

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

October 1, 2024

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on October 1, 2024. Vice-Chairman Bohl called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Bednarz, Christenson, and Migler present.

Vice-Chairman Bohl led the Pledge of Allegiance.

One addition was added to the agenda. Conference call with Jay Reinke, Rugby City Council member, regarding the opposition of the Bureau of Land Management revisions.

Hoffert joined the meeting.

Conference call with Jay Reinke, Rugby City Council member, was held. He explained how the proposed policy would have a devastating impact on communities throughout the western region of ND and could lead to the termination of 12,000 coal-related jobs in ND. He asked for Pierce County's support to oppose the BLM revisions to support those communities & landowners directly impacted by such revisions, and to affirm the value of coal mining and coal-fired generation of electricity in ND and the right of the State to oversee the licensing procedures in order to sustain environmentally responsible coal mining and energy production practices in ND. Moved by Christenson and seconded by Bednarz to sign the resolution to oppose the BLM policy revisions. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to approve the consent agenda with the addition of Bednarz talking about having a lyceum on vaping using opiod funds. Motion carried.

Moved by Christenson and seconded by Migler to accept the September minutes as mailed. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl 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 sheet.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve Treasurer's checks #6403-#6405, in the amount of \$110.00, for the month of September. Motion carried.

The joint Boards of County Commissioners held the annual budget meeting for the Lake Region District Health Unit by conference call at 8:30 A.M. Members present were from Benson County, Eddy County, Pierce County, and Ramsey County. Meeting called to order by Jeff Frith. Frith called for nominations for Chairman. Mike Christenson, Pierce County, made a motion for Blaine Volk to be Chairman, Terry Hoffert, Pierce County seconded it. All present voting "Aye". Motion carried. Moved by Jeff Frith, Ramsey Co., to approve the minutes, seconded by Lee Gessner, Ramsey Co. Motion carried. Denton

Heisler, Administrator, Lake Region District Health, presented the 2025 budget. The amount requested is based on the taxable valuation of each county in the district. Moved by Glenda Collier, Eddy County, and seconded by Mike Christenson, Pierce County, to approve the 2025 Lake Region District Health Budget. Upon roll call vote-Benson County members present "Aye", Eddy County - "Aye", Pierce County - "Aye", and Ramsey County - "Aye". Motion carried. Budget approved. Meeting adjourned.

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 September for his department. Total calls-48; Medical Calls-1; Fire Calls-4; Traffic Accidents-1; Assist Other Agencies-8; Prisoner Transports-3; Arrests- 5 (4 Warrants, 1 Driving Under Suspension); Citations-22; Papers Served-11; Warrants Served-4. Siegler reported that a new dispatcher has been hired.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, went over the bills for the month of September. Graner reported that the water heater pump needed to be replaced and a pre-audit was completed, which were two of the bigger expenses. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve those bills previously paid and those yet unpaid were ordered paid, for the month of September, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for September, which was 68 (ADP). Current inmate count is 67. High of 74 for September. Bookings 37, Releases 41. Pierce County inmate population for September was 2. Deficit of \$120,396.26, for the month of August, due to double payroll expense. Personnel 23/24 officers, 1 new hire, and there will be 2 retirements in the final quarter. He reported that they continue to receive the DOCR overflow. Graner reported that they will be helping out Bottineau Co. for the next 3-4 weeks due to their officers getting certified. Graner reported that the USMS inmates are down right now since they weren't moving prisoners. Their new fiscal year started Oct. 1st so there will now be funding available again. Graner was working on getting boarding contracts signed. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve the financial report for the month of August, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

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

Board held hearing on the delinquent real estate, pending payments through October 1st, acquired through tax deed action, in accordance with Section 57-28-11, of the NDCC. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to sell the property for taxes owing and the terms of the sale on November 19, 2024, be for cash only.

Board reviewed Community Service report for Aug/Sept. from Frank LaRocque, community service coordinator. There were 16 open cases, 8 new cases, closed compliant- 6 and closed noncompliant-0. Places helped were Lyric Theater, Rugby CVB – pumpkin patch, Velva Golf Course, City of Upham, and the Dunseith Fitness Center.

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

Jessica Tagestad, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. Tagestad talked about the County Federal Aid Program and said the commissioners will be meeting with D.O.T. at the Association of Counties conference, held in Bismarck October 20-22nd. They will discuss the next projects to be completed. She recommended that they line up the chip seal project for the Balta & Selz roads.

Board discussed the resolution of support with Souris Basin Planning Council for the purpose of regional livestock planning grant acceptance. Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Bohl to sign the agreement with Souris Basin Planning Council. Motion carried.

As the hour of 10:00 A.M. was past, the 2025 Budget hearing was held. Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Christenson to approve the preliminary budget as the final budget beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31,2025. Motion carried.

Kelsey Siegler, Tax Director, joined the meeting. Siegler presented information on the 2025 Pierce County Soil Modifiers. Moved by Migler and seconded by Christenson to approve the 2025 proposed soil type modifiers. Motion carried.

Bednarz discussed having a speaker come in to the schools for a lyceum on education regarding the prevention of vaping. Funds to get the speaker would come out of the opiod funds. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to use the opiod funds for this education.

As the hour of 11:00 A.M. was past, the Board opened the bids for propane, premium diesel fuel and gasoline. The following bids were received and declared in order: Harper Oil Company and Envision. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to accept the following bids: Propane-Envison \$1.39/gallon; Premium diesel fuel-Envision-daily price less \$.14 cents; Gasoline-Harper Oil-daily price less \$.10 cents per gallon. Motion carried.

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

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

SEPTEMBER EXPENDITURES

ND Child Support \$77.50,NDPERS \$42,765.46, Northern Plains Elec. \$149.,NDTC \$2,170.77,
Pierce Co. Payroll Acct. \$40,792.28, Pierce Co.Treasurer \$40.98, J.P.Morgan \$3,453.66, Pierce Co.
Payroll Acct. \$110,063.58, Pierce Co. Treasurer \$245.26, Security Benefit \$1,951.10, AFLAC \$1,223.08,
Colonial Life \$31.25, Nationwide \$2,312.23, Otter Tail \$9,738.11, Pierce Co.Payroll Acct. \$89,180.29,
Pierce CO. Treasurer \$58.36, Baltimore CO. OCS \$850.00 ,NDPHIT \$71,141.44, HACTC Bills \$46,068.40,
Bohl, Joe \$119.93, Christenson, Mike \$160.13, Migler, David \$243.21, Tyler Technologies \$4,598.09,
Mack Law \$387.41, Steins \$100.04, Rugby Lumber \$4.95, Leever Foods \$19.52, Circle Sanitation
\$201.25, Rugby Lawn&Tree Care \$475.00, Runnings \$155.21, Rugby H.Hank \$250.30, Pierce Co.Tribune
\$746.26, Elec.Sys. & Software \$2,620.20, Quadiant Finance \$1,500.00, City of Rugby \$659.48, Fireside
Office \$646.28, Dakota Business Solutions \$815.99, Computer Store \$328.00, Software Innovations
\$3,800.00, ITD \$3,948.04, Brad's Towing \$404.00, Rugby Service \$2,718.24, Uniform Center \$225.94,
Post Board \$90.00, Office of Atty.Gen. \$1,050.00, HACTC \$24,186.00, HACTC Res.Fund \$842.00, HAMC
\$1,748.00, Siegler, Kelsey \$316.00, Axtman, Mike \$620.00, Computer Express \$1,450.00, I Solved
\$279.48, Rugby Broadcasters \$38.50, Otter Tail \$258.90, Envision \$6,282.83, Harper Oil \$180.00,
H.E.Everson \$130.26, High Plains Equip. \$11.00, Northwest Tire \$9,498.60, Newman Signs \$668.32,
Zeien, Paul \$36.18, Zacher, James \$160.00, Polar Communications \$6.00, Larocque, Frank \$246.56,
Susag Sand & Gravel \$29,743.60, Ritterman Trucking \$29,904.40, Knife River \$27,720.00, Deplazes
\$84,249.00, Knife River \$27,581.40, City of Rugby \$2,389.28 Grand Total \$697,126.53