

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

August 1, 2023

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on August 1, 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.

Ted Mertz joined the meeting. Sue Sitter, Pierce County Tribune, joined the meeting.

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

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve the Chairman signing the Plat for Sunset Shores, part of Lot 2, Sublot C of Outlot 520, Govt. Lot 1, Section 31, Township 152 N, Range 73 W. Motion carried.

Mertz left the meeting.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson to accept the July 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.

Board reviewed Officer fee reports and hourly workers time sheets.

Board reviewed report from Heart of America Community Service Program from Lisa Coffman, Community Service Coordinator. Open cases 17, new cases 5, Fees received \$245.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to approve Treasurer's checks #6324-#6325, in the amount of \$228.20, for the month of July. Motion carried.

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

Josh Siegler, Pierce Co. Sheriff, and Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, joined the meeting.

Josh Siegler, Sheriff, gave the Board a report for the month of July, for the Sheriff's department. Total calls-52; Medical Calls-3; Fire Calls-3; Traffic Accidents-5; Assist Other Agencies-12; Prisoner Transports-3; Arrests 7 (1-Unlawful Use of a License Plate, 6 Warrants) Citations-11; Papers Served-14; Warrants Served-6. Siegler reported that one dispatcher resigned. Hoffert asked about the Selz Bar. Siegler reported that it was going okay. Bohl asked about the abandoned car at Sand Lake. Siegler reported that no one has claimed it.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

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

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for July, which was 78 (ADP). Current inmate count is 79. High of 84 for July. Bookings 37, Releases 41. Pierce County inmate population for July was 6. Deficit of \$13,455.45, for the month of June. Personnel 20/24 officers. There was 1 new hire, 1 resignation and 1 officer on medical leave. Graner expects a previous officer to return. Graner reported there was one new female officer hired and will now have 2 females staffed on each team. Graner reported that boarding contracts have increased to \$87. a day. Board asked Graner about the budget. Graner said it is hard to compete with even the courthouse janitor which is getting offered more than what their officers start at. Board told him to make adjustments and then 5%. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to approve the financial report for the month of June, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

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

Brenden Klebe, County Extension Agent, met and gave the Board a Pierce County Fair re-cap. Klebe reported that there were 281 entries originally, 10% over the previous year entries. He said some of the kids took their projects to the State Fair. Klebe judged crops at the State Fair. He told the Board that it continues to be very dry in our area and the drought monitor comes from the Extension Agents. They report every Monday and the report comes out on Wednesdays. Klebe has been busy with crop calls and looking at fields. He reported that there are a lot of grasshoppers in some areas. Klebe reported that 1/3 to 1/4 of the yields for the bean crop have been lost. He said yields will be all over the board with all the spotty rain showers. He reported that there will be a plot day on August 3rd with a crop specialist and range land specialist speaking. He said there will be a full schedule with 4-H registration the end of August, Farmers Union Youth Camp and a Youth Plot Tour. He said they will be figuring out premiums and that overall, the Pierce Co. Fair went really well.

Jodie Frankl, Globe Life Ins., joined the meeting. Frankl gave the Board a presentation on the different types of insurance that they had available for our employees. She said they would get their premiums back, so it would be a type of investment.

Ashley Peterson, Lake Region Dist. Health Unit Administrator, Denton Heisler, newly hired Administrator, and Sheri Bertsch, Finance Manager, joined the meeting. Peterson introduced the new administrator, Denton Heisler, who will be replacing her, as she is moving out of state. Peterson went briefly over the budget. She said their staff will receive a 2 % pay increase to get to the 2021 market value. Heisler said it was better to go with a 2 % to keep up, than to have to catch up with a 6-8% later. They discussed getting part time help for the Public Health Office. Hoffert questioned if we really need that extra help. Peterson said with flu season, Covid and RSV shots, they will be very busy. Heisler said two days a week is going to be hard to fill, but ultimately it's the Commission's decision. Bednarz suggested that the Board visit with Samantha Wentz and Carlie Johnson to see if it is needed.

Jesse Brandvold, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. Brandvold reported that Mayo Construction would be paving the Courthouse parking lot sometime between Aug. 15th and Labor Day, after they are finished with the Hwy. 2 project. Brandvold talked about the township road funding that is available. The funding is for roads that are connected to a highway or farm to market road on either end. Applications are due by September 8th. Brandvold reported that the Selz Project is scheduled to start sometime after August 14th.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Michael Hughes for tax year 2022 & 2023 (2023-51-52) on the following described property, E6' of Lot 3, all Lot 4, Block 1, Hale's Addition, City of Rugby and W26' of Lot 13, Block 1, Sikes 1st Addition, City of Rugby. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to approve the abatement applications for tax years 2022 & 2023, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Frederick & Kathy Bonn for tax year 2023 on the following described property, Lot 9, Block 4, Lockwoods Addition, City of Rugby. Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Migler to approve the abatement application for tax year 2023, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Harold Ostrem for tax year 2023 on the following described property, S20' Lot 7, all Lot 8, N20' Lot 9, Blk. 5, School Addition, City of Rugby. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the abatement application for tax year 2023, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to transfer \$5236.70 from the District Health Fund to the General Fund, per the agreement with the Administrator 7/19/2022, to use some of the excess funds to pay the extra salary in the public health office for 6 months, as long as it doesn't affect their quarterly payment. Motion carried.

Board talked about the custodian position. Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Christenson to offer the position to Curt Brown. Motion carried.

Bohl talked about the road department and that since the conditions are so dry, they should cut back their hours to 45 hours per week. All were in agreement.

Brad Murphy, RDO Sales Manager, joined the meeting and introduced the new salesman Frank Anderson. Murphy said they would go out to the shops and meet the blade men as well. Murphy said the new blade should come any day now. He asked if there were any issues or concerns with the blades. He also reported that they would be doing updates on the blades.

Board briefly discussed the 2024 budget and will meet on August 8th at 8:00 AM to approve the preliminary budget.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Christenson and seconded by Bohl, to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 P.M. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS OF PIERCE COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
August 8, 2023

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in special session on August 8, 2023. Chairman Hoffert called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Bohl, Christenson, Bednarz, and Migler present. Also present, were Samantha Wentz and Carlie Johnson, Public Health Office.

Chairman Hoffert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Samantha Wentz and Carlie Johnson met with the Board to discuss getting extra help for their office. They asked for two days a week at the minimum. They said it would be very busy this fall, with flu season, new covid vaccines, and the RSV vaccination. They would have the assistant schedule appointments and data input. Migler said just keep the days they work consistent. The Board said to go with the two days a week.

Don Jelsing, Pierce County Fair, joined the meeting. Jelsing informed the Board that the 2024 fund raising for the county fair will be his last one. He would like to see it continue for many years to come, but would need help from the County and the community. He informed the Board that the Fair has a \$70,000. budget, with \$60,000 being raised by himself. He said the 2025 Fair will either be done or continue on with the County & community's support. He asked the County to consider a \$30,000. donation each year, to be a solid foundation to support the Fair, otherwise, it will have to be scaled back, with maybe no carnival. Jelsing said he would like the County to commit to a 5 year plan. Jelsing said they will be looking for people that will take charge and share the work load. Jelsing said he would like to see the Jaycees, Eagles, Rugby Hockey and other organizations get more involved. Jelsing said there are a lot of positive vibes out there, they don't want to see it come to an end. The Board informed Jelsing that they proposed a \$25,000 donation for next year and will see what they can do after that.

Sue Sitter, Pierce County Tribune, joined the meeting.

The Board discussed the preliminary budget for 2024.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, joined the meeting. The Board asked Graner about just doing adjustments for the officers. Graner said you can't just adjust a few, then there will be a domino effect. Graner said he is looking at different ways for the officers to earn more, such as getting certified, maybe some kind of weekend shift differential, and other options.

After much discussion of the preliminary budget, Migler made a motion to propose a 5% increase for employee's salaries and to approve the preliminary budget, seconded by Bohl. After roll call vote: Christenson "Aye", Bohl "Aye", Migler "Aye", Bednarz "Aye", and Hoffert "Aye", motion carried. The public hearing on the budget will be held on October 3rd at 10:00 AM.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 AM. Motion carried

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

JULY EXPENDITURES

ND PERS \$553.02, Houim, Michael \$500, Pierce Co. Payroll \$65418.37, \$18589.47, \$66.08, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$45.06, Family Support Registry \$782, Kentucky Child Support \$60, ND Child Support \$60, HACTC Resident Fund \$827, City of Rugby \$2282.40, Northern Plains Electric \$133, NDTC \$1608.52, Job Service ND \$622.41, ND State Tax Dept. \$4431.26, JP Morgan \$1625.22, Otter Tail \$1395.67, Pierce Co. Payroll \$82877.80, \$23029.38, \$40.56, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$235.81, AFLAC \$1204.36, Security Benefit \$1747.27, Nationwide \$1230, \$1928.03, Colonial Life & Accident \$31.25, EBIX \$14.88, Pierce Co. Payroll \$30489.35, \$8588.69, \$34.40, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$56, Otter Tail \$7573.19, NDTC \$792.59, Otter Tail \$240.04, ND PERS \$26968.02, ND PHIT \$66176.10, HACTC Bills \$42942.90, City of Rugby \$2227.30, Bohl, Joe \$217.46, Migler, Dave \$322.92, Thomas Law Firm \$100, Migler, Karen \$269.51, Radisson Hotel \$176.40, Mack Law Office \$387.21, B & M Laundry \$88.24, Circle Sanitation \$156, Stein's \$175.87, Gaffaney's \$338, Quadiant Leasing \$1035, ITD \$3813.30, Pierce Co. Tribune \$1071.19, Auto Doctor \$2400, Brad's Towing \$254, I Design \$495, HACTC \$12661.48, HAMC \$458, Anderson Funeral Home \$600, Computer Express \$1450, Isolved \$266.17 Lien's Jewelry \$81.65, ND State Radio \$120, Deplazes Redi-Mix \$156875, Newman \$196.32, Ritterman \$26973, Susag Sand & Gravel \$9405, Butler \$5120.75, RDO \$5904.72, Dakota Fire \$231.32, H.E. Everson \$5.04, High Plains Equip. \$12.60, Rugby Lumber \$222.39, Rugby Hardware Hank \$129.92, Harper Oil \$1036.75, Rugby Service Center \$1545.64, Envision \$12284.25, Zeien, Paul \$76.64, John Deere Financial \$47.38, \$5250, Heart of American Ag Services \$28325, NDTC \$203.66, Polar Communications \$3, Coffman, Lisa \$241.04, Elite Glass \$411, Advanced Business Methods \$208.61, City of Rugby \$688.50, \$619.54, Uniform Center \$1135, ND Dept. of Enviro Quality \$600, Vanguard Appraisals \$150, Zacher, James \$80, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$30.89, \$5236.70, NDSAA \$300, NDACO Tribal & Vet Serv. Officers \$120

Grand Total \$688,034.46