

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

May 6, 2025

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on May 6, 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 Migler and seconded by Berg to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz 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 the April report from Heart of America Community Service Program from Frank LaRocque, Community Service Coordinator. There were 6 new cases, 14 open cases, 2 closed compliant, and 1 closed noncompliant. Fees received \$250.00. Places where community service was performed were the Lyric Theater, Rugby Public Works Dept., Rugby CVB, Pierce Co. Fairgrounds, Star City Golf Course in Velva, and McHenry Co Courthouse.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve Treasurer's checks #6455-6458, in the amount of \$173.96, for the month of April. Motion carried.

Moved by Berg and seconded by Bednarz to accept the financial report for the month of April. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement applications on parcel 08212000, submitted by Marjorie Heilman for tax years 2023 & 2024 (2025-19-20) on the following described property, as Bjorkes Add., Lots 7-12, Blk.1, located in the City of Rugby. On parcel 04745000, submitted by Michael Schneider for tax year 2024 (2025-21) on the following described property, as S1/2NW1/4, Lots 3 & 4 sec.5 153-73. On parcel 08652000, submitted by James D. Jundt, for tax year 2024 (2025-22) on the following described property, as Kirchofners Eastside Add., Lot 6, E97.6' of S 40' Lot 7, Blk. 2, located in the City of Rugby. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approved the abatement applications for tax years 2023 & 2024, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement applications on parcel 02755001, submitted by Bernard Miller for tax years 2023 & 2024 (2025-23-24) on the following described property, as an irregular tract located in SE1/4 (sec.17) 156-73. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve the abatement applications for tax years 2023 & 2024, as recommended by the Tax Director, as Veterans Credit filed. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to approve the site authorization for games of chance, from the Rugby Eagles Aerie #3834 and Rugby Golf Course, beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. Motion carried.

Board reviewed a letter from the City of Rugby requesting support of the city application to extend the Renaissance Zone Program. The Renaissance Zone Program has two primary incentives, to include a possibility of a 5-year property tax and State income tax exemption for qualified projects. This program has been available in the City of Rugby since 2005. The application for renewal would extend the program an additional 10 years, until 2035. Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Migler to send a letter of support to the City of Rugby for the application to renew the Renaissance Zone Program. Motion carried.

Josh Siegler, Pierce County Sheriff, joined the meeting. Also joining the meeting was Micheal Jacobs and Sean Hurly, Deputy Sheriff. Siegler introduced Jacobs to the Board, as the newly hired Deputy Sheriff. Siegler reported that June 2nd starts the Academy Training for Jacobs.

Josh Siegler, Sheriff, met and gave the board a report for the month of April for his department. Total calls-35; Medical Calls-1; Fire Calls-2; Traffic Accidents-3; Assist Other Agencies-10; Prisoner Transports-3; Arrests- 6 (2 Warrants, 3 Driving Under Suspension, 1 Burn Ban Violation); Citations-26; Papers Served-13; Warrants Served-2.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

Josh Siegler, Pierce County Sheriff, went over the bills for the month of April, as Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, was attending instructor training. Siegler noted one of the larger bills from Trane for \$9700., was for their service agreement. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Berg to approve those bills previously paid and those yet unpaid were ordered paid, for the month of April, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Josh Siegler, Pierce County Sheriff, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for April, which was 74 (ADP). Current inmate count is 71. High of 79 for April. Bookings 35, Releases 35. Pierce County inmate population for April was 4. Deficit of \$30,618.28, for the month of March. Personnel 23/24 officers, 1 returned from leave, 2 resignations, 2 started. Siegler said they continue to receive the DOCR overflow & have requested more individuals. The contract with USMS will be effective May 1st and will now receive \$115/day/inmate. Siegler reported that the new phone system is installed & working. Siegler requested the purchase of 5 pistols, at a cost of \$5008.15. Board gave approval and said it would be taken out of ARPA Funds. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to approve the financial report for the month of March, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Board reconvened at 8:55 A.M., with all members present.

Board discussed the Community Service position. Due to the other counties (Bottineau & McHenry) dropping out and decreased activity, the Board agreed to just have our county take care of the

community service program and reduce the hours from 24 to 10 hours/week. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to continue the community service program for Pierce County only. Motion carried.

Greg Mack and Ben Mack joined the meeting. They were concerned about road issues in Elling Township. The road has been out for 5 weeks. Greg Mack said the county will suffer if something should happen. He said the road is marked closed, but if someone wouldn't see this at night it could be a bad situation. Migler said they have the culvert, it is ready to go, they are just waiting on the contractor. The contractor is waiting for the load restrictions to come off, then they will be able to take care of it. Migler assured Mack that they will take care of it as soon as they are able to.

Frank Anderson, salesman, & Brad Murphy, Sales Mgr., RDO Equipment, joined the meeting. Murphy explained that JD is transitioning from the G series to the P series, which has a new cab & a new monitor. Murphy said it will be similar to the G series. Murphy explained the contract purchasing program and said Bottineau, Burke, & Ward Counties use the contract pricing. Murphy offered the Board a hard price with buy back, based on Source Well discount. Board said they would decide and get back to them.

Erin Parker and Briselda Hernandez, Souris Basin Planning Council, Mark Lyman, Minot Economic Development Specialist, and Zachary Broadwell, Rugby Job Development Director, and Kelsey Siegler, Planning & Zoning Administrator, joined the meeting. Parker and Hernandez presented to the Board, the ND Livestock Planning Project - Pierce County Study for rural development site analysis. This is to provide research-based resources which show the sites where there is potential for development of animal feeding operations. Counties can decide how much they want to pursue these developments.

As the hour of 10:30 A.M. was past, the public hearing was held for a requested aggregate mining operation conditional use permit, by B & J Excavating, for a gravel pit located in sec.8 Township 158-72. Kelsey Siegler, Planning & Zoning Administrator, informed the Board that this permit was approved by the Planning & Zoning Board. She said the requirements of proper signage, controlled speed, dust control, and roads must be maintained, will be required. Moved by Migler and seconded by Berg to approve the conditional use permit, requested by B & J Excavating. Motion carried.

Board reviewed a letter from the State Tax Commissioner which required signing by the Chairman and Auditor, which acts as an abatement for several homeowners that applied for the 2024 Primary Residence Credit, that were listed in a trust. Senate Bill 2201 added trusts. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to authorize the chairman and auditor to sign the letter. Motion carried.

Jesse Brandvold, and Jessica Tagestad, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. They brought a contract to sign, for road project SC-3521- grading for 2 miles-truck route extension. They explained that the bidding will be done in the Fall of 2026 and the project done in 2027. This would start the environmental study process.

Don Jelsing, Pierce County Fair, joined the meeting. He gave the Board an update on the Pierce County Fair project. Jelsing said things are going along fine, however, some things won't be quite ready for this year's fair. Jelsing has been applying for grants. Hoffert thanked Jelsing for everything he has done for

the County Fair & for the good job talking to the Legislators in getting grants for County Fair infrastructure. Jelsing said the State will be giving grants for up to \$50,000. Jelsing said we need a County Fair, period. He had one last request for 10-12 loads of sand for the youth rodeo, which will be held in the same spot, which has a lot of clay. Board agreed to provide the sand.

Tom Alexander, Minot Housing Authority, met with the Board. Alexander gave the Board an update on the dissolving of the McHenry/Pierce Housing Authority. This was supposed to take effect on January 1, 2025. It has now been changed to July 1, 2025, since there have been many budget cuts with HUD. Alexander said there will be an audit of McHenry/Pierce Housing vouchers. He will keep the Board updated as he finds out more information.

Board called Frank LaRocque, Community Service Coordinator, to join the meeting. Board informed LaRocque that due to the two counties dropping out of the program and the reduction of cases, they will be cutting back hours on the program. Board offered LaRocque 10 hours/week to perform the community service duties starting June 1st. LaRocque said that wouldn't be worth his time. Board thanked him for his time as Community Service Coordinator.

Bednarz informed the Board that he applied for the energy grant for the Memorial Hall lighting and will be awarded 50% after the work is completed. Work on this project will begin in July.

Bednarz also informed the Board that Rick Larson would be redoing the steps at the Memorial Hall and hopes to get at least one section completed before Memorial Day weekend.

Board discussed the contract purchasing program with RDO Equipment. Motion by Bohl and seconded by Berg to go with the contract purchasing program with RDO Equipment and get a new motor grader. All in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bednarz and seconded by Bohl to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 P.M. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

APRIL EXPENDITURES

ND CHILD SUPP \$175, NDPERS \$660.98, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$90221.62, PIERCE CO TREAS \$6.26, BALTIMORE CO OCS \$850, ND CHILD SUPP \$387.60, ND STATE TREAS \$1015.33, JP MORGAN \$3928.37, NDTC \$2102.61, NORTHERN PLAINS \$176, OTTERTAIL \$4854.03, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$111008.59, PIERCE CO TREAS \$296.82, AFLAC \$1175.73, SECURITY BENEFIT \$2148.83, NATIONWIDE \$2429.25, OTTERTAIL \$7055.60, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$41296.94, PIERCE CO TREAS \$24.23, NDPHIT \$85732.88, NDPERS \$37553.87, HACTC BILLS \$71809.47, ND CHILD SUPP \$154.50, BOHL, JOE \$272.30, MIGLER, DAVID \$175, CITY OF RUGBY \$720.59, OTTERTAIL \$282.31, SIEGLER, KELSEY \$350.70, PIERCE CO TREAS \$23.74, DACOTAH PAPER \$192.70, SCHOCK'S \$627.40, DAKOTA FIRE \$775.04, JOHNSON PLUMB \$7.85, LEEVERS \$26.02, HARDWARE HANK \$198.04, RUNNINGS \$674.90, STEIN'S \$402.30, CIRCLE SANITATION \$201.25, GAFFANEY'S \$591, SOFTWARE INNOV \$9,900, RUGBY INS \$26, OFF OF ATNY GEN \$590, HACTC \$1827.62, MACK LAW \$389.05, QUADIENT \$1035, ITD \$3922.05, TRIBUNE \$270, COLUMN \$390, CITY OF BALTA \$800, HACTC \$18050, OFF OF ADJ GEN \$263, CENTRAL POINT \$20, US RECORDS \$5315.63, BRAD'S TOWING \$119, RUGBY SERV CTR \$1399.91, HAGER, DUSTIN \$200, ISOLVED \$293.45, COMPUTER EXP \$2,900, DAKOTA DYNAMICS \$1000, LAROCQUE, FRANK \$112, NDSU EXT \$7063.46, NDTC \$19734.01, ND WEED CONTROL \$285, CLUBHOUSE \$297, MONTONYE, RON \$614.93, ENVISION \$9108.59, CITY OF WOLFORD \$404, LINDE GAS \$334.81, RDO \$390.65, NEWMAN SIGN \$258.50, OPDAHL \$10783.75, ZEIEN, PAUL \$47.60, HONSEY \$1570, PIERCE CO. TREAS \$1271.09, AXON \$2230. GRAND TOTAL \$573801.75