

# Pierce County Board Minutes



## COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

November 1, 2021

The Pierce County Board of Commissioners met pursuant to adjournment on Monday, November 1, 2021, at 9:10 A.M. with the following members present: Tom Kuether, Jim Schmit and Terry J. Wragge. Co. Clerk Shannon Wragge, Co. Attorney Ted Lohrberg, Aaron Zimmerman and News Reporter Randee Falter were present.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance as shown by the Certificate of Publication on file in the County Clerk's office. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice of the meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public. Chairman Wragge called the meeting to order at 9:11 A.M. and presided. Chairman Wragge stated that the Open Meetings Act is posted on the north wall of the board room with more copies available at the County Clerk's office.

Motion by Kuether, seconded by Schmit, to approve the agenda. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The minutes of October 18, 2021 were approved as printed.

Discussion was held on problem roads and bridges.

Discussion was held on the Randolph Bridge Project and the monetary and machinery support of the project. Randolph City is asking the County Boards from both Cedar and Pierce to financially help replace and widen the structure for removal from the 1977 Flood Plain Map at a cost to each county of \$120,000.00. Pierce County gave \$75,000 to the project in 2018, but Randolph City is asking for \$120,000 from each county. No decision was made.

Aaron Zimmerman visited with the Board about problem roads in his area. Zimmerman asked Commissioner Wragge to help with building up the base with rock and maintaining the road around his residence/farm west of Pierce. Wragge will look at road.

City Adm. Chad Anderson and Co. Attorney Ted Lohrberg visited with the Board about Lohrberg acting as Pierce City Attorney as Verlyn Luebke will be retiring from that position the end November. Board unanimously agreed that Lohrberg may act as Pierce City Attorney from the County Attorney office. An agreement will be drawn up and approved at later board meeting.

Motion by Wragge, seconded by Schmit, to approve the Michael C. Krueger's Lot Split in pt SW ¼ NW ¼ of Section 18, Township 26 North, Range 2 West, Pierce County, NE. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Kuether, seconded by Wragge, to approve and authorize Chairman to sign Pay Application #4 for \$129,508.86 for the Foster NW and Pierce NE-JEO Projects #190704 & 200261 with Theisen Construction Inc., Norfolk, NE. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

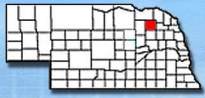
Motion by Schmit, seconded by Kuether, to approve Kelly Hodson, Julie Newman and Robert Wehrer to another 4-year term (January 2022-January 2026) and to appoint Jean Bierschenk, Randolph, to replace retiree Bob Baird with Bierschens term to expire in January 2024, all for the Pierce County Visitors Bureau Board. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

PCED Susan Norris was present and gave the Board an update as to what she has been working on.

County Treasurer Christine Bahr was present and discussion was held on the Certification of Distress Warrants that have been delivered to the County Sheriff. After Distress Warrants are delivered to the Sheriff, the Sheriff then has 9 months or until August 1<sup>st</sup> to submit a report to the County Board for the amount collected and/or uncollected.

Motion by Wragge, seconded by Kuether, to approve the Notice that Distress Warrants were delivered to the Pierce County Sheriff on Monday, November 1, 2021. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the upgrading of the fire alarm system in courthouse due to problems with the 1988 system. Protex Central, Hastings, NE, has always done the repairs and system checks on the system. Two new panels will be replaced in the next couple of weeks at a cost of \$4,176.99 by Protex Central but the fire



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alarms throughout the courthouse need replaced at an approximate cost of now \$55,000, which includes approximately \$20,000 for installation. Model Electric submitted an amount to Protex Central to do the installing at approximately \$75,000. Commissioner Kuether was going to check with another local electrician on the installation to bring costs down. No decision was made.

Discussion was held on the roof. Troy Pospisil with Northeast Nebraska Energy Systems Inc, Norfolk, NE, had submitted a bid to the County Board for hail damage on the courthouse roof. The east side was sprayed with a foam sealant in August 2020 and has a 25-year warranty. To replace the foam on the east area it is a cost of \$56,241.07. A cost to repair and foam the west side is an additional cost of \$75,508.14. County is still discussing with NIRMA on the coverage of roof. No decision was made.

Discussion was held on the Coronavirus American Rescue Plan Act Federal Funds received from the US Treasury and the using of those funds to implement the statewide radio system countywide so all areas of Pierce County would benefit. The ARPA Committee would like to engage Lutz & Co. from Hastings, NE, for assistance in reporting and spending of these funds.

Motion by Schmit, seconded by Kuether, to authorize and approve the Chairman to sign the Contract/Engagement Letter with Lutz & Co., Hastings, NE, for ARPA assistance. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the updating of the 2016 LEOP (Local Emergency Operation Plan) Manual for Pierce County.

Motion by Wragge, seconded by Schmit, to approve the updated 2021 LEOP (Local Emergency Operation Plan) Manual for Pierce County and Approve Resolution 2021-41 as follows:

## RESOLUTION 2021-41

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of Pierce County, Nebraska, pursuant to Nebraska Statute, is vested with the authority of administering the affairs of Pierce County, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a Pierce County Local Emergency Operations Plan has been developed in order to provide for a coordinated response to a disaster or emergency in Pierce County, the City of Pierce and other cities and villages in Pierce County; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of Pierce County, deems it advisable and in the best interest of Pierce County to approve said Local Emergency Operations Plan;

WHEREAS, the acceptance of this 2021 Local Emergency Operations Plan supersedes all previous approved Pierce County Local Emergency Operations Plans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of Pierce County, Nebraska, that the Pierce County Local Emergency Operations Plan be, and hereby is, approved.

ADOPTED at Pierce, Nebraska this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2021.

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Terry J. Wragge, Chairman

/s/ Tom Kuether, District #1 Commissioner

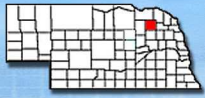
/s/ Jim Schmit, District #2 Commissioner

ATTEST: /s/ Shannon Wragge, Pierce County Clerk

Whereas the original for said resolution is on file at the office of the Pierce County Clerk and available for inspection. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the National Opioid Litigation Settlement Agreement and whether to join on to the settlement with other NE counties and political subdivisions. No decision was made.

Deputy Co. Clerk Susan Peters and Sheriff Rick Eberhardt visited with the Board about the high medical bills due to a prisoner falling in the jail shower in summer of 2021. Eberhardt and Peters are concerned the jail budget may go overbudget because of the high medical bills. Board unanimously agreed payments for bills for the jail could come from the Inheritance Fund if jail budget gets close to going over.



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Discussion held on the December NACO convention in Kearney.

Co. Attorney Ted Lohrberg visited with the Board about the STOP Program Fund and plans to spend the money on per state statute.

Motion by Wragge, seconded by Kuether, to audit and allow the following claims presented for payment and instructed the County Clerk to issue checks for payment of same on the various funds. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

**GENERAL FUND:** Black Hills Energy-service-\$37.51; Comfort Inn-lodging-\$299.85; Comfort Inn & Suites-lodging-\$267.00; Eakes Office-supplies-\$271.82; Egley, Fullner, Montag, Morland & Easland-court appointed attorney-\$179.96; Elite Office Products-maintenance & agreements-\$591.19; Fairfield Inn-lodging-\$299.84; Farm & Home Publishers-plat books-\$420.00; Ann Fenton-reimb. supplies-\$90.47; First Concord Benefits Group-fees-\$2.50; Hausmann Physical Therapy-prisoner medical-\$85.00; Holiday Inn-lodging-\$284.85; Hometown Auto Repair-repairs-\$169.55; Johnson's Inc-repairs-\$94.00; Ted Lohrberg-reimbursed mileage & meals-\$206.14; Midwest Bank-co share-\$4,018.48; MIPS-software & support-\$2,635.54; NE Health & Human Services-Sept. boarding-\$180.00; One Source-office supplies-\$11.68; Pierce Co. District Court-court costs-\$72.00; Pierce Pharmacy-prisoner meds-\$91.21; Pierce City-utilities-\$2,234.99; Plainview News Inc-ads-\$708.28; Premier Estates of Pierce-prisoner meals-\$3,240.00; Prime Stop-gas-\$73.59; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas Life Ins. Corp-co. share-\$3,742.10; Brett Rix-reimbursed mileage-\$225.68; State of NE-network charges-\$448.00; Tiger Town Food Center-prisoner food-\$629.23; Shannon Wragge-reimbursed mileage & meals-\$639.42; Payroll-\$56,162.16.

**COUNTY HIGHWAY FUND:** B's Enterprises Inc-blades & signs-\$21,326.00; Bazile Aggregate Co LLC-gravel-\$3,825.36; Bomgaars-supplies-\$248.41; Century Link-service-\$79.13; Elite Diesel & Automotive Repair LLC-repairs-\$871.18; J & J Materials-crushed concrete & gravel-\$166,318.25; Jerry's Hilltop-gas-\$48.01; Meisinger Oil Co-oil-\$2,181.75; Menards-supplies-\$89.80; Midwest Bank-co share-\$2,127.41; NE Power-utilities-\$213.00; Osmond Farm Supply-diesel-\$2,579.50; Pierce City-utilities-\$178.49; Plainview News-ads-\$84.00; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas Life Ins. Corp-co. share-\$1,860.76; Safety-Kleen-service-\$276.58; Theisen Construction Inc-Foster NW & Pierce NE projects-\$129,508.86; Wattier True Value-supplies-\$11.99; Payroll-\$28,960.55.

**PIERCE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND:** Midwest Bank, NA-co share-\$89.68; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas Life Ins. Corp-co. share-\$117.66; Payroll-\$1,743.08.

**E911 FUND:** AT & T-service-\$46.70; CenturyLink-service-\$42.38.

**E911 WIRELESS FUND:** CenturyLink-service-\$283.61.

**VISITOR PROMO FUND:** Pfanny's Farm-grants-\$500.00; Pierce Chamber of Commerce-grants-\$1,000.00; Pierce Co Threshing Bee-grants-\$500.00; St John's Lutheran Church-grants-\$200.00.

**VISITOR IMPROVEMENT FUND:** Down Memory Lane-grants-\$2,500.00; Pfanny's Farm-grants-\$500.00; Pierce County Ag Society-grants-\$1,000.00; Pierce Historical Society-grants-\$1,000.00; Plainview Klown Doll Museum-grants-\$985.88.

**REGISTER OF DEEDS:** MIPS-computer support-\$336.12.

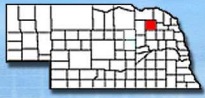
**GRANTS FUND:** Five Rule-comprehensive plan-\$11,202.00.

The County Board did the courthouse and jail inspection and all three returned.

There being no further business, Chairman Wragge adjourned the meeting at 11:09 A.M. and will meet again at a regular meeting on Monday, November 15, 2021 at 9:10 A.M. as County Board of Commissioners, said meeting is open to the public. An agenda for such meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk.

/s/ Terry J. Wragge  
Chairman, Pierce County  
Board of Commissioners

/s/ Shannon Wragge  
Pierce County Clerk



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I, Shannon Wragge, Pierce County Clerk, do hereby certify that all the subjects contained in the foregoing proceedings are contained in the agenda for the meeting kept continuously current and available for public inspection at my office; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least 24 hours prior to the meeting; that the minutes of said meeting were in written form and available for public inspection within 10 working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that any news media requesting notification concerning said meetings or said County Board were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meetings and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

/s/ Shannon Wragge  
Pierce County Clerk

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