

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

January 2, 2024

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on January 2, 2024. 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 Christenson and seconded by Bednarz to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to accept the December 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.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve Treasurer's checks #6335-6338, in the amount of \$2,453.74, for the month of December. Motion carried.

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

Auditor-Treasurer-Migler, presented the Pledge of Assets from Merchants Bank, Bremer Bank, First United Bank, and First International Bank & Trust. Also reviewed, were the bank balances as of December 31, 2023. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Comm. Migler, to accept the Pledge of Assets, as presented and declare Merchants Bank, Bremer Bank, First United Bank and First International Bank & Trust, as depositories. Motion carried.

Board reviewed the following abatement applications: on parcel 10525000, (2024-1), for tax year 2023, on the following described property, as Lot 7, Blk. 3, Southview Estates, City of Rugby, submitted by John Axtman Jr.; parcel 10771000, (2024-2 & 3), for tax years 2022 & 2023, on the following described property, as Lots 19-20, Block 8, White's 2nd Addition, City of Rugby, submitted by Thomas Rude; parcel 06297000, (2024-4), for tax year 2023, on the following described property, as Lot 9 & S1/2 Lot 10, Blk. 9, Selz Lots, submitted by Doretta Gamiles; parcel 06296000, (2024-5), for tax year 2023, on the following described property as Lot 8, Blk. 9, Selz Lots, submitted by Doretta Gamiles; parcel 06292000, (2024-6), for tax year 2023, on the following described property as Lots 4-7, Block 9, Selz Lots, submitted by Doretta Gamiles; parcel 08074000, (2024-7), for tax year 2023, on the following described property as S30' Lot 2, all Lot 3, N10' Lot 4 & Adj. 10' of vacated alley, Block 2, Bachmeier's Addition, City of Rugby, submitted by Gary Schumacker; parcel 10520000, (2024-8), for tax year 2023, on the following described property as Lot 2, Block 3, Southview Estates, City of Rugby, submitted by Marian Schmaltz;

parcel 08764000 (2024-9) for tax year 2023, on the following described property as Lots 11-12 & next 18' E of Lot 12 (vacated 9th Ave), Block 7, Erickson's Addition, City of Rugby, submitted by Harold Volk; parcel 09868000 (2024-10) for tax year 2023, on the following described property as Lots 10-11 and S 12' of Lot 12, Block 4, Pierce Co. 5-78, City of Rugby, submitted by Terry Grove, all as recommended by the Tax Director, in accordance with Homestead Credit filed. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve all of the applications submitted. Motion carried.

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 December. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz, 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 64 (ADP). Current inmate count is 60. High of 74 for December. Bookings 39, Releases 42. Pierce County inmate population for December was 7. Deficit of \$42,951.63, for the month of November. Personnel 19/24 officers, 1 new officer, 1 recent resignation, which is significant as he had 10 years of experience. Graner said they are facing 4 to 5 retirements possibly this year. Graner said other jail facilities in the state are also struggling with staffing turnover issues. Graner reported the drop in boarding revenues for the month was because of staffing capability. The jail facility assisted Rolette County due to their loss of heat in their jail facility. Graner suggested they use part of the remainder of the Back the Blue Grant, \$1000., to give to present staff for referrals of new hires. They would get paid after three months, if the new employee stays on. Graner also reported on the Capital project- Securus stage 3 camera upgrade. He said the new cameras would be \$14,200, which would get them up to date. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve the upgrade for the cameras for phase 3. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to approve the financial report for the month of November, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

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

Karin Fritel, Clerk of Court, joined the meeting. She met with Board to discuss the possibility of having to close the office, due to upcoming time off needed. Board decided to see how it goes having the office open 3 days a week. If more time in the office by the clerk is needed, it will be discussed at that time.

Kelsey Siegler, Tax Director & Emergency Manager, joined the meeting. Siegler presented the 2024 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. She explained that this plan is needed in order to be eligible for FEMA funding. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to adopt the 2024 Pierce County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, pending final approval by the ND Dept. of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Motion carried.

Siegler gave the Board information on the 2024 ag value assessment. Siegler recommended that the county continue with the 93% tolerance level on all ag land. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson that the average value of ag land be at 93% tolerance level. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement applications submitted by Justin Tofte for tax year 2023 (2024- 11-13), on the following described property parcel #01962000 S1/2NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4 section 28 157-71, to lower the true & full value from \$121,429. to \$116, 918; parcel # 01963000 S1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4 section 28 157-71, to lower the true & full value from \$71,325 to \$49,085; parcel #01970000 Lots 1,2,3 of section 29 157-71, to lower the true & full value from \$36,926 to \$30,484. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the applications as recommended by the Tax Director, as they qualify as inundated acres. Motion carried.

Curt Brown, custodian, joined the meeting. Bednarz said the new tractor will be coming in soon and he will need to make room for it in the garage. Bednarz said Brown will be responsible for the maintenance on it. Bednarz said if there is a big snow event that he should remove all the snow from the sidewalks, even if it's on the weekend and then back off time the following week.

Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bednarz to amend the 2023 Budget as follows: Road Dist. #1 \$26,391.03 to \$26,540.; Road Dist. #2 23,156.04 to \$35,049.80; Road Dist. #4 \$42,425.07 to \$48,600.80; Road Dist. #5 \$43,845.83 to \$56,777.54; Road Dist. #6 \$26,766.32 to \$35,614.89; Road Dist. #8 \$34,639.24 to \$56,348.20; Road Dist. #10 \$27,489.13 to \$32,864.; Road Dist. #14 \$39,018.83 to \$47,855.39; Road Dist. #21 \$16,962.61 to \$24,030.19; Hazardous Chem. To \$42.35; American Rescue Plan \$176,443. to \$347,895.12; Opioid Settlement to \$3250.; Hwy. Dist. \$167,242 to \$203,500.; (Prairie Dog Fund) Fm. To Mkt. to \$1,028,694.55; Capital Prj. SIRN 20/20 to \$48,988.21; Road & Bridge HB1505 to \$151,148.43; Motion carried.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 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 18, 2024

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in special session on January 18, 2024. Board member Migler called the meeting to order at 1:05 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, Meyer, Torgerson, & Tuscarora Townships. And present were blade operators Lee Wolf, Paul Zeien, Gary Rose, & Rodney Wangler.

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

Spraying-Migler said Dave Walker has agreed to do the spraying again this year and asked the townships if they have any concerns to let him know. Migler informed the townships that there is a new chemical that works good and is safer and not as expensive. He said it hasn't been released yet, but is hoping that it will be available this summer.

Cutting road ditches- Migler reminded the townships that the deadline for cutting road ditches is October 1st. If not cut, the county will do the cutting and the \$300. per mile fee, will be added to the land owner's taxes. He asked the townships if they felt the fee was too high, to which they replied to keep it at that fee, so the land owners will continue to cut them. They agreed that it makes a difference to keep them cut.

Fences & markers- Migler reminded the townships that were present, that land owners need to make sure they aren't farming in road right of way. The county has to sign a letter each year to NDDOT stating that they are following all the guidelines for Federal funding.

Township agreement per mile for maintaining roads, currently \$230. per certified mile. Migler said that by looking at the costs on the handouts, they could see how much costs have gone up for the motorgrader, fuel, etc. It was moved by Daniel Held, Hagel Township, and seconded by Rodney Schmitt, Elling Township, to raise the rate per mile for maintaining roads, from \$230 to \$250 per certified mile. Motion approved.

Migler talked about the Selz Project CP-3548 (023) Selz West, from ND 3 W to Co Line, that was completed in October. He talked about the new process of using a cement stabilized subgrade. That process saved \$250,000.

Bohl talked about the Road project scheduled for 2025, Project# SC-3521 (024) from NDSH 17, South 7 miles North 3 miles to Rolette Co. line. Bohl said the County applied through the Flex Transportation Funding program., but would probably not find out until April if we will receive any funding. If the County doesn't receive the funding, they will scale back the project. Bohl reminded the townships to spray their trees and shelterbelts. He said that is the responsibility of the land owners.

Building permits-Migler reminded the townships to call Kelsey Siegler, Zoning Administrator, and get permits if they have any plans to do any building.

Migler said the new blade will be coming in soon. He also said a disc or reclaimer was purchased for the front of the blades. Gary Rose, blade man, has done some experimenting with it and will use it more this summer. It can be used before doing any graveling. If the townships are interested, they could let

the blade men know. He said they haven't figured out a cost for it yet. Migler asked how our county roads compare to neighboring counties. Richard Koble, White Township, said we beat them all. Many others agreed. Koble said it does depend on what area of the other counties, depending on who the blade operator is.

Daniel Held, Hagel Township, asked if the striping will be repainted on the Selz Road and Balta Road. Migler said they are scheduled to be painted this year.

Migler talked about the meeting himself and commissioner Bohl attended, regarding the elimination of property taxes. He said to those in attendance, that they should all attend any future meetings and listen to the information, so they can decide how they want to vote. Ken Schaan, Balta Township, said it is a very dangerous thing. It's not reality. In the end, we still give away local control. Hoffert agreed and said when you give away local control it is not a good thing. Bohl said maybe the state could do more for property tax relief. Todd Lysne, Elverum Township, said this will affect all entities. Migler said it will be a challenge.

Mike Christenson said if any of the townships need culverts, to let Lee Wolf know, or they can contact him. Lee Wolf told them which culverts are available and if they need other sizes, they can be ordered.

Townships were dismissed at 1:55 PM.

Board reviewed the new legislative district map, provided by the Secretary of State's office, and the new legislative district #9 that was added for Pierce County. This map was the result of a federal court order that affects multiple counties in ND. The new district would affect four townships in the NE corner of Pierce County. Board approved adding Precinct #9 for the newly imposed legislative District 9, for the upcoming election in 2024. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to approve. Motion carried.

There being no further business, moved by Bednarz and seconded by Bohl to adjourn the meeting at 2:07 PM. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

DECEMBER EXPENDITURES

Farden Construction \$27704.25, Pierce Co. Payroll \$27090.26, \$7522.57, \$64.40, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$13.02, ND Child Support \$75, ND PERS \$0.28, JP Morgan \$3484.50, HACTC Bills \$14994.09, Quadient Leasing \$182.97, NDTC \$766.83, Otter Tail \$6927.59, Pierce Co. Payroll \$80547.38, \$22366.14, \$38.60, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$195.70, Security Benefit \$1747.27, AFLAC \$1204.36, EBIX \$14.88, Colonial Life \$31.25, Nationwide \$1973.03, \$1240.15, Otter Tail \$3477.01, NDTC \$1626.72, Rugby Hardware Hank \$70.90, Quadient Finance \$1500, Software Innovations \$950, Computer Store \$5999, HACTC \$68.98, \$10990, Redwood Toxicology \$56.37, Envision \$640.52, Rugby Service Center \$507.43, Isolved \$266.17, American Solutions for Business \$653.74, RDO \$4397, Deplazes \$3922.60, Rugby Lumber \$41.95, NAPA Harvey \$10.16, Pierce Co. Tribune \$795.59, Intoximeters \$234, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$4.11, \$480, Leever's \$181.06, Computer Express \$110, Zeien, Paul \$101.53, Zeien, Audrey \$245, American Legion \$332, Grove Catering \$867, Pierce Co. Payroll \$59311.19, \$16193.43, \$35.94, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$46.95, Otter Tail \$222.98, ND PERS \$25687.50, ND PHIT \$71093.30, HACTC Bills \$22190.15, Bohl, Joe \$84.50, Migler Dave \$127.07, ND Co. Commissioners Association \$1725, Mack Law \$393.40, City of Rugby \$614.26, Circle Sanitation \$156, Clute \$43.98, NACO \$450, ND Association of Counties \$6932, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$4089.20, Envision \$216, Rugby Service Center \$535.75, ITD \$3863.04, ND Surplus Property \$125, Spartan Firearms \$640, Matthew Bender & Co. \$294.46, NAPA Rugby \$59.80, NDLTAP-UGPTI \$125, NDTC \$203.66, Rugby Lumber \$66.25, Linde Gas, \$159.40, Balta Wildlife Club \$2896.43
GRAND TOTAL \$455295