

# Pierce County Board Minutes



## COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

January 10, 2022

The Pierce County Board of Commissioners met pursuant to adjournment on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 9:10 A.M. with the following members present: Tom Kuether, Jim Schmit and Terry J. Wragge. Co. Clerk Shannon Wragge, Clerk of District Court Vickie Prince, Co. Sheriff Rick Eberhardt, Co. Assessor Jean Lubke, Co. Treasurer Christine Bahr, Co. Attorney Ted Lohrberg, Ext. Agent Ann Fenton, Ext. Agent Amanda Kowalewski, Weed Supt. Brad Albers, Chad Anderson, Josh Sirek, Emergency Manager Bobbi Risor, PCED Susan Norris 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 9:10 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 Schmit, seconded by Kuether, to approve the agenda. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The minutes of December 27, 2021 were approved as printed.

Extension Agents Ann Fenton and Amanda Kowalewski were present to update the Co. Board, present the 2021 Annual Report and asked for the approval for the appointment of BJ Koeppel and Nan Kment to the extension board for a 3-year term of 2022 thru 2024.

Motion by Wragge, seconded by Kuether, to approve the appointment of Nan Kment and reappointment of BJ Koeppel to the extension board, both for a 3 term from 2022 thru 2024. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Pierce County Economic Development Director Susan Norris and President Josh Sirek were present to update the Board on the happenings with PCED in 2021 and present them with the 2021 Annual Report.

The approval of the County Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report was discussed.

Motion by Wragge, seconded by Schmit, to approve the Pierce County Treasurer's Semi-Annual Statement as presented by the County Treasurer. Whereas the original 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.

Co. Sheriff Rick Eberhardt, Co. Attorney Ted Lohrberg, Co. Treasurer Christine Bahr, Clerk of District Court Vickie Prince and Co. Assessor Jean Lubke were present and discussion was held on the setting of 2023-2026 salaries for elected county officials.

Motion by Kuether, seconded by Schmit, to approve Resolution #2022-1

### RESOLUTION #2022 - 1

#### PIERCE COUNTY, NEBRASKA

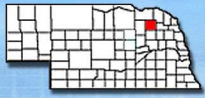
WHEREAS, Section 23-1114 Nebraska Revised Statutes, requires the County Board to set the salaries of all elected county officials for the following four-year term of office prior to January 15 of the year in which a general election will be held for the respective county offices; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Association of County Officials did a salary study and published "2023-2026 Salary Recommendations for County Officials" in October of 2021; and

WHEREAS, said NACO salary study set a minimum base salary of elected officials, in Pierce County, to be between \$56,400 and \$78,500 for the year of 2023 with annual increases for the years 2024, 2025, and 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Pierce County Board of Commissioners has carefully considered and analyzed the responsibilities and duties of the various elective offices, the Nebraska Association of County Officials' salary study, and salaries of comparable positions in other governmental sectors; and

WHEREAS, said salary study states that the minimum base salary recommendation should be the least amount acceptable to provide a livable income for a person maintaining the duties of the county office; and



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WHEREAS, all elected county officials shall be included on an equal basis with other County Employees as to the provisions and benefits of any group insurance, retirement, life insurance or any other benefits adopted by the County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, 2022 is an election year in which elective county offices are to be filled pursuant to the election process by virtue of primary elections held in May of 2022 and general elections held in November of 2022, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pierce County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes the following base salaries for the various elective offices for the term beginning January, 2023:

Board of Commissioners (60% of base pay of \$65,500.00)	\$39,000.00
County Clerk/Register of Deeds/Election Commissioner	\$65,000.00
County Treasurer	\$65,000.00
County Assessor	\$65,000.00
Clerk of District Court	\$65,000.00
County Sheriff	\$65,000.00
County Attorney	\$65,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED those elected officials in each of the above offices shall be given an annual salary increases in the amounts of \$2,600.00 for 2024, \$2,700.00 for 2025 and \$2,800.00 for 2026 which shall be added to the previous year's salary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in addition to the above stated base salary, the County Sheriff shall receive \$700.00 per month or \$8,400.00 per annum for the operation of the County Jail, with an additional annual increase of \$250.00 per annum for 2024, 2025 and 2026, which shall be added to the previous year's increase, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in addition to the above stated base salary, the County Attorney shall receive \$516.67 per month or \$6,200.00 per annum for specialized training and continuing legal education with an additional annual increase of \$200.00 per annum for 2024, 2025 and 2026, which shall be added to the previous year's increase, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the salaries for the appointed deputies of the County Attorney, Clerk of District Court, County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Assessor, Clerk of District Court and County Sheriff shall be set at a minimum of 65% of the County Official's base salary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in addition to the above stated salary adjustments, each elected official shall be enrolled in and receive the benefits of the County Employees' Retirement System as set forth by Section 23-2301 et seq. Nebraska Revised Statutes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in addition to the above stated salary adjustments, each elected official shall receive, during his or her term of office, the benefits of the same health, dental and medical group insurance plan which is offered to all county employees, subject to the same terms, conditions, and contributions and subject to any modifications of such plan made during the term of office.

Adopted, Passed and Approved at Pierce, Nebraska the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Terry J. Wragge, Chairman

/s/ Tom Kuether, District #1 Commissioner

/s/ Jim Schmit, District #2 Commissioner

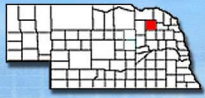
ATTEST: /s/ Shannon Wragge, Pierce County Clerk

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 and Schmit. Nay: Wragge. Motion carried.

Motion by Wragge, seconded by Schmit, to approve Resolution #2022-2 as follows:

## RESOLUTION # 2022 - 2

WHEREAS, due to Sections 13-315 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, the 2021-2022 Budget includes a transfer of funds from General to Pierce County Economic Development Fund, and



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WHEREAS, the 2021-2022 County Budget was balanced by a fund transfer of from the General Fund (0100) to the Pierce County Economic Development Fund (2606) for wages and benefits for the PCED Director,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Pierce County Board of Commissioners that the Pierce County Clerk is directed to transfer the following funds thru the claim process as follows for wages and benefits for the PCED Director for October 2021 thru December 2021:

General Fund (0100)	\$11,199.12	to
Pierce County Economic Development Fund (2606)	<u>\$11,199.12</u>	
Total	\$11,199.12	

of the Property Taxes collected by the General Fund to above list. Disregard any previous resolutions on transfers.

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022

## PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Terry J. Wragge, Board Chairman

/s/ Jim Schmit, District #2 Commissioner

/s/ Tom Kuether, District #1 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 bid quotes received to replace the fire alarm system in the courthouse/jail that has not been updated since the 80's. For a Potter PSN-1000E fire alarm system head end equipment the cost is \$20,733.72 (equipment only) from Protex Central, Hastings, and for the installation of the system a bid quote was received from Model Electric, Norfolk, at a cost of \$74,370.00 and from Jenkins Electric, Pierce, at a cost of \$35,362.00.

Motion by Wragge, seconded by Kuether, to accept and approve the bid quotes received from Protex Central, Hastings, for a Potter PSN-1000E fire alarm system head end equipment at the cost of \$20,733.72 (equipment only) and for the installation of the system the bid quote from Jenkins Electric, Pierce, at a cost of \$35,362.00. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Synovec Replat in pt of the SE ¼ 5-25-2.

Motion by Schmit, seconded by Kuether, to approve the Synovec Replat in pt SE ¼ Section 5, T25N, R2W, Pierce County, NE. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on using the unused law library for office space.

Motion by Wragge, seconded by Schmit, to authorize the Clerk to get bid quotes for the updating/remodeling of the unused law library for office space. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schmit, seconded by Wragge, to approve the SDL for Kay Hunt dba Charlies for an event at the Pierce Pavilion on Saturday, March 12, 2022 from 3pm to 1am. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

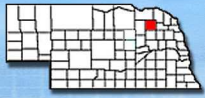
Motion by Wragge, seconded by Schmit, to authorize the Chairman to sign the Annual Weed Report for 2021. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the appointed boards for 2022 for the Pierce County Board Members.

This being the organizational meeting of the County Board, Chairman Terry J. Wragge called for nominations or a motion for Chairman for 2022 for County Board of Commissioners' and County Board of Equalization.

Motion by Schmit, seconded by Kuether, to nominate Terry J. Wragge, as Chairman of the Pierce County Board of Commissioners for 2022. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Wragge presided.



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Motion by Schmit, seconded by Wragge, to nominate Tom Kuether as Chairman of the Pierce County Board of Equalization for 2022. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schmit, seconded by Wragge, to approve and appoint the following Boards: Wragge with Kuether as alternate to the Northeast Nebraska Area Agency of Aging Board; to appoint Schmit with Wragge as alternate to Region IV Mental Health Board; to appoint Kuether with Schmit as alternate to North Star; to appoint Kuether with Schmit as alternate to Goldenrod Joint Housing Authority; to appoint Wragge with Schmit as alternate to Juvenile Detention Center Board; to appoint Wragge with Kuether as alternate to County Used Oil Contact person; to appoint Schmit with Kuether as alternate to Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District; to appoint Kuether with Wragge as alternate to North Central Public Health Board; to appoint Schmit with Wragge as alternate to the Pierce County Economic Development Board; to appoint Schmit with Wragge as alternate to the Region 11 Emergency Management Board; to appoint Schmit with Wragge as alternate to the Elkhorn Valley LEPC Board; to appoint Wragge with Kuether as alternate to the Pierce County E911 Advisory Board; and to appoint Kuether with Wragge as alternate to the RC & D Board, all for 2022. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Wragge, seconded by Schmit, to approve the Osmond Republican, Plainview News and Pierce County Leader as the legal newspapers for Pierce County for 2022. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schmit, seconded by Kuether, to approve the County Web Page [www.co.pierce.ne.us](http://www.co.pierce.ne.us) as an additional method of providing notice for Pierce County for 2022. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Kuether, seconded by Schmit, to appoint LaVern Schroeder as the County Surveyor for Pierce County for 2022. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Wragge, seconded by Schmit, to appoint Brian McDonald, License No. S1132 Class A, as the County Highway Superintendent for Pierce County for 2022. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schmit, seconded by Kuether, to approve the reappointment of Dr. Lane Handke as County Physician and County Coroner Physician for Pierce County for 2022. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Kuether, seconded by Wragge, to approve the appointments and pledged collateral of Midwest Bank, N.A., Pierce, Security Bank, Osmond, Midwest Bank, N.A., Plainview, Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT), and Elkhorn Valley Bank and Trust, Pierce as Pierce County Bank Depositories for county funds for 2022. Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

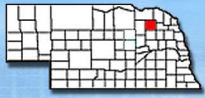
Motion by Schmit, seconded by Wragge, to approve the machine hire rates for 2022 with the following stipulations: (1) that adjustments in rates may be made at a later date, depending on the cost of fuel. (2) that Pierce County set these rates and does machine work only on request for a small job and when it would be difficult and impractical for a private contractor to haul his machinery to a location for such a small job and the County is already in that location.

- \$200 per hour for Backhoe/Excavator with man;
- \$150 per hour for Motor Grader with man;
- \$150 per hour for Loader with man;
- \$200 per hour for Scraper with man;
- \$125 per hour for 10-yard Dump Truck with man

Roll call vote: Aye: Kuether, Schmit and Wragge. Nay: None. Motion carried.

PCED Susan Norris talked with Board about grant she is working on for Marshall Petersen whom is building up the county road per the conditions of the Conditional Use Permit for his sheep farm. The Co. Board unanimously agreed the county would furnish the gravel once the road was built to NDOT specifications.

Discussion was held taking the road workers to a 40-hour work week instead of 50. No decision was made.



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Motion by Schmit, seconded by Kuether, to approve the fee reports as submitted by Co. Sheriff Rick Eberhardt for November and December 2021; Vickie Prince, Clerk of District Court and Shannon Wragge, County Clerk for December 2021; approve Treasurer's receipt's for various funds for Christine Bahr, County Treasurer, for December 2021 and placed on file in the County Clerk's office, total \$4,089,387.21 and 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:** Mark Albin-crt appointed attorney-\$462.75; Black Hills Energy-utilities-\$36.64; Egley, Fullner, Montag, Morland, Easland-crt appointed attorney-\$511.87; First Concord-mo. Fees-\$2.50; Johnson's Inc-repairs-\$1,490.38; LexisNexis-law library-\$140.00; Madison National Life-premiums-\$38.70; Magdanz-supplies-\$106.96; Midwest Bank-co share-\$4,287.41; MIPS-IT, website, microfilming-\$2,635.54; NE Nebr Co Assessors Assn.-dues-\$50.00; NE NE News-ads-\$308.92; Nebr UC Fund-unemployment tax-\$123.75; Norfolk Auto Center-repairs parts-\$230.29; Osmond Republican-subscription-\$41.00; Pierce Co Court-fees-\$155.00; Pierce Co Petty Cash-postage, gas, supplies-\$198.95; Pierce Co Sheriff-paper-service-\$18.50; Pierce Co Treasurer-transfers to Pierce Co Economic Devel-\$11,199.12; Pierce District Court-court costs-\$126.00; Pierce Telephone-service-\$1,658.84; Precision IT-service-\$67.50; Prime Stop-gas-\$279.47; Quill-supplies-\$117.36; Region IV-3<sup>rd</sup> quarter billing-\$2,340.25; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas Life Ins. Corp-co. share-\$3,983.85; Schroeder Land Surveying-services-\$230.00; State of NE Central Finance-computer service-\$448.00; VISA-supplies, postage-\$890.74; Walmart-supplies-\$113.75; Whitey's Sprinklers-service-\$125.00; Payroll-\$59,692.85.

**COUNTY HIGHWAY FUND:** Pat Abbenhaus-reimburse supplies-\$143.73; AKRS-supplies-\$84.77; Appeara-uniforms-\$108.25; B's Enterprises-blades-\$3,859.00; Backus Sand & Gravel-gravel-\$2,746.28; Big John Mfg-supplies-\$5.00; Colonial Research-supplies-\$786.56; DD Steel-equipment repair-\$162.23; Dinkel's-repairs-\$321.05; Eastern NE Telephone-service-\$110.66; Filtercare of NE-services-\$31.50; Jerry's Hilltop-gas-\$90.55; Key Sanitation-service-\$28.50; Kimball Midwest-repair parts-\$148.87; Lawson Products-supplies-\$854.07; Leiting Auto Supply-repair parts-\$79.52; Lind-Gubbels-supplies-\$25.94; Lorenz Automotive-repair parts-\$1,680.17; Magdanz-supplies-\$106.99; Matheson Tri-Gas-supplies-\$79.84; Meisinger Oil Co-diesel-\$803.32; Midwest Bank, NA-co share-\$2,176.03; Mitch's Food Center-supplies-\$56.27; Nebr UC Fund-unemployment tax-\$95.16; Nebr Weed Control Assn-registration-\$120.00; North Central Public Power-utilities-\$258.89; Northeast Power-utilities-\$241.00; Paul's Welding-supplies-\$74.39; Pierce Co Petty Cash-supplies-\$21.79; Pierce Telephone-service-\$174.71; Plainview Telephone-service-\$97.51. City of Plainview-utilities-\$84.51; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas Life Ins. Corp-co. share-\$1,889.23; Sapp Brothers-oil-\$36.47; Steinkraus Service-gas & tires-\$573.05; Wattier's True Value-supplies-\$98.37; Payroll-\$29,612.87.

**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.

**REGISTER OF DEEDS FUND:** MIPS-IT service-\$336.12.

**E911 FUND:** CenturyLink-service-\$42.38; Pierce Telephone-service-\$69.06; Plainview Telephone-services-\$19.63.

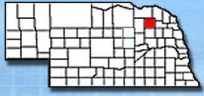
**E911 WIRELESS FUND:** CenturyLink-service-\$283.61; Pierce Telephone-service-\$395.23; Plainview Telephone-service-\$131.37.

**INHERITANCE FUND:** Pierce Locker-prisoner food-\$427.00; Pierce Telephone-service-\$134.50; NE Secretary of state-notary service-\$3.00; Tiger Town-prisoner food-\$844.85.

There being no further business, Chairman Wragge adjourned the meeting at 11:12 A.M. and will meet at a regular meeting on Monday, January 24, 2022 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

/s/ Shannon Wragge



# Pierce County Board Minutes



Chairman, Pierce County  
Board of Commissioners

Pierce County Clerk

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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