

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

February 6, 2024

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on February 6, 2024. 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 Bednarz and seconded by Bohl to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to accept the January 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 Bednarz and seconded by Migler to approve Treasurer's checks #6339-6347, in the amount of \$5,256.56, for the month of January. 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.

Josh Siegler, Sheriff, met and gave the board a report for the month of January for his department. Total calls-39; Medical Calls-3; Fire Calls-0; Traffic Accidents-3; Assist Other Agencies-8; Prisoner Transports-3; Arrests- 4 Warrants; Citations-0; Papers Served-29; Warrants Served-4. Siegler reported that there were no personnel changes.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, went over the bills for the month of January. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl 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 57 (ADP). Current inmate count is 67. High of 67 for January. Bookings 45, Releases 40. Pierce County inmate population for January was 4. Deficit of \$40,327.41, for the month of December. Personnel 22/24 officers. Graner said it's trending in a more positive direction. Staffing- added a couple more officers, he felt more comfortable getting more Federal inmates. Graner said in the last 10 days they got 17 new Federal inmates, and a couple got transferred out. His goal is to

get up to 75-80, now that staffing is better. He said with 22/24 officer positions filled, each team now has 5 officers. He had guarded optimism as things can change in an instant. He reported that the last three weeks he had 5-6 applicants. He would like to get 2 more female officers, which would lead to a full staff. He said 1 officer was starting CO basics, which leaves 3 that have to be certified. Graner said they haven't advertised the Chief of Security position yet. After talking with H.R. consultant Tanya Wieler, he said we are about 14% behind in the market. Christenson said the benefits get overlooked. Graner reported that the DOCR inspection is scheduled for March 12th. He said a lot of work goes into getting ready for that. 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 9:05 A.M., with all members present.

Scott Engeland left the meeting.

Board reviewed the abatement application on parcel 08716000, (2024-14), for tax year 2023, on the following described property, as Lots 5-6, Blk. 2, Ericksons Addition, City of Rugby, submitted by Duane Veach. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Christenson to approve application submitted, as recommended by Tax Director, in accordance with Veterans Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed the following abatement applications: on parcel 01776001, (2024-15), for tax year 2023, on the following described property, as S1/2 of Lot 4 sec. 30 township 157 N & 72 W, submitted by Kenneth Hooker.; parcel 10725000, (2024-16), for tax year 2023, on the following described property, as Lot 10, Block 1, White's 2nd Add., City of Rugby, submitted by Sheldon Voeller; parcel 08260035, (2024-17), for tax year 2023, on the following described property, as S1/2 Lot 3, Blessums 3rd, City of Rugby, submitted by Frank Martz; parcel 10732000, (2024-18), on the following described property as Lot 1, Block 4, Whites 2nd Add., City of Rugby, submitted by Larry Eback; on parcel 08526000, (2024-19) for tax year 2023, on the following described property as Lots 4-5, E3' Lot 6, Block 1, Comstocks Northside, City of Rugby submitted by Patrick Kuntz; parcel 08384000, (2024-20), for tax year 2023, on the following described property as Lots 13-14, Block 2, Comstocks 1st Add, City of Rugby, submitted by Wesley Broe; parcel 10419000, (2024-21 & 22), for tax years 2022 & 2023, on the following described property as Lots 7-8, Block 3, Sikes 3rd, City of Rugby, submitted by Marjory Bullock; parcel 10002000, (2024-23), for tax year 2023, on the following described property as E1/2 Lot 3, all Lot 4, Block 2, School Add, City of Rugby, submitted by Roger Hersey; parcel 08043001, (2024-24), for tax year 2023, on the following described property as S ½ Lot 4, Block 1, Austins, City of Rugby, submitted by Myrna Muffenbier; all as recommended by the Tax Director, in accordance with Homestead Credit filed. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bednarz, to approve all of the applications submitted. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement applications on parcel 00172000, (2024-25 & 26) for tax years 2022 and 2023 on the following described property, as Lots 1-2-3-4 less Outlot #458 in Govt. Lots 3&4 and less 1.24A R/W, sec. 1 Township 158 N & 70 W, submitted by Dorothy Slaubaugh, to lower the true & full value from \$260,705 to \$154,521 for 2022 and from \$270,265 to \$156,639 for 2023. Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Migler to approve applications submitted, as recommended by Tax Director, as they qualify for Farm Residence Exemption. Motion carried.

Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bohl to transfer \$4,000. from the General Fund to the Community Service Program. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the open position of Community Service Coordinator. Bednarz said there were a couple of applicants that were interviewed. After discussion, Board called Frank LaRocque and offered him the position, to which he accepted.

Christenson informed the Board that the elevator at the Memorial Hall was repaired again. He said they will keep it locked until they know when someone needs it. They will need to call the custodian or Kent Christenson if they need it unlocked. Christenson also informed the rest of the Board that there is a program that gives grants for up to 50% of energy efficiency projects. He said the Memorial Hall would qualify for new lighting and also said they should check the shops to see what they would need. He will talk to Otter Tail about this program.

Frank Anderson, RDO Equipment Sales, joined the meeting. Anderson talked about the new motor grader that was delivered last week. He thanked the Board and told them he appreciates their business. He asked them if they had any questions. Migler said he should let them know when the right time would be to order cutting edges and DEF. Anderson said he would like to plan a cook and learn session at the Rugby Shop, to learn about the new motor graders. Christenson said it will be interesting to see how the new blade operates, since they had so much trouble with the previous one.

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

Hoffert asked Mack about the opiod funds that we have received. He said Lake Region Dist. Health said we should be giving the funds to them to use regionally. Mack said we can use it as long as it is opiod related. Bednarz said Pierce County paid for a speaker about opiods, planned for later this Spring.

Mack said the lawsuit that was brought against Kroger requested us to dismiss them from the opiod litigation, since that is not in our area. Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Bohl to consent to dismiss Kroger from the opiod litigation. All in favor, motion carried.

Board discussed the possibility of the property tax elimination with Mack. Mack said they need to remind people that there have been significant changes with property tax relief with Homestead Credits and with the primary residence property tax credit.

Migler brought up the LEC Board meeting and that Bohl went in place of Hoffert and got nominated for Chairman and Migler for Vice-Chair. Christenson agreed to go off of that Board. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to appoint Bohl to the LEC Board. Motion carried.

Board discussed their salary and that they may need to increase it as some counties get health insurance and they are not. Hoffert said how do you get people to run for these positions, they need some incentive. They will review it at budget time.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bednarz and seconded by Migler to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 A.M. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

JANUARY EXPENDITURES

ND Child Support \$24.50, ND PERS \$599.08, Northern Plains Electric \$184, NDTC \$1312.83, \$802.55, City of Rugby \$2576.24, Quadient Finance \$200, HACTC Resident Fund \$935.50, NDACO \$47124.59, Secretary of State \$36, ND State Treasurer \$1448.55, ND Job Service \$605.75, JP Morgan \$2543.41, Gooseneck \$33185.82, Otter Tail \$4689.37, Secretary of State \$36, Pierce Co. Payroll \$64787.56, \$17748.42, \$35.94, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$57.22, Pierce Co. Payroll \$90422.82, \$25633.85, \$38.74, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$360.26, AFLAC \$1223.08, Security Benefit \$1951.10, Nationwide \$1321.23, \$1973.03, Colonial Life & Accident \$31.25, EBIX \$14.88, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$5.26, Otter Tail \$8331.10, Pierce Co. Payroll \$32.40, \$27826.27, \$7534.09, \$64.40, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$13.02, ND PERS \$28988.71, ND PHIT \$68071.06, ND PERS \$663.20, HACTC Bills \$48654.36, HACTC Resident Fund \$886.50, Otter Tail \$294.37, Northern Plains Electric \$236, Bohl, Joe \$219.76, Christenson, Mike \$125.29, Migler, Dave \$197.65, ND Clerk's Assoc. \$100, ND Co. Auditor's Assoc. \$200, ND Co. Treasurer's Assoc. \$200, Mack Law \$388.45, ND Co. Recorder's Assoc. \$200, Circle Sanitation \$201.25, Great Plains Restorative Services \$480, NAPA Rugby \$26.31, Christenson Electric \$27263.88, Pierce Co. Tribune \$311.22, Dakota Business Solutions \$311, G Works \$2750, Quadient Finance \$1000, Quadient Leasing \$1035, Software Innovations \$10650, \$850, Rugby Insurance \$164, NDACO \$11, \$1278.90, Brad's Towing \$342, Redwood Tox. \$563.70, HACTC \$101.01, \$8296.14, Office of Attny Gen. \$540, Hager, Dustin \$150, \$225, \$20.10, Niewoehner Funeral \$300, Selz Comm. Betterment \$437.34, Wieler, Tanya \$2000, ND State Radio \$120, Isolved \$279.48, HE Everson \$8.26, Zeien, Paul \$155.89, \$180.90, RDO \$508.14, \$240000, Home of Economy \$43.97, Polar Comm. \$6, NDTC \$203.66, NDSU Ext. \$6726.22, \$96, ITD \$3846.98, City of Rugby \$631.35, Rugby Hardware Hank \$111.90, Envision \$2123.84, Rugby Service Center \$1120.21, High Plains Equip. \$9.10, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$92.49, Computer Express \$1450, Linde Gas & Equip. \$163.15, Shock's Safe & Lock \$6, Johnson's Plumbing \$955.19, ND Chapter of APCO \$180, Secretary of State \$50
GRAND TOTAL \$813512.04