10321000, Lot 5, Blk. 2 Sikes 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition, City of Rugby. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to approve the abatement applications for tax years 2021 and 2022, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Veteran's Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed LEC agreement between Pierce County and the City of Rugby, with an updated agreement to reflect a 5 % increase for monthly rent of office space and 5 % increase of monthly payment toward operating expenses of the LEC. Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Christenson to have the Chairman and Auditor sign the LEC agreement with the City of Rugby. Motion carried.

Board reviewed Officer fee reports and hourly workers time sheets.

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 May, for his department. Total calls-38; Medical Calls-3; Fire Calls-5; Traffic Accidents-0; Assist Other Agencies-6: Prisoner Transports-4; Arrests-6 (1-Aggravated Assault-Domestic Violence, 1-Terrorizing, 1-Driving Under Suspension, 3- Warrants); Citations-13; Papers Served-24; Warrants Served-3. No personnel changes. One dispatcher on vacation. Hoffert asked Siegler about the State funding for Sheriff's Dept. Siegler said the form will be coming out next month for HB1307, which provides funding for Sheriff's Dept., based on the total number of employees in the agency. This could be used for recruitment & retention bonuses. Bohl asked Siegler about the Sand Lake area activity. Siegler said they will do extra patrolling in that area.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

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

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for May, which was 81 (ADP). Current inmate count is 77. High of 88 for May. Bookings 56, Releases 55. Pierce County inmate population for May was 12. Deficit of \$6,992.16 for the month of April. Personnel 22/24 officers, 2 new hires & 2 newly certified. Graner asked the Board what they want to do about the yard care behind the jail facility. Migler will contact Dave Walker about spraying the area. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to approve the financial report for the month of April, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Board reconvened at 9:07 A.M. with all members present.

Lisa Coffman, Community Service Coordinator, joined the meeting. She gave a report on the activity for her department. There were 10 closed compliant finishes, new cases 2, open cases 19, fees collected \$285. She was happy to report that the program is branching out to the Westhope & Karlsruhe areas.

Migler informed the rest of the Board that West River Striping Co. will be in the area and could do the striping on the Selz & Balta Roads, at approximately \$2,000 a mile. Board said to go ahead with this project and also add the truck route & a 3 mile section by Hwy.30.

Migler also informed the Board that Don Jelsing has asked for gravel to be donated for the Pierce County Fair, by the new barn. The rest of the Board said to go ahead and have that done.

Migler informed the Board that they will be getting a DEF pump from RDO for \$1200, for the Balta Shop. RDO will supply the tote and will fill. Board was in agreement.

Brenden Klebe, County Agent, joined the meeting. Brenden gave the Board an update of the Pierce County 4-H Achievement Days. He said there will be lots of livestock and pet exhibits this year. Enrollment numbers & participation is up. Klebe was looking for 2 judges for the best decorated stalls. Migler & Christenson volunteered. Klebe reported that he was helping farmers with checking for beetles and taking water hole samples. There will be a summer plot tour. Klebe also informed the Board of the rent-a-tent project. It encourages kids to get outdoors and they can use for a short time if they don't own one.

Jessica Tagestad, Jesse Brandvold, & Jr. Holen, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. They discussed the unused Covid funds that Pierce County has. They will be saved for future road projects. Board asked if they could use those funds for striping. Tagestad said only if they bid that project out. Tagestad said there will also be striping safety funds with a 90/10 match, with the State, but that would be 5-6 years out.

Board recessed to sit on the Board of Equalization at 10:00 A.M.

Board reconvened at 10:50 A.M., with all members present.

Balta township officers Ron Kremer, Chairman and Ken Schaan, Supervisor, joined the meeting. They asked the Board about roads that need to be graveled. Kremer said they could use some help with the road 4 miles South of Balta, where the gravel trucks drive, and the road 2 miles West. Schaan also questioned the quality of the gravel, as some parts of the township are significantly worse than other areas. Board told them to check their township finances and come back to the July meeting if they are still in need of help.

Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bohl, to appoint Joel Berg to the Pierce County Planning & Zoning Board. Motion carried.

Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bednarz, to reappoint Dave Migler to the Weed Board. Motion carried.

Galen J. Mack, States Atty., joined the meeting.

Tyler Berube, Butler Machinery, and Brad Murphy, RDO Equipment, joined the meeting.

As the hour of 11:45 A.M. was past, the Chairman called for the opening of motor grader bids. Two bids were received from Butler Machinery Company and RDO Equipment. After further review of the bids, moved by Christenson and seconded by Bednarz, to accept the net bid from RDO Equipment, in the amount of \$242,370.00, for a 2023 four-wheel drive motor grader, with front wheel assist, with premium circle. Motion carried.

Galen J Mack, States Atty., left the meeting.

Board discussed the open janitor position. Until a new janitor is hired, they will have the road department take care of the courthouse lawn. Bednarz will mow the Memorial Hall grounds and take out the courthouse garbage. Board informed the auditor to readvertise the position.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bednarz and seconded by Christenson, to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 P.M. Motion carried.

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Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer  
Pierce County, North Dakota

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Terry Hoffert, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

NDACo/NDCCA COUNTY TOUR 2023  
Pierce County  
Pierce County Courthouse  
June 27, 2023  
10:00 AM

Present: Chairman, Terry Hoffert, Commissioners, Joe Bohl, Mike Christenson, David Bednarz, & David Migler. Auditor, Karen Migler, Recorder, Lori Miron, Clerk of Court, Karin Fritel, Tax Director, Kelsey Siegler, Sheriff, Josh Siegler, HACTC Administrator, Mike Graner, County Agent, Brenden Klebe, and Northern Prairie Human Service Zone Director, Kelly Jensen. NDACo: Aaron Birst, Steve Lee, NRG: Dwight Driscoll, NDCCA: Chad Peterson. Also present was Sue Sitter, Pierce County Tribune.

A tour was taken of the County Courthouse.

Discussion was held on the 2023 Legislative session and how the Board and NDACo (North Dakota Association of Counties) felt the changes will affect county government going forward. Aaron Birst talked about the Legacy Fund and some of the bills that passed during the session. He said more information will be coming out to the counties.

Discussion was held on the Human Service Zone changes. Kelly Jensen said overall it's been a positive. They have been sharing with the case load in Ward County. The way in which indirect cost plans have been handled will be changing. Counties are required to provide the cost allocation data by Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> in order to receive indirect cost allocation for the year.

Chairman Hoffert asked if there will be any funding for the jails. Aaron Birst said that HB1307 was approved which will provide local law enforcement and local corrections officers with recruitment and retention bonuses. He said more information will be sent out to the counties.

Christenson asked why our jail can't be a treatment center again. Graner said we would need to find the staff. Chad Peterson said he would like to see the state go with regional centers that would provide help with drug abuse and mental health issues. Hoffert said if the state would build these centers, then why don't they look at funding our treatment center. Peterson said it would have to be the right size to make it available.

Christenson asked what about our county roads. There are lots of roads that need gravel, which is a lot of money. Hoffert said there are different grants, then we go through all the trouble of filling them out, only to find out that we didn't get it. Migler said we are on the bottom of the totem pole. Migler & Christenson said the bigger cities in the state get more of the aid. Birst said future road funding will have to be completed through a grant process, they will no longer base the funding on a formula. Steve Lee said counties don't have grant writers. The Association of Counties is looking into adding a grant writer to the staff in the future to assist counties with this process.

Aaron Birst encouraged the commissioners and department heads to attend the Oct. conference for counties. Steve Lee said ND puts on one of the best conferences. They are educational and the networking is very important.

Dwight Driscoll, NRG Technology Services, told the Board about some of the services that they provide to the county.

Adjourned at 11:30 AM.

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Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer  
Pierce County, North Dakota

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Terry Hoffert, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

## MAY EXPENDITURES

ND Child Support \$65.50, ND PERS \$598.82, Northern Plains Electric \$175, NDTC \$2678.74, Quadient Finance \$200, Pierce Co. Payroll \$63937.81, \$18174.28, \$36.08, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$698.73, Family Support Registry \$782, JP Morgan \$2499.57, Otter Tail \$3341.33, UPS \$28.57, NDTC \$779.42, Pierce Co. Payroll \$80458.91, \$23009.29, \$37.48, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$854.66, Colonial Life & Accident \$31.25, AFLAC \$1204.36, Security Benefit \$1747.27, EBIX \$14.88, Nationwide \$1928.03, \$1230, Otter Tail \$10546.87, ND Child Support \$846, Pierce Co. Payroll \$32466.94, \$9262.07, \$34.40, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$373.32, ND PHIT \$69742.25, ND PERS \$31614.39, Otter Tail \$249.30, ND PERS \$587.24, HACTC Bills \$49699.43, HACTC Resident Fund \$922.50, Bohl, Joe \$156.25, Migler, Dave \$320, Mack Law Office \$396.05, NDAA Insurance Services \$1089, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$307.96, Marco Technologies \$638.77, PRO IT \$540, Advanced Business Methods \$208.61, B & M Laundry \$105.62, Circle Sanitation \$156, Dakota Fire Extinguishers \$783.55, Rugby Hardware Hank \$282.22, Rugby Lawn Care \$475, Pierce Co. Tribune \$602.10, ITD \$3694.07, Quadient Finance \$500, Auto Doctor \$3000, City of Rugby \$546.93, HACTC \$190.54, \$10680.14, Light & Siren \$105.87, McGuire's \$599.38, Anderson Funeral Homes \$610, Hager, Dustin \$75, Computer Express \$1450, Wieler, Tanya \$1000, Isolved \$266.17, Matthew Bender \$299.13, B & J Excavating \$883, NDTC \$203.66, Polar Communications \$6, Coffman, Lisa \$220.74, Torgerson Township \$10000, Linde Gas & Equip. \$147.79, Stein's \$200.36, Home of Economy \$3.99, Heart of America Ag Services \$43939, Axtman, Michael \$310, Johnson's Plumbing \$268.69, City of Rugby \$751.62, Envision \$15268.28, Rugby Service Center \$2153.33, Butler Machinery \$448.92, RDO \$1757, H.E. Everson \$87.74, John Deere Financial \$1936.43, NAPA of Harvey \$10.58, NAPA of Rugby \$5.56, Newman \$321.93, Selensky Services \$4530.50, \$6462.50, Zacher, James \$120, Zeien, Paul \$60.92, Susag Sand & Gravel \$857.15, Deplazes Redi-Mix \$60, Daryl's Refrigeration \$190, Rugby Insurance \$19578, Rugby Broadcasters \$76, Pierce Co. 4H Leaders \$700, Lysne, Michelle \$342.19, Peace Garden Peace Officer Association \$50, Welk, Myron \$1000, DOT \$1229.05, Wold Engineering \$3000

Grand Total \$557115.98