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

 February 2, 2016

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on February 2, 2016. Chairman Migler called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M., with members Christenson, Brossart, Johnston and Larson present. Also present was Rodney Schmitt, Charles Volk, Troy Voeller, Jason Heilman, Todd Lsyne, Larry Muffenbier, Mike Voeller, Riley Schaan, Brad Jacobs and Bryce Berginski, Pierce County Tribune, Duane Hawk and Bill Deck, Pierce County Water Resource Board and Representative Jon Nelson.

Chairman Migler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Christenson and seconded by Brossart, to accept the January minutes as mailed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Johnston and seconded by Larson, to approve those bills previously paid and those yet unpaid were ordered paid. Motion carried.

Charles Volk talked on the Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC) deep borehole field test site project that is located in central Pierce County, for conducting a deep bore test site (proposed project) on Board managed school trust land (for their disposal of spent nuclear fuel and other radioactive waste forms) near his farm and that he urged the board to do whatever is needed to stop this test project.

Josh Siegler, Pierce County Sheriff, met and gave the board a report for the month of January, for his department. Total calls-32; Medical calls-1; Fire calls-2; Traffic accidents-4; Assist other agencies-10; Arrests-16; Citations-13; Papers served-18; Warrants served-4.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, joined the meeting.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC board at 9:00 A.M.

A motion was made by Christenson and seconded by Brossart, to approve those bills previously paid and those yet unpaid were ordered paid for the month of December, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Mike gave the board an update on the inmate population for January, which was 118 inmates. Bookings for the month of January were 99. The average inmate population from January – December, 2015 was an average of 121. Mike presented the board the 2015 annual report for the HACTC, on bookings, offenders, average length of stay, demographics, race, utilization rates, transports, organizational statistics, financial report- income, expenses and that the Hactc made a positive gain at year end in the amount of $149,776.00. Mike briefly discussed the salary study and stated that he was okay with the starting wage of $15.92 for correctional officers, but felt once the correctional officers were trained and receive certification and no longer on probation, that the increase should be $16.54 per hour instead of $16.16, which would be a minimum of 3% increase for the correctional officers. Board advised Mike Graner to figure what the additional costs would be and report back to the board, before a decision will be made.

A motion was made by Christenson and seconded by Johnston, to approve the financial report for the month of December for the Hactc. Motion carried.

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

Allan Meckle, Community Service Coordinator, presented year end report on the community service program. Total completed community service hours were 4,266.1, with 2,136 hours completed in Pierce County, which averages to 178 hours a month.

A motion was made by Brossart and seconded by Johnston, that payment be made from the 2013 Disaster Fund to the following township (s) for road repair: Rd District 12(Hurricane Lake) $1,073.38; Rd District 10 (Tofte) $5,780.43; Rd District 2 (Wolford) $462.83; Rd District 3 (Juniata) $2,817.92; Jefferson Township $9,337.77 and Rd & Br $545.02. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brossart and seconded by Christenson, that payment be made from the 2014 Disaster Fund to the following township for road repair: Rd District 3 (Juniata) $5,426.21. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Larson and seconded by Johnston, to transfer $4,000.00 from the General Fund to the Community Service Program. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Christenson, and seconded by Brossart, that the assessment for blading and snow removal from township roads with motorgrader, will remain at $145.00 per certified road mile, for the 2016 year. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Christenson and seconded by Johnston, to amend the 2015 budget as follows: Road Districts- $560,486.12 to $687,295.88. Motion carried.

Galen J. Mack, States Attorney, joined the meeting. Galen discussed with the board the proposed Deep Bore Research Project in Pierce County, and possible nuclear waste repository. Mack stated that he sent letters to state’s congressional delegation-Senators John Hoeven,Heidi Heitkamp and Representative Kevin Cramer on the proposed deep bore research project, asking for an investigation and to share their findings. Galen discussed with the board that a temporary moratorium be immediately enacted and passed. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Larson, authorizing the full board to sign the Resolution Establishing Temporary Moratorium pertaining to deep bore drilling, within the confines of the borders of Pierce County. All voting “Aye”, Resolution adopted and is on file in the Auditor-Treasurer’s office.

Representative Jon Nelson talked with the board on the deep bore project and stated there are two different issues-

1. Determine of the land is suitable
2. If the land is suitable for this waste, the can the project be rejected.

Jon was going to contact a few departments at the State and see if they could come to the public meeting scheduled for February 16, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

Jon briefly discussed that the corrections (incarceration) model will be changing, and that it will be more rehabilitation instead of housing. He also mentioned the KLJ natural gas feasibility study that was visited at the City Council meeting.

Jessica Tagestad, Wold Engineering, met and went over the probable costs for seal coat on Project SC-3529(054) from NDSH 17 North 3 miles to Rolette/Pierce County line, with the county’s federal aid monies. Jessica will submit the plan to the State with bid opening of May 13, 2016 tied with Rolette County.

Jessica went over the overlay projects COIB 3521(060) from US Hwy 2 in Rugby, North 1.12 miles; Project CNOC 3526(055) from Balta East 1.93 miles; Project CNOC 3548 (056) from Selz 3 miles West to NDSH 3, in which monies from SB 2103 & HB 1176 will be used. Bidding on these projects will be April 19, 2016.

Kelsey Siegler, Tax Director, met with the board on a request from Daniel Hager if the board would consider changing the modifer on the parcel of land 05514-000, as it is inaccessible due to the increase in water. A motion was made by Johnston and seconded by Christenson, to deny the request from Daniel Hager. Motion carried.

Kelsey Siegler, Zoning Administrator, presented the one (1) mile extraterritorial boundary of the city of Rugby and the next meeting for the Planning & Zoning will be held on February 18, 2016.

Brad Murphy, RDO Sales Rep, met with the board and asked if they could set up a training to go over their machine with the blade operators.

JT Pelt, JDA Director, met and invited the board to the next JDA Meeting, which is on Friday, February 19, 2016 at noon. JT said someone from KLJ will be there to visit on natural gas feasibility study.

Board reviewed two proposals for purchasing new flooring for the kitchen at the Memorial Hall. Moved by Johnston and seconded by Larson to go ahead and purchase new flooring from St Michel Furniture. Motion carried.

Fursather, Auditor-Treasurer, visited with the board on recordkeeping. Time earned will be paid to the nearest quarter hour. A motion was made by Christenson and seconded by Brossart, that time earned will be paid to the nearest quarter hour effective immediately. Motion carried.

Johnston stated the Veteran Service Officer, Larry Fjellanger, is having problems with his computer. A motion was made by Larson and seconded by Christenson, to purchase a computer for the Veteran Service Officer. Motion carried.

Board received correspondence from Deb Schiff, Public Health Nurse, recommending that the board purchase an infant changing table.

Board reviewed correspondence on safety/risk management on the trim piece over the steps entering building on the west side.

There being no further business, Migler adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

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Karin Fursather, Auditor-Treasurer David Migler, Chairman

Pierce County, North Dakota Board of County Commissioners