

FEBRUARY EXPENDITURES

ND Child Supp \$194.50, NDPERS \$651.14, NDTC \$1295.03, Northern Plains \$243, Quadient \$246.20, Post Brd \$25, Ottertail \$5765.20, NDTC \$806.19, Pierce Co Payroll \$88820.60, Pierce Co Treas \$80.75, Baltimore Co OCS \$850, JP Morgan \$1302.85, Ottertail \$4985.95, Pierce Co Treas \$300, Pierce Co Payroll \$110291.33, Pierce Co Treas \$267.84, AFLAC \$1175.73, Colonial \$31.25, Sec Benefit \$2148.83, Nationwide \$2429.25, NDPHIT \$80262.89, NDPERS \$30674.72, Pierce Co Payroll \$39469.08, Pierce Co Treas \$13.02, HACTC Bills \$52277.11, Bohl, Joe \$56, Migler, David \$86.80, Circle Sanitation \$201.25, City of Rugby \$785.83, Leever's \$15.18, Hardware Hank \$134.66, Steins \$129.62, Johnson Plumbing \$303.94, Envision \$859.72, Mack Law \$389.05, Tribune \$308.10, NCP \$149, Fireside \$39.96, Computer Store \$249.99, Quadient \$500, Pierce Co Treas \$93.36, NDACO \$7000, City of Rugby \$20000, Rugby Serv Ctr \$1489.54, McGuire's \$232.20, Brad's Towing \$258, Precision \$65, Off of Atty Gen \$475, Gaffanays \$455.86, HACTC \$10602.35, GF Co Clerk of Crt \$100, Hager, Dustin \$200, ITD \$3,922.04, Matthew Bender \$100.31, Dakota Dynamics \$1000, HAMC \$180, ISolved \$293.45, Computer Exp \$6120.98, Polar Com \$6, Ottertail \$254.17, Envision \$6605.89, JD Financial \$226.25, High Plains \$71.87, Runnings \$22.56, HE Everson \$256.47, RDO \$2405.16, Linde \$173.39, Zeien, Paul \$131.60, HACTC Res Fund \$772
GRAND TOTAL \$492330.01

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

March 4, 2025

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on March 4, 2025. Chairman Hoffert called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Bohl, Berg, Bednarz, and Migler present.

Chairman Hoffert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Berg to accept the February 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 sheets.

Board reviewed February report from Heart of America Community Service Program from Frank LaRocque, Community Service Coordinator. There were 3 new cases, 14 open cases, 3 closed compliant, and 0 closed noncompliant. Fees received \$25.00. Places where community service was performed was the Rugby Eagles Club, Lyric Movie Theater, Pierce Co Fairgrounds, & McHenry Co. Courthouse.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve Treasurer's checks #6434-#6445, in the amount of \$2,533.02, for the month of February. Motion carried.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to accept the financial report for the month of February. 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 February for his department. Total calls-34; Medical Calls-2; Fire Calls-1; Traffic Accidents-1; Assist Other Agencies-3; Prisoner Transports-4; Arrests- 1 Driving under the influence, 1 Driving with a suspended license, 4-Warrants; Citations-16; Papers Served-15; Warrants Served-4. Siegler reported that June 2nd starts the Academy Training for the new deputy. Bednarz asked Siegler if the newly hired Drug Task Force Coordinator, Brock Baker, could give the Board quarterly updates. Siegler said he would request that and reported that there were a couple of arrests made in the area, involving fentanyl & meth, already.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, went over the bills for the month of February. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz to approve those bills previously paid and those yet unpaid were ordered paid, for the month of February, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for February, which was 75 (ADP). Current inmate count is 79. High of 81 for February. Bookings 35, Releases 30. Pierce County inmate population for February was 10. Deficit of \$33,356.23 for the month of January. Personnel 21/24 officers. Graner talked of the DOCR overflow which is now 36. Graner said the USMS contract needs to be negotiated, & hopes to have the new contract signed soon. He reported that the DOCR annual inspection is scheduled for March 26th-27th. Graner reported that the new phone system, is getting started and in the initial phase. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to approve the financial report for the month of January, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Board reconvened at 9:10 A.M., with all members present.

Kelsey Siegler, Tax Director & DES, joined the meeting. Siegler informed the Board of the abatement that was approved by the City of Rugby on parcel #10035000, (2025-11) for tax years 2023 & 2024, on the following described property, as S218' Lot 7, E149' of N41' Lot 9, Blk.6, School Addition, City of Rugby, submitted by David Schneider. Siegler recommended that the 2023 value be \$157,513 & 2024 value be \$136,540. A motion was made by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve the 2023 & 2024 recommended values. Motion carried.

Siegler suggested that the Board issue the burn ban due to abnormally dry conditions compiled with high winds. She said it would be tied to the fire index rating, if high, no burning. The Board of Pierce County Commissioners issued a Fire Emergency Declaration & Burn Restrictions to include the restriction of recreational burning, open burning (includes burning of leaves, grass clippings, garbage and pits, construction debris, fallen trees, crop residue or hay land, sloughs & bonfires); also, restricting the use of fire to demolish structures when the ND Fire Danger index is in the "High, Very High or Extreme" Index and/or a "Red Flag Warning" has been issued for Pierce County. These restrictions do not ban the use of grills or commercially sold enclosed firepits, but it is required that grills or enclosed fire devices be on a hard non-organic surface and be a minimum of 15' away from any dry vegetation when the Fire Danger Index is High, Very High, or Extreme. The use of Fireworks is prohibited when the fire index rating is High, Very High or Extreme or a "Red Flag Warning" has been issued. Be it also required that any controlled burn occurring within the limits of Pierce County be reported to the Law Enforcement Center. These burn restrictions are in effect for Pierce County, but do not apply to the incorporated cities of Balta, Rugby or Wolford. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to issue the Burn Ban. Motion carried.

Board reviewed the following abatement applications: on parcel 09981000, (2025-14), for tax year 2024, on the following described property, as W87.6x120' Lot 1, Blk.1, School Addition, City of Rugby, submitted by E.Curtis Ekren; parcel 10778000, (2025-15), for tax year 2024, on the following described property, as Lots 13-14-15, Blk.9, Whites 2nd Add., City of Rugby, submitted by Carole Mettler; parcel 10360000, (2025-16), for tax year 2024, on the following described property, as W32' Lot 16, Block 4, Sikes 2nd Addition, City of Rugby, submitted by Patricia Robbins; parcel 09868000, (2025-17), on the

following described property as Lots 10-11 and S12' of Lot 12, Blk.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 Berg and seconded by Bednarz, to approve all of the applications submitted. Motion carried.

Briselda Hernandez, Exec.Director, & Erin Parker, Souris Basin Planning Council, joined the meeting. Hoffert said the biggest concern of signing on with the Livestock & Development Grant was if there were to be a feed lot or hog barn for instance, would the County still have local control. Hernandez said the whole intent is to develop a plan and look at potential sights which rely on infrastructure for planning purposes. Todd Kays, First Dist. consultant from SD, joined in by phone. Kays said the study is for Bottineau & McHenry counties. It is also in the works for Pierce County. Kays said each county should look at what your policies are now, as the State created minimum setbacks many years ago. Hernandez said each county can decide what route they wish to go with, some want to be more aggressive and take on a big project and others just want the existing farmers to expand. It is your right as a county, Souris Basin is just there to provide you with information. Berg asked if the County Planning & Zoning would still have a say in it. Hernandez said the decision making is for the counties. Kays said the study will be coming out soon with maps that show locations & zoning regulations and maps at the township level that will show locations where there is adequate water, etc. Hernandez said the State gave this grant, we can support what we have now or if you want to grow. Kays said the Pierce County study will be done soon and they will present the information. Hernandez said she will follow up when they get the final report.

Galen J Mack, States Atty., joined the meeting. Mack said Souris Basin worked back in the 80's & they were very instrumental with the zoning ordinance. He said they were very helpful and this study will be helpful concerning CAFO's (Concentrated Animal Feed Operations) and locations.

Mack also talked about the Community Service Program. He said it is still a good idea and can be really good for the community, cleaning ditches, etc. It is giving back to the community. Mack said Judge Hurly still orders community service. Mack said there was more community service in previous years but now things are decriminalized and they just pay a fine and get scolded. Mack said he would like to see the program continue and have available if possible.

Jessica Tagestad, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. She presented the Board with three different options for the new Federal Aid Route Addition of 2 miles, (1 mile South of US 2, thence West 1 mile to NDSH 3) if it is approved. The estimate for grading & aggregate surfacing was 752,396. and the estimated for going with asphalt was 1.1 to 1.8 million. Tagestad said Federal funding could be used. If approved, it could be bid in 2027. Migler asked if approved, they would pay 80% and we would pay 20%? Tagestad said yes and once approved we could get started on the environmental portion. Right of way price per acre could be established and could reach out to landowners. Bohl said before we do anything shouldn't Meyer Township be notified. Hoffert said he would talk to them.

Frank LaRocque, Community Service Coordinator, joined the meeting.

A teleconference was held with the McHenry County Board concerning the Community Service Program and the future of the program. Hoffert said our States Atty. & Judge Hurly are in favor of this program and would like to continue if they share in the costs. McHenry County Board asked where the program gets used. LaRocque said Velva School, Velva Golf Course, McHenry Co. Courthouse, & Towner Public Works. McHenry County said they are trying to see if the program is beneficial for the taxpayers. They will look into the numbers and then meet after that.

Auditor-Treas. Migler asked the Board if they wanted to increase their liability insurance with Rugby Insurance. It would go from \$4,000,000. to \$5,000,000 coverage, for an additional \$780. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to go with the increase. Motion carried.

Moved by Berg and seconded by Bohl, to impose load limit restrictions- single axle not to exceed 12,000 lbs., tandem axle not to exceed 12,000 lbs., per axle, on all county township roads. Also, speed limit will be 45 miles per hour, while load limits are in effect. With the exception that load limits on 2 ½ miles from Highway #3 to Selz, speed limit set at 35 miles per hour, single axle, not to exceed 15,000 lbs., and tandem axle not to exceed 15,000 lbs., for loaded trucks, while limits are in effect. Restrictions will be enforced the same time as the State restrictions. Motion carried.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to call for bids for graveling and machine hire, and also for culvert bids, for the 2025 construction season. Motion carried.

Bednarz talked briefly about the grant through Otter Tail. It was a 50/50 grant for changing the lighting in the Memorial Hall to LED. He said when he gets the bid, he will bring it back to the Board.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Berg to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 P.M. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners