

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

January 6, 2026

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on January 6, 2026. Chairman Bednarz called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. with members Berg, Bohl, Hoffert, and Migler present.

Chairman Bednarz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Cameron Griffin and Dylan Nygaard joined the meeting.

Moved by Hoffert and seconded by Berg to accept the December 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 Hoffert and seconded by Bohl to approve Treasurer's checks #6503-#6506, in the amount of \$772.94, for the month of December. Motion carried.

Karin Fritel, C.O.C. & Comm.Serv.Coordinator, stopped in briefly. Fritel asked the Board if a community service worker could do some painting in the county shop for the Pierce County Fair. Board said that should work.

Josh Siegler, Pierce County Sheriff, joined the meeting.

Josh Siegler, Sheriff, met and gave the Board a report for the month of December for his department. Total calls-35; Medical Calls-2; Fire Calls-1; Traffic Accidents-2; Assist Other Agencies-4; Prisoner Transports-1; Arrests-1 warrant, ; Citations-14; Papers Served-11; Warrants Served-1. Siegler informed the Board that there were no personnel changes. Board asked Siegler about the Drug Task Force. Siegler said the communication has been good and has been going well.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

Josh Siegler, Pierce County Sheriff, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for December, which was 78 (ADP). Current inmate count is 81. High of 85 for December. Bookings 38, Releases 43. Pierce County inmate population for December was 4. Profit of \$20,754.79, for the month of November. Personnel 22/24 officers, 1 new hire, 1 retirement expected in Feb. and 1 resignation effective in Feb. Siegler reported that the USMS annual on-site visit was conducted

12/22/25 and everything went well. Moved by Migler and seconded by Hoffert to approve the financial report for the month of November, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Josh Siegler, Pierce County Sheriff, went over the bills for the month of December. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler, to approve those bills previously paid and those yet unpaid were ordered paid, for the month of December, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Board reconvened at 9:05 AM, with Bednarz, Hoffert, Bohl, Berg, and Migler present.

Nygaard left the meeting.

After reviewing the county financial report for the month of December, moved by Hoffert and seconded by Bohl, to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

Griffin left the meeting.

Auditor-Treasurer-Migler, presented the Pledge of Assets from Merchants Bank, Bremer Bank, First United Bank, and First International Bank & Trust. Also reviewed, were the bank balances as of December 31, 2025 and rates that were submitted. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Berg, to accept the Pledge of Assets, as presented, and declared Merchants Bank, Bremer Bank, First United Bank and First International Bank & Trust, as depositories. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Jacob Schaan (2026-1) for tax year 2025 on the following described property Lot 4 & 5 Block 12, Balta Village. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Hoffert to approve the abatement application for tax year 2025 as Homestead Credit filed. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application submitted by Shane Engeland (2026-2) for tax year 2025 on the following described property as Outlot 625 of SE1/4SW1/4 & SW1/4SE1/4 (sec.19) 158-74. Moved by Berg and seconded by Hoffert to approve the abatement application for tax year 2025 as Veterans Credit filed. Motion carried.

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to amend the 2025 Budget as follows: Road Dist. #1 \$27,265. to \$38,932.40; Road Dist. #2 \$23,535. to \$32,437.20.; Road Dist. #6 \$26,766.32. to \$37,194.40; Road Dist. #7 \$26,565.07 to \$38,075; Road Dist. #12 \$31,045. to \$49,372.40; Road Dist. #26 \$32,000. to \$44,252.45; Opiod Settlement to \$6,571.50; and Vet Service \$10,779.40 to \$10,873.61 Motion carried.

Jesse Brandvold, Wold Engineering, joined the meeting. Brandvold presented preliminary plans for the chip seal project for the County-Proj.CP-3500 (025) 11.5 miles. This will be bid in March and the project will be done in 2026.

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

Guy Larson & Lincoln Larson, joined the meeting. They presented the Board with more information on Hurricane Lake WPA and how it is listed on recreation.gov and is listed as a National Wildlife Park. All

this information was to prove that the hog farm should not be able to build where it is proposed. They were asking the Board to rescind their decision from the November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 hearing. Mack said the first step is determining if the water is available, which is being studied. Mack suggested that they present their new information about Hurricane Lake to the State DEQ Dept. and find out when the State will have their hearing on this project.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Berg to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 A.M. Motion carried.

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Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer  
Pierce County, North Dakota

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David Bednarz, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PIERCE COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JANUARY 21, 2026

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in special session on January 21, 2026. Board member Migler called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M., at the Memorial Hall, with members Chairman Bednarz, members Berg, Hoffert, & Bohl present. Also present were township officers from all the organized townships, except Meyer, Torgerson, & Tuscarora Townships. And present were blade operators Paul Zeien and Rodney Wangler. Also present were Dale Schmitz with NDTOA and Blaine Schmaltz, Rebecca Leier, ND Community Alliance & Mirek Petrovic with the ND High Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Council.

Handouts were given to all the townships present, on the costs of the shops, blades, and motorgrader operators.

Migler introduced Dale Schmitz with NDTOA and Blaine Schmaltz, Rebecca Leier, ND Community Alliance & Mirek Petrovic with the ND High Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Council.

Blaine Schmaltz explained that about 10 years ago the Dept. of Energy was doing a bore hole study for the purpose of storing nuclear waste. Now that there are more data centers being built, there is a need to get rid of nuclear waste, as they are pursuing SMR technology, which is using small mobile reactors. Schmaltz said we will have to deal with this issue again. Petrovic said this last legislative session there were bills that lowered the threshold to bringing the waste in. He said there are still general prohibitions but that doesn't work with the Federal Govt. Schmaltz said himself and Leier are on the ND Community Alliance and Petrovic is on the State Board High Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Council as a watchdog. Leier said they are not against nuclear technology but oppose the storage of high level radioactive waste in ND. Leier said the big companies are trying to find a place to store their waste. She

said New Mexico and Texas have rejected them from storage in their states. Leier said they wanted to make all of the townships aware of this and to be proactive with getting their zoning laws in order and making it harder for these companies to come in. Bill Deck said why would we want that. Migler said it is going to be a battle. Leier said they will keep the county and townships informed as this issue unfolds.

Dale Schmitz, State President of the NDTOA spoke next. Schmitz was the former Dist. 2 Director for the ND Township Officers Association. Schmitz said they are in need of a replacement for this area. Schmitz said there will be 16 workshops around the State in February. He encouraged the township officers to attend the workshops in the area: Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> in Minot, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> in Devils Lake, and Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> in Fessenden.

Culverts- Migler said to get it approved by the commission first if you will need one.

Spraying-Migler said they may go with a different route. Schmitz said Wells County provides the townships with chemical and then they have to find a commercial certified sprayer to apply it. Migler said they are going to advertise and go from there.

Cutting road ditches- Migler reminded the townships that the deadline for cutting road ditches is October 1<sup>st</sup>. If not cut, the county will do the cutting and the \$300. per mile fee, which will be added to the land owner's taxes.

Fences & markers- Migler reminded the townships that were present, that land owners need to make sure they aren't farming in road right of way. The county has to sign a letter each year to NDDOT stating that they are following all the guidelines for Federal funding. He said there would be a \$500. fine if they are farming in the right of way. Letters would be sent.

Township agreement per mile for maintaining roads, is currently \$250. per certified mile. Migler said that by looking at the costs on the handouts, they could see how much costs continue to be for the motorgrader, fuel, parts, etc., but added that for this year it will remain at \$250 per certified mile as fuel is down and the overtime hours are down.

Migler said the chip seal project is scheduled for this year. They are planning on doing all three roads, the Selz road, Balta Road and Hawk Museum Road. He said the cost is roughly \$44,000. per mile. Migler said they have applied for the Flex Transportation funding for the other two projects planned to be bid next year, the project by Gooseneck South & West to Hwy. 3 and the project N of Wolford. He said any Flex Funding received would be beneficial if they could get it.

Building permits-Migler reminded the townships to call Karla Harmel, Zoning Administrator, and get permits if they have any plans to do any building. Migler also asked the townships if they could come to the courthouse for their equalization meetings to make it easier for the new tax director, Karla Harmel.

There being no further business, moved by Hoffert and seconded by Bohl to adjourn the meeting at 2:08 PM. Motion carried.

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Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer  
Pierce County, North Dakota

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David Bednarz, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

## DECEMBER EXPENDITURES

NDPERS \$657.82, ND CHILD SUPP \$108, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$39441.22, PIERCE CO TREAS \$13.02, RUGBY GOLF CLUB \$200, GOLDADE, JOE \$300, NDTC \$802, HACTC BILLS \$21101.52, JP MORGAN \$4081.70, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$90593.21, PIERCE CO TREAS \$36.91, ND CHILD SUPP \$387.60, CREDIT BUREAU \$420.16, MESSERLI KRAMER \$682.10, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$107231.13, PIERCE CO TREAS \$250.14, AFLAC \$1175.73, SECURITY BENEFIT \$2148.83, NATIONWIDE \$2404.25, TORMANENM KEVIN \$15, ATKINSON, STACEY \$19, OTTER TAIL \$9575.77, NORTHERN PLAINS \$141, NDTC \$1007.33, COLUMN \$53.82, ITD \$4186.83, TAYLOR PRINT \$248.49, WIBE, NATALIE \$33.70, LEEVERS \$834.03, AM LEGION \$338.50, WANGLER, CRYSTAL \$50, INTOXIMETERS \$250, SIEGLER, KELSEY \$2000, COMPUTER EXPRESS \$1450, ISOLVED\$293.45, TEEN TRUTH \$2375, ZEIEN, PAUL \$214.90, RUGBY AUTO PARTS \$50.17, JOHNSON PLUMBING \$625.90, RDO \$4395.71, WIBE, NATALIE \$131.18, PIERCE CO TREAS \$480, MCGUIRE'S \$30,470, RDO \$7125, NDPHIT \$97821.07, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$40810.23, PIERCE CO TREAS \$14.03, NDPERS \$30667.13, HACTC BILLS \$31741.82, ND CO COMM ASSOC \$1725, FREY, JOSHUA E. \$2447.50, MACK LAW OFFICE \$383.70, ND CO REC ASSOC \$500, PIERCE CO TREAS \$39.06, SOFTWARE INNOVATIONS \$750, GWORKS \$3032, CIRCLE SANITATION \$201.25, CITY OF RUGBY \$665.60, THOMPSON FLR COV \$75, HARDWARE HANK \$231.33, RUNNINGS \$42.98, LEEVERS \$8.98, RUGBY WELDING \$43, ENVISION \$518.66, NCP \$632, COLUMN \$45.24, FIRESIDE \$944.40, QUADIENT \$2000, NDACO \$7000, NACO \$450, CITY OF RUGBY \$1733.62, BRAD'S TOWING \$1280, RUGBY SERV CTR \$1587.90, COMPUTER EXPRESS \$4744, PEACE GARDEN OFFCERS \$70, HACTC \$3904.96, OFF OF ATTY GEN \$310, SIEGLER, KELSEY \$2000, DAKOTA DYNAMICS \$1000, MATTHEW BENDER \$631.24, RUGBY BROADCASTERS \$40, NACVSO \$65, BLOOM \$271, NDSU EXT \$40, WIBE, NATALIE \$317.66, ZEIEN, PAUL \$83.30, NDDOT \$689.19, ENVISION \$4976.96, OTTER TAIL \$228.39, LINDE GAS \$549.07, JD FINANCIAL \$282.24, BUTLER \$2595.95, HACTC RES FUND \$801.50, CITY OF RUGBY \$2495.25, BOHL, JOE \$137.20, MIGLER, DAVID \$141.40, TRITECH \$9299.33. GRAND TOTAL \$601,465.26