

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

October 7, 2025

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on October 7, 2025. Chairman Hoffert called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Berg, Bohl, Migler and Bednarz 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 Bohl to accept the September minutes as mailed. Motion carried.

Moved by Migler and seconded by Berg 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 Berg to approve Treasurer's checks #6495-#6496, in the amount of \$105.00, for the month of September. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to transfer \$200,000 from Highway Distribution to the Road & Bridge Fund. Motion carried.

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

Board reviewed abatement applications submitted by Marlin & Bea Welk for tax years 2023 & 2024 (2025-25 & 2025-26) on the following described property Lot 1 & N25' of Lot 2, Blk.3, Solem's 1st Addition, City of Rugby. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve the abatement applications for tax years 2023 & 2024, as recommended by the Tax Director, as qualifies for Homestead Credit filed. 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 Lee Gessner. Gessner called for nominations for Chairman. Jeff Frith made a motion for Blaine Volk to be Chairman, seconded by Glenda Collier. All present voting "Aye". Motion carried. Moved by Gessner, Ramsey Co., to approve the 2024 minutes, seconded by Frith, Ramsey Co. Motion carried. Denton Heisler, Administrator, Lake Region District Health, presented the 2026 budget. The amount requested is based on the taxable valuation of each county in the district. Hoffert, Pierce County, requested an adjustment for Pierce County, for not having a public health nurse for several months. Volk said Ramsey County has been short staffed as well. Heisler said there is a shortage, those positions are hard to fill. Heisler stated that

the mill levy covers more than just the nurse, it covers multiple staff based in Ramsey that provide services to all four counties, as well as the nurses that filled in at Pierce County during that time. Bohl said shouldn't there be some carry over for salary & benefits that weren't paid out and asked where did the carry over funds go. Heisler said the extra money was put in the budget for 2026 and that is why there is no additional mill levy funding being requested for 2026, Migler asked how much was moved in? Heisler said they would send a report of what was moved into the 2026 budget. Moved by Doris Griffin, Benson County and seconded by Glenda Collier, Eddy County, to approve the 2026 Lake Region District Health Budget. Upon roll call vote-Benson County members present "Aye", Eddy County - "Aye", Pierce County - "Aye", with the exception of Bohl & Migler voting "Nay", 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-61; Medical Calls-1; Fire Calls-1; Traffic Accidents-3; Assist Other Agencies-7; Prisoner Transports-5; Arrests- 8 (4 Warrants, 2 Driving Under Suspension, 1 Driving under the influence, 1 Possession of Alcohol by a person under 21); Citations-30; Papers Served-14; Warrants Served-4. Siegler reported no personnel changes. Siegler said the officer's cameras will need to be updated.

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 A/C lines were replaced in the Expedition and Summit Food Service had a rate adjustment. Moved by Migler and seconded by Berg 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 87 (ADP). Current inmate count is 86. High of 91 for September. Bookings 37, Releases 34. Pierce County inmate population for September was 10. Profit of \$22,867.01, for the month of August. Personnel 21/24 officers. Graner reported that there are 3 officers left to get certified. Graner talked about possible recruitment bonuses- referral bonuses for current staff, if they refer an officer for employment, after 3 months of employment they would receive \$1000 and after 18 months they would receive another \$1000. Funding would come from the budgeted salaries that have not been used. Graner reported that he has received a proposal for the camera upgrade. Graner reported on the Evolution Counseling, 13 inmates have been using the services with another 4 expected to join. He has heard positive feedback from both Evolution Counseling and the inmates. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the financial report for the month of August, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Board reconvened at 9:38 A.M., with all members present.

Board held hearing on the delinquent real estate, acquired through tax deed action, in accordance with Section 57-28-11, of the NDCC. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to sell the property for taxes owing and the terms of the sale on November 18, 2025, be for cash only.

Natalie Wibe, County Agent, joined the meeting. Wibe introduced herself to the Board as the new county agent for Pierce County. Wibe reported that she has been on zoom calls with a lot of specialists, busy with forage sampling, sunflower surveys - which identified weeds, diseases, & insects present, as well as overall production factors, which provides farmers useful data to help them make informed decisions about crop management & future planting & growing practices. Wibe reported that 4-H enrollment is now open and club meetings are beginning this month.

As the hour of 10:00 A.M. was past, the 2026 Budget hearing was held. Moved by Bednarz and seconded by Berg to approve the preliminary budget, as the final budget, beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026. Upon roll call vote-Berg "Aye", Bohl "Aye", Migler "Aye", Bednarz "Aye", and Hoffert "Aye". Motion carried.

Jessica Tagestad, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. Tagestad talked about the County Federal Aid Program and said the CMC 3521 SPUR proj. is scheduled to be bid in 2026 and the SC3521 (064) project is scheduled to be bid in 2032. Tagestad said it could change depending on the Flex Funding Grant that was submitted. Tagestad said the commissioners will be meeting with D.O.T. at the Association of Counties conference, held in Bismarck October 26-28th. They will discuss the next projects to be completed. She said the chip seal project for the Balta & Selz roads are scheduled for 2026.

Todd Lysne-Rugby Fire Dept., Neil Lotvedt- City Council, Frank LaRocque-Mayor, Scott Bommersbach-Chief of Police, Josh Siegler-Pierce Co. Sheriff, and Kelsey Siegler-Pierce Co. Emergency Mgr., joined the meeting.

Darin Anderson, Division Director, & Jeni Hardy, Policy & Quality Assurance Mgr, for the State Emergency Communication Center, joined the meeting. Anderson gave the Board a presentation on the 9-1-1 services that are provided to currently 26 counties. The State Emergency Comm.Center coordinates 9-1-1 services as well as emergency medical, fire, and law enforcement response. It provides all public safety communications services for 26 counties and is the designated back-up for the other 15 public service answering points throughout the state. Statewide Comm.Services ensures necessary resources are dispatched or emergency response. Anderson said Pierce County would pay approx.. \$6800 a month plus the SORN fee of up to \$1100 a month. Anderson said it would be a 6 month transition to get up and running through their system.

As the hour of 11:00 A.M. was past, a public hearing was held on a variance requested by Scott Monson for the construction of a pole barn building within the recommended setbacks in section 10-158-71. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the variance as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Board. Motion carried.

Kelsey Siegler, Tax Director, joined the meeting. Siegler presented information on the 2026 Pierce County Soil Modifiers. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the 2026 proposed soil type modifiers, with adding testing to be at the cost of the applicant for any salinity above 6. Motion carried.

Don Jelsing, Pierce Co. Fair, joined the meeting. Jelsing thanked the commission again for the financial support of the 2025 Pierce Co. Fair and also the gravel for the fairgrounds. Jelsing said they were in need of more gravel for the fairgrounds as they are setting up the food court area and also for the ranch rodeo area. Board said they will help out with the gravel and blademan to spread it.

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 Migler and seconded by Berg to accept the following bids: Propane-Envision \$1.44/gallon; Premium diesel fuel-Envision-daily price less \$.14 cents; Gasoline-Harper Oil-daily price less \$.10 cents per gallon. Motion carried.

Frank Anderson, salesman and Brad Murphy, Sales Mgr. RDO, joined the meeting. They informed the Board that the new blade will be coming soon.

Galen J. Mack, States Atty. joined the meeting. Board asked Mack about a letter from U.S.Dept. of Interior-Bureau of Land Management. Mack recommended that they become a cooperator with BLM. Board also asked Mack about renting out an office space in the courthouse. Mack would get more details from the interested party and draw up an agreement if it works out.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Bednarz to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 P.M. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

Terry Hoffert, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

SEPTEMBER EXPENDITURES

ND CHILD SUPP \$199, NDPERS \$665.22, RUGBY AUTO PARTS \$161.99, NAPA \$198.78, NORTHERN PLAINS ELEC \$127, HACTC RES FUND \$853, CITY OF RUGBY \$2768.28, NDTA \$824.01, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$43460.22, PIERCE CO TREAS \$56.43, JP MORGAN \$1549.23, OTTER TAIL \$1311.64, NDTA \$796.29, OTTER TAIL \$7386.90, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$111816.22, PIERCE CO TREAS \$258.09, SECURITY BENEFIT \$2148.83, NATIONWIDE \$2610.25, AFLAC \$1175.73, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$86810.46, PIERCE CO TREAS \$46.34, CREDIT BUREAU \$575.29, ND CHILD SUPP \$387.60, NDPHIT \$83158.22, NDPERS \$44022.51, ND CHILD SUPP \$221.50, HACTC BILLS \$66733.34, BOHL, JOE \$152.60, MIGLER, DAVID \$239.40, RUNNINGS \$74.04, DAKOTA PAPER \$192.70, HARDWARE HANK \$262.74, DARYL'S REFRIGERATION \$240, TORMANEN, KEVIN \$42.95, LEEVERS \$15.85, STEIN'S \$231.68, CIRCLE SANITATION \$201.25, MACK LAW OFF \$388.17, CITY OF RUGBY \$653.74, PIERCE CO TREAS \$52.30, TYLER TECH \$4827.99, COLUMN \$484.38, FIRESIDE OFF SOL \$1821.82, DAKOTA BUS SOL \$503, COMPUTER STORE \$450.96, BUSINESS ESSENTIALS \$1622.90, ITD \$4186.57, SOFTWARE INNOVATIONS \$2500, CITY OF RUGBY \$2007.45, RUGBY SERV CTR \$1800.01, BRAD'S TOWING \$2493.79, QUALIFICATION TARGETS \$241.21, C & H \$200, POST BRD \$90, UNIFORM CTR \$271.97, MOTOROLA \$37431, HACTC \$4845, OFF OF ATTY GEN \$610, ANDERSON FUNERAL \$325, HAGER, DUSTIN \$200, AXTMAN, MICHAEL \$930, ISOLVED \$293.45, COMPUTER EXPR \$2900, DAKOTA DYNAMICS \$1000, TRIBUNE \$48, MATTHEW BENDER & CO \$1345.83. CHRISTENSON ELEC SERV \$2146.81, WIBE, NATALIE \$34.99, LARSON, RICK \$7500, OTTER TAIL \$234.85, PIERCE CO TREAS \$9.25, NEWMAN SIGNS \$232.40, RUGBY AUTO PARTS \$199.57, JOHN DEERE FIN \$262, HARPER OIL \$1064.25, ENVISION \$6138.58, LINDE GAS & EQUIP \$364.68, RDO \$1157.70, B & J EXCAVATING \$154447, RITTERMAN TRK \$50052.40, SUSAG SAND & GRAVEL \$2518.56, ANDERSON, LONNIE \$15700. GRAND TOTAL \$778563.16