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

 January 7, 2014

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on January 7, 2014.

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M., with members Christenson, Bohl, Migler and Larson present. Also present was Tim Chapman, Pierce County Tribune.

Chairman Johnston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A motion was made by Christenson and seconded by Migler, 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.

After reviewing the financials, a motion was made by Larson and seconded by Bohl, to accept the financial report for the month of December. Motion carried

A motion was made by Bohl and seconded by Migler, to approve Treasurer’s checks #5160-5183 in the amount of $10,665.89 for the month of December. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application filed from Theodore Jaeger, on Lots 11 & 12, Block 6, Serumgard’s Addition, located in the City of Rugby for the tax year 2013. A motion was made by Bohl and seconded by Larson, to approve the abatement application from Theodore Jaeger for the year 2013, in accordance with homestead credit filed.

Board reviewed abatement application filed from John Jr. & Linda Axtman, on W 25’ of Lot2 and all of Lot 3, Block 4, Sikes 2nd Addition, located in the City of Rugby, for the tax year 2013. A motion was made by Christenson and seconded by Larson, to approve the abatement application from John Jr. & Linda Axtman, for the year 2013, in accordance with homestead credit filed. Motion carried.

After reviewing abatement application that was submitted by Walter Bachmeier, for inundated agricultural land, a motion was made by Migler and seconded by Christenson, to approve the inundated land application from Walter Bachmeier, for tax year 2013. Motion carried.

Mike Graner, Director of Operations, HACTC, Matt Lunde, Sheriff and Jason Lux, Deputy Sheriff, joined the meeting. Mike Graner informed the board that eight city contracts have been signed for boarding prisoners with an increase going from $55.00 to $65.00 per day. He also stated that BIA contracts would be going from $62.73 per day to $70.00 per day. The above contracts will be renewed yearly, except for Marshall Service which is for 48 months.

Mike went over the expenses of the HACTC and shared a pay scale that he had compiled for the correctional officers starting with no experience to those with years of experience, to be more competitive with surrounding jail facilities, which would amount to an additional $9,000 for the year. Also discussed was the transport cargo van. After further discussion, board felt that an additional $9,000 to go towards salary adjustments was a little high, but they would consider going half, up to $4500.00, and look at this adjustment again in July. A motion was made by Bohl and seconded by Larson, to adjust the salaries of the correctional officers to be a competitive pay scale and performance with other jail facilities. Motion carried.

Darren Heidbreder, Chief of Security, discussed some of the changes that are being made to the policies at the HACTC.

Matt Lunde, Sheriff, introduced Jason Lux, Deputy Sheriff, to the board.

Karin Fursather, Auditor-Treasurer, presented the Pledge of Assets from Merchants Bank, Bremer Bank and Ramsey Bank. Also reviewed were the bank balances as of December 31, 2013. A motion was made by Bohl and seconded by Christenson, to accept the Pledge of Assets, as presented, and declare Merchants Bank, Bremer Bank and Ramsey Bank as depositories. Motion carried.

Kelsey Siegler, Tax Director, joined the meeting.

Kelsey informed the board of the agricultural land value per acre adjustment for 2014 assessment. Recommendation is to increase the value per acre by 12%, to be within the tolerance allowed, as set by the State. A motion was made by Bohl and seconded by Christenson, to increase the agricultural land value for 2014 assessment by 12%. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application on parcel 09283-000 located in the City of Rugby, to reduce the taxable value on the structure from 84,258 down to 78,017, due to clerical error and exemption on the recommendation of the Tax Director. A motion was made by Migler and seconded by Larson, to reduce the taxable value on the structure from 84, 258 down to 78,017, due to clerical error and exemption. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application on parcel 01613-015, located in 157-73, as possessory interest, and to cancel the taxes in the amount of $11.42, due to no longer having possessory interest on this parcel. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bohl, to cancel the taxes in the amount of $11.42. Motion carried.

Discussion was held concerning parcel 04789-003 in which the property was not taxed. It would need to be added to the tax roll as omitted property after the error was located, and may be taxed for the three prior years. Auditor-Treasurer, Fursather will add the omitted property onto the tax rolls.

Board reviewed bills from Balta Wildlife Club, for which the county participates. A motion was made by Migler and seconded by Bohl, to make payment from the County Park Fund. Motion carried. Correspondence received from Daryl Klein was also reviewed and will be taken up at next annual meeting of County Park Board in July, 2014.

Galen Mack, States Attorney, joined the meeting.

Discussion was held concerning our Social Service Department and remodeling verses constructing a new building. Board advised the Auditor-Treasurer to contact the architect to move forward with bid proposals for remodeling the jail facility.

A motion was made by Christenson and seconded by Migler, to authorize the chairman and auditor to sign the release from Catholic Mutual for the Primary and General Election, which will be held on June 10, 2014 and November 4, 2014 for the polling place at St. Anthony’s Hall in Selz. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bohl and seconded by Larson, to amend the 2013 budget as follows: Expenditures- 2011 FEMA- $465,923.79; 2013 FEMA $85,452.74; Highway Distribution from $189,403.66 to $284,784.00; Law Enforcement Center from $263,616.20 to $337,681.34; Wireless Fund from $18,000.00 to $21,678.33; Senior Citizen Fund from $32,440.96 to $39,761.96; HACTC from $637,508.00 to $1,895,267.13; State Grants $6,650.20; Library Elevator Project from $12,000 to $120,807.89; NDSU Activity Fund from $600.00 to $1,205.58; NDSU Pesticide from $3,000.00 to $6,060.07; Soil Conservation District from $17,904.96 to $24,530.26; Unorganized Townships from $307,602.69 to $833,369.17; Devils lake Jt.Water Board from $761.74 to $2,427.70. Motion carried.

Board reviewed expenses from all county shops and blade operators. Discussion was held concerning costs for blading and snow removal from township roads with motorgrader per certified mile. A meeting will be set up with the township officers on January 17, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. at the Memorial Hall.

Migler questioned a cellular tower that went up in his area. Auditor-Treasurer Fursather will check into this matter.

Discussion was held concerning the custodian at the Memorial Hall on procedures that he needs to follow.

There being no further business, chairman moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 P.M.

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Karin Fursather, Auditor-Treasurer Duane Johnston, Chairman

Pierce County, North Dakota Board of County Commissioners

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

 January 17, 2014

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in special session on January 17, 2014.

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. at the Memorial Hall, with members Bohl, Migler and Christenson present. Larson absent. Also present were officers from all organized townships, except for Ness and Rush Lake Townships. Tim Chapman, Pierce County Tribune, was also present.

Chairman Johnston informed the townships that all reflective signs need to be in place by January, 2015.

County is responsible for the signage on the farm to market roads. There was a question if all the minimum maintenance signs need to be replaced with signs that say No Minimum Winter Maintenance. This was going to be checked out by the county if this verbiage needs to be included on the minimum maintenance signs.

Discussion was held on the spraying that was done in each township. Townships said that they had not received any contact from Dave Walker, as to when he was coming to spray in their township. Commissioner Bohl stated that spraying of road right of way would include trees, with the exception if it was near a farmstead.

Chairman Johnston talked briefly on cutting of road ditches and fences.

Handouts were given to all townships present on the costs for the county shops. Chairman Johnston informed the townships that the costs had gone up 23% from last year, and suggested that the cost for blading and snow removal will go from $130.00 per township certified mile to $145.00 per certified mile for 2014. Ken Schaan, Balta Township, felt that costs are going up and that the $15.00 increase per certified road mile was acceptable. Brad Bachmeier, Alexanter Township, suggested that maybe only go up $10.00 per certified mile. Glen Keller, Hagel Township, asked if the county had disks in front of blades that could break up some of the gravel along the shoulders of road which could then be spread back on the road. Commissioner Migler stated that if the county would consider disks, that it would take more time to blade the roads. Troy Voeller, Reno Valley Township, said that maybe disking 2 miles in each township should be designated and within 5 years, all the roads would have been covered completely with the disk.

Bohl suggested the farmers use consideration when hauling grain that they follow road restrictions and quit hauling before 1:00 p.m., when roads are thawed, so the roads will not be damaged.

Karin Fursather spoke briefly on the 2011 FEMA. She stated that some funds have come in for 2013 FEMA, but some townships were all lumped together, so it is considered a large project and no monies will be received until all townships concerned in large project are completed.

Johnston informed the townships that if they know anyone that is building in the county, a building permit is required per our zoning regulations.

Johnston informed the townships that the cost of culverts is getting expensive and that maybe a cost share would need to be put in place with the townships, if the culverts are larger than 24”.

Commissioner Migler informed the townships that three projects will be completed this year with State Funds- 1. Reshaping and graveling from ND 3 east 3 miles (Silva); 2. Pavement overlay from ND 17 north 3 miles to Pierce County line; 3. Reshaping and graveling 8 miles west and 5 miles south of Rugby (Orrin Farm to Market).

There being no further business, Johnston moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

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Karin Fursather, Auditor-Treasurer Duane Johnston, Chairman

Pierce County, North Dakota Board of County Commissioners.