

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

August 4, 2026

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on August 4, 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 Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Bohl and seconded by Hoffert 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 Hoffert and seconded by Migler to approve Treasurer's checks #6541-#6546, in the amount of \$365.00, for the month of July. Motion carried.

After reviewing the financial report, moved by Bohl and seconded by Berg to accept the financial report for the month of July. 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 July for his department. Total calls-55; Medical Calls-2; Fire Calls-0; Traffic Accidents-4; Assist Other Agencies-10; Prisoner Transports-2; Arrests- 3 (2-Warrants, 1 DUI); Citations-15; Papers Served-14; Warrants Served-2. Siegler reported no personnel changes for the Sheriff Dept., but one resignation in dispatch.

Board recessed to sit on the HACTC Board.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, went over the bills for the month of July. Graner pointed out the bill for Shining Light, for \$40,000., which is a (4) 13 week course, that will be reimbursed through a grant. Moved by Migler and seconded by Bohl to approve those bills previously paid and those yet unpaid were ordered paid, for the month of July, for the HACTC. Motion carried.

Mike Graner, Jail Administrator, HACTC, gave the Board a report on the inmate population at the jail facility for July, which was 80 (ADP). Current inmate count is 84. High of 88 for July. Bookings 42, Releases 31. Pierce County inmate population for July was 6. Deficit of \$19,261.12, for the month of June. Personnel 21/24 officers. 1 resignation, 1 new hire to begin August 10th & 1 retirement Aug.28th. Graner informed the board that July revenue was trending in the right direction. Moved by Berg and

seconded by Hoffert to approve the financial report for the month of June, for the HACTC. All in favor, motion carried.

Board reconvened at 9:20 A.M., with all members present.

Tonia Dosch and Sara Radomski, with Rugby Park Board, joined the meeting. Dosch explained the safety concerns they have where the Golf Course Road adjoins the walking path. Dosch said they would like to see a barrier along the path or cones placed in the asphalt, similar to the ones they have by the Devils Lake walking path. Dosch said some vehicles are pulling over onto the walking path and that should not be happening. Dosch said these cones could be kept up in the winter and summer. Dosch said they could do a cost share with the County. Bednarz said he would talk to someone at City Hall in Devils Lake and get the information on where to get the cones.

Karla Harmel, Tax Director & Zoning Administrator briefly stopped by. Harmel asked the Board if they would approve the new \$500. fee for Subdivision Plats, that was approved by Planning & Zoning. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Berg to approve a \$500. fee for Subdivision Plats. Motion carried.

Board reviewed abatement application on parcel #05747000, for tax year 2025 (2026-7) on the following described property as W1/2NE1/4, Lots 4 & 5 sec.12 152 N 72 W submitted by Lance Alexander to lower the true & full value from \$240,078 to \$41,984. Moved by Migler and seconded by Hoffert to approve the application for abatement as recommended by the Tax Director, as it qualifies for Farm Residence Exemption. Motion carried.

Board reviewed a proposal submitted by the US Board on Geographic Names to apply the name "Edmund Lake" to a lake located in Alexanter Township, Pierce County, ND. Board was in agreement that it would be acceptable.

Board discussed the 2027 budget. After discussion, Board instructed Auditor Migler to figure out a 1 step plus 2 percent & paying an additional 1% for NDPERS.

There being no further business to transact, moved by Bohl and seconded by Berg to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 AM. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

David Bednarz, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

The Pierce County Board of County Commissioners met in special session on August 10, 2026. Chairman Bednarz called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M., with members Bohl, Migler, & Hoffert present. Berg absent. Also, present were Jesse Brandvold & Jessica Tagestad, Wold Engineering, Steve Jacobson, B & J Excavating, Kyle Bruers, Knife River Materials, and Gerald Bohl, Rush Lake Township.

Chairman Bednarz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jesse Brandvold and Jessica Tagestad, Wold Engineering, opened the bids for the Rush Lake Township Project FXTA-0035 (008), PCN 24885 – Widening, Riprap, & Aggregate Surfacing. All bids were in order, bids received were Knife River Materials for \$771,053.70; B & J Excavating for \$673,248.; and Ritterman Trucking for \$474,240.48. Wold Engineering verified the totals.

Moved by Joe Bohl to accept the low bid of \$474,240.48 for the project, seconded by Hoffert. Motion carried.

Brandvold said the start date would be September 15, 2026.

Board briefly discussed the 2027 budget. Moved by Bohl and seconded by Migler to approve the preliminary budget for 2027. Motion carried. Budget hearing will be held on October 6, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

Board briefly discussed the dispatch and going with State Radio. They ordered Bednarz to contact State Radio and get on the list. Board will discuss further at the next regular meeting.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bohl to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 AM, seconded by Hoffert. Motion carried.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

David Bednarz, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

NDACo/NDCCA COUNTY TOUR 2026

Pierce County

Pierce County Courthouse

August 12, 2026

10:00 A.M.

Present: Chairman, David Bednarz, Commissioners: Joel Berg, Joe Bohl, Terry Hoffert, & David Migler.

States Atty, Galen J. Mack; Auditor, Karen Migler; Sheriff, Josh Siegler; HACTC Administrator, Mike Graner. NDACo: Executive Director, Aaron Birst, Donnell Preskey-NDACo, Dwight Driscoll-NRG, & Tracey Dolezal-NDCCA Board.

Discussion was held on the 3% cap on property tax. Birst agreed that it is harder for the smaller counties as they don't have oil and no sales tax base. Hoffert said we have tried to keep taxes as low as we could. Migler said organized townships had to raise their mills in order to get the Flex Funding. Birst said 90% of the Legislators think caps aren't right, but felt they probably won't go away until we all feel the pain with less services. Right now they feel it's working, until county's reserves get depleted and they have to make cuts.

Migler brought up the nuclear waste topic. Birst said that will be discussed at the next session. Mack said there are four states that are willing to accept the nuclear waste, UT, LA, TN being among them.

Discussion was held on data centers. Birst said there will be two sessions on that in October at the County Convention. Birst said some commissioners are getting threatened and losing their jobs in some counties, as some residents are against them. Birst said they bring in good revenue and produce jobs. Mack said water is an issue. Birst said the newer ones used closed loops which doesn't use as much. They agreed that putting on a moratorium is a good idea until we get more information on them. Birst said they wrote up a basic plan for planning & zoning for counties to follow. It's a starting point.

Discussion was held on county jails. Graner talked of the struggle with keeping employees. He said our salaries are behind but we are doing our best. He said 8 out of 22 are not certified. Graner said hopefully something will get done next session so that jails will be exempt from the 3% cap. Dolezal said the DOCR is transferring some of their inmates to the counties. Graner said we are benefitting from that. He said of the 86 inmates in house, 44 are from the DOCR and 25 from the USMS. Preskey asked what will it do to your county when they build. Mack said we had a contract with the state for about 30 on the treatment side, then they took that away, now it is strictly housing and not treatment. Birst said in the next legislative session they will talk about a jail improvement fund, where counties could apply. He said another option would be to get public safety out of the 3% caps. Hoffert said it would make more sense to help fund these small jails instead of building new ones. Birst said housing juveniles is getting harder too, they're only being housed in the bigger counties at \$500. a day. Mack said mental health is getting to be an issue. He said we call all around and no one has openings. So, sometimes they have to spend the night in jail. He said the State needs to help.

Bednarz asked Birst about the dispatch and going to State Radio. Birst said it is saving counties money. He said State Radio dispatches for 28 counties now. Preskey said some counties do local dispatching in the day and go with State Radio at night.

Migler asked about school funding. He said schools are struggling and the State has extra funds. Birst said they are looking at taking some of the school mills, it will be discussed next session.

Birst encouraged the commissioners & department heads to attend the county convention to be held October 11th – 13th, in Bismarck.

Adjourned at 11:25 A.M.

A tour was taken of the County Courthouse.

Karen Migler, Auditor-Treasurer
Pierce County, North Dakota

David Bednarz, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

JULY EXPENDITURES

ND PERS \$645.40, ND CHILD SUPP \$78.50, ND STATE TREAS \$1053.31, JOB SERVICE \$642.28, JP MORGAN \$2850.49, PIERCE CO PAYROLL ACCT \$50536.14, PIERCE CO TREAS \$99.61, NDTC \$1641.45, OTTER TAIL \$9451.82, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$114977.89, PIERCE CO TREAS \$248.40, AFLAC \$1339.58, SECURITY BENEFIT \$2202.93, NATIONWIDE \$2631.22, PIERCE CO PAYROLL \$85777.61, PIERCE CO TREAS \$40.28, ND CHILD SUPP \$421.20, NDPHIT \$86715.52, HACTC BILLS \$80941.70, CITY OF RUGBY \$2068.29, NDPERS \$33770.11, HACTC RES FUND \$903, BOHL, JOE \$133.76, MIGLER, DAVID \$174.80, MIGLER, KAREN \$250, MACK LAW OFF \$603.16, PIERCE CO TREAS \$82.49, COMPUTER STORE \$3695, HARDWARE HANK \$206.29, TECTA AM DAK \$691.92, RUNNINGS \$176.85, B & M LAUNDRY \$68.47, LEEVERS \$15.07, SCHOCK'S \$180, DACOTAH PAPER \$192.70, CIRCLE SANI \$207.25, CITY OF RUGBY \$713.14, NCP \$68.50, COLUMN \$741.05, TRIBUNE \$1015.32, VANGUARD \$800, QUADIENT FINANCE \$500.05, QUADIENT LEASING \$1154.07, SOFTWARE INNOVATIONS \$4600, ITD \$5449.78, STATE AUDITOR \$18238.50, CITY OF RUGBY \$4755.81, HACTC \$6430.83, BOTTINEAU CO SHERIFF \$495, RUGBY SERV CTR \$2137.40, BRAD'S TOWING \$449, JERALD BOHL GUNS \$830, SIEGLER, KELSEY \$2000, AXTMAN, MICHAEL \$620, COMPUTER EXPRESS \$1550, DAKOTA DYNAMICS \$1000, ISOLVED \$293.45, THE VILLAGE \$2000, OFF OF ADJ GEN \$120, WIBE, NATALIE \$874.31, OTTER TAIL \$242.32, ZEIEN, JOSH \$101.84, LYSNE, DAREN \$60.18, ZEIEN, PAUL \$268.94, DAKOTA FIRE EXT \$207.60, HE EVERSON \$53.89, ENVISION \$13163.20, LINDE GAS \$187.65, SELZ WATER \$510, SUSAG \$7236.40, RDO \$540.36, HONSEY \$2000, ELECTRONIC COMM \$1050 GRAND TOTAL \$568174.30