

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

April 1, 2025

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on April 1, 2025. Chairman Hoffert called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Bohl, Bednarz, and Migler present. Berg absent.

Chairman Hoffert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to accept the March minutes as mailed. Motion carried.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl 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 Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve Treasurer's checks #6446-#6454, in the amount of \$5,602.37, for the month of March. Motion carried.

Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Bohl, to transfer \$100,000 from General Fund to HACTC Fund. Motion carried.

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

Josh Siegler, Pierce County Sheriff, and Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, joined the meeting.

Josh Siegler, Sheriff, met and gave the board a report for the month of March, for his department. Total calls-39; Medical Calls-2; Fire Calls-2 Traffic Accidents-0; Assist Other Agencies-8; Prisoner Transports-3; Arrests- 6 (1-Possession of Narcotics, 1-Driving under Suspension, 4-Warrants); Citations-28; Papers Served-25; Warrants Served-4. Siegler reported that the new deputy will begin on May 1st and starting the academy on June 2nd. Board asked Siegler about the Selz Bar. Siegler said things are going ok.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

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

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for March, which was 75 (ADP). Current inmate count is 74. High of 80 for March. Bookings 30, Releases 32; Pierce County inmate population for March was 2. Deficit of \$94,492.47, for the month of February. Personnel 23/24 officers. Graner reported that the DOCR inspection was conducted March 26th- 27th and went very well, 108 out of 110 standards were complying. Graner requested the purchase of 7 more handheld radios at the cost of \$4994. Board said to go ahead and order them and that the cost would come out of ARPA Funds. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl, to approve the financial report for the month of February, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Board reconvened at 9:24 A.M., with Bohl, Bednarz, Hoffert, and Migler present.

Steve Jacobson, Peter Ritterman and James Ritterman joined the meeting.

As the hour of 9:30 A.M. was past, the Chairman called for the opening of the bids for Clay and Graveling and Machine Hire, for the 2025 construction season. After reviewing the bids for Claying and Graveling and Machine Hire, moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler, to accept all bids. Motion carried.

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

Mirek Petrovic, ND High Level Radioactive Waste Council, and Rebecca Leier, ND Community Alliance, joined the meeting. Petrovic and Leier gave the Board updates on legislative bill SB2159, a bill for an act to amend and reenact section 15-11-40 of the ND Century Code, relating to projects the state energy research center is permitted to pursue. They were opposed to any move to relax the prohibition of disposal or storage of High Level Radioactive Waste in ND from new or existing sources. Leier reiterated that they are not opposed to new technologies and uses of nuclear power for the economic benefit of ND, studies of new nuclear power technologies that create Low Level Waste have the potential to provide additional economic opportunities for our state, but High Level Radioactive Storage isn't an industry that is wanted in our state or rural communities. Petrovic said if we take out the storage equation, they could still do their study on nuclear power. Petrovic asked do we want to be lab rats? He said he knew that new technology is coming, there's a race for AI. There is a new data center in Ellendale and other plans. Leier said we support research but don't want them to store nuclear waste underground. Leier asked the Board to reach out to members of the ND Assoc. of Counties and the ND Assoc. of County Commissioners, as she felt they would have a strong voice together. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to oppose SB2159. Motion carried.

Jesse Brandvold, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. He talked about the new approved CMC route from 1 mile south of US 2, thence W 1 mile to NDSH 3. Brandvold said construction could begin in 2027 and the earliest to bid it would be next Fall. He said Federal aid would pay 80%. Brandvold recommended that it be graveled, so it has time to settle. He said they will need to establish a right of way price per acre and reach out to landowners.

Frank Anderson, RDO salesman, joined the meeting. Anderson talked about John Deere Path, which is a GPS device that shows machine position in snow removal and staying on the road in low visibility. He said the cost to each machine would be \$15,000, with an annual subscription of \$1500.

As the hour of 11:00 A.M. was past, the Chairman called for the opening of culvert bids. One bid was received from True North Steel. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to accept the culvert bid from True North Steel. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler that annual payment be made from the Road Districts to Road & Bridge Fund, for blading and snow removal, for township roads, with motorgrader. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application on parcel 10672000, submitted by Michael Boucher for tax year 2024 (2025-18) on the following described property, as Whites 1st Add, Lots 19-20, Block 18, located in the City of Rugby. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to approve the abatement application for tax year 2024, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed correspondence letter from ND Insurance Reserve Fund, pertaining to electing a representative in the "Counties" category, to serve on the Board of Directors. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz authorizing the chairman to cast a proxy vote, to elect Lyle Bopp to the Board of Directors, to represent counties on the ND Insurance Reserve Fund. Motion carried.

Board reviewed correspondence letter from Scott Wheeler requesting a proclamation regarding the 70th Anniversary of the Lawrence Welk Show's national debut, by the Pierce County Commission. It would proclaim July 2, 2025 as Lawrence Welk Day and a day to honor "The Lawrence Welk Show" in Pierce County, ND. Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Bohl to issue the proclamation. Motion carried. Proclamation on file in the County Auditor's office.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bednarz, to approve the site authorization, for games of chance, from Buffalo Lake Sportsman's Club, for gaming at Larry's Bar, Selz, beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the purchase of a laptop for the Vet Service Officer, as his current computer won't support the windows 11 update. Motion carried.

Bednarz discussed the condition of the steps at the Memorial Hall. Board agreed they need to be repaired. Bednarz will get a couple of estimates and get it taken care of.

Bednarz also informed the rest of the Board that he applied for the grant with Otter Tail, for new lighting in the Memorial Hall, and was waiting to hear back from them.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 P.M. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

March Expenditures

ND Child Supp \$187, City of Rugby \$2556.43, NDPERS \$657.94, NDTC \$1285.63, Northern Plains \$240, NDTC \$814.78, Pierce Co Payroll \$85438.86, Baltimore Co OCS \$850, JP Morgan \$3541.86, Ottetail \$11417.73, ND Dept of Trust Lands \$1133.33, Merchants Bank \$15, Pierce Co Payroll \$107513.77, Pierce Co Treas \$266.42, AFLAC \$1175.73, Security Benefit \$2148.83, Nationwide \$2429.25, Pierce Co Payroll \$40716.43, Pierce Co Treas \$13.27, NDPHIT \$87996.26, NDPERS \$31091.52, HACTC bills \$52487.03, Bohl, Joe \$140, Migler, David \$119.70, Pierce Co Treas \$120000, City of Rugby \$654.53, NDSAA \$400, Computer Store \$1844.96, Envision \$576.89, Mack Law \$389.05, Schock's Safe & Lock \$323.95, ST. MICHEL \$6437.75, Thompson Floor \$5840, Pierce Co Trea \$34.77, Quadient \$1000, Dakota Dynamics \$1000, Runnings \$107.73, Leever \$7.29, Hardware Hank \$126.09, Circle Sanitation \$201.25, Rugby Ins \$42688, Village \$1530, Souris Basin \$3600, ND Dept of Env \$105, Hager, Dustin \$100, Tribune \$382.20, Rugby Serv Ctr \$1567.37, ITD \$3922.04, City of Rugby \$450, Peace Garden Off \$70, Uniform Ctr \$356.95, HACTC \$17889.63, Hardware Hank \$4879.80, Isolved \$293.45, Tyler Tech \$1049, JD Financial \$31.37, Sign Solutions \$3511.50, HE Everson \$11.88, City of Balta \$396, Envision \$358.54, Ottetail \$245.47, RDO \$1803.90, Christenson Elec \$152.23, Daryl's Ref \$8500, RAC \$160. LaRocque, Frank \$84, Zeien, Paul \$141.40, Lysne, Daren \$181.30, City of Rugby \$2329.93, HACTC Res fund \$884. Grand total \$670855.99.