

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
January 5, 2026

The Pierce County Board of Commissioners met pursuant to adjournment on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 9:10 A.M. with the following members present: John Steinkraus, Brad Albers and Carl Martinson. Co. Clerk Shannon Wragge, Co. Attorney Ted Lohrberg, Hwy Supt. Brian McDonald, Wayne Rasmussen, Scott Watson 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 Carl Martinson called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M. and presided. Chairman Carl Martinson 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 Steinkraus, seconded by Albers, to approve the agenda. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The minutes of December 22, 2025 were approved as printed.

The legal was read for the 9:11 a.m. public hearing to receive public comments concerning the possible vacation or abandonment of county roadway 861st Road located between 534 and 535 Avenues. The road is located between Sections 18 and 19, Townships 27 North, Range 4 West of the 6th Principal Meridian, Pierce County Nebraska.

There were no written comments or objections and no one from the public was present that was against the closing of the road. Wayne Rasmussen and Scott Watson own the property next to the said road and were for the closing of the road and each half going to the respective land owner. Hwy Supt. Brian McDonald spoke of his road study on said road. Chairman Martinson closed the hearing at 9:15 a.m.

Motion by Steinkraus, seconded by Albers, to approve Resolution #2026-1 as follows:

RESOLUTION #2026 - 1

PIERCE COUNTY, NEBRASKA

WHEREAS, Pierce County Board of Commissioners considered the possible vacation or abandonment of county roadway 861 Road located between 534 and 535 Avenues. The road is located between Sections 18 and 19, Townships 27 North, Range 4 West of the 6th Principal Meridian, Pierce County Nebraska.

WHEREAS, Pierce County directed the Highway Superintendent to make a study of the use of the road and held a public hearing to discuss possible vacation or abandonment of the above described road.

WHEREAS, it was found to be in the public interest that the County close the roadway to the traveling public between 534 Avenue and 535 Avenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Pierce County, Nebraska, that said road be vacated and that the right-of-way revert back to the adjacent property owners. The landowners adjacent to the roadway will be allowed to fence off the ends of the right-of-way.

Adopted this 5th day of January, 2026, at Pierce, Nebraska

PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Carl Martinson, District #3 Commissioner and Board Chairman

/s/ John Steinkraus, District #1 Commissioner

/s/ Brad Albers, District #2 Commissioner

ATTEST: /s/ Shannon Wragge, Pierce County Clerk

Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Albers, seconded by Steinkraus, to authorize the Chairman to sign the Annual Weed Report for 2025. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on roads and bridges that need attention in 2026.

Motion by Steinkraus, seconded by Albers, to recommend approval to the NE Liquor Control Commission for the request of a designated liquor license for Kay Hunt/Charlie's for an event at the Pierce Pavilion on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the appointed boards for 2026 for the Pierce County Board Members.

This being the organizational meeting of the County Board, Chairman Martinson called for nominations or a motion for Chairman for 2026 for County Board of Commissioners' and County Board of Equalization.

Motion by Albers, seconded by Steinkraus, to nominate Carl Martinson, as Chairman of the Pierce County Board of Commissioners for 2026. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Martinson presided.

Motion by Steinkraus, seconded by Martinson, to nominate Brad Albers as Chairman of the Pierce County Board of Equalization for 2026. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Albers, seconded by Martinson, to appoint and approve the following Boards: Martinson with Steinkraus as alternate to the Northeast Nebraska Area Agency of Aging Board; to appoint Albers with Martinson as alternate to Region IV Mental Health Board; to appoint Steinkraus with Albers as alternate to North Star; to appoint Martinson with Albers as alternate to Goldenrod Joint Housing Authority; to appoint Martinson with Albers as alternate to Juvenile Detention Center Board; to appoint Martinson with Steinkraus as alternate to County Used Oil Contact person; to appoint Steinkraus with Albers as alternate to Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District; to appoint Steinkraus with Martinson as alternate to North Central Public Health Board; to appoint Steinkraus with Albers as alternate to the Pierce County Economic Development Board; to appoint Albers with Martinson as alternate to the Region 11 Emergency Management Board; to appoint Albers with Martinson as alternate to the Elkhorn Valley LEPC Board; to appoint Albers with Steinkraus as alternate to the Pierce County E911 Advisory Board; to appoint Steinkraus with Albers as alternate to the RC & D Board and to appoint Steinkraus with Albers as alternate to the NE NE Solid Waste Coalition Board, all for 2026. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Albers, seconded by Steinkraus, to approve the Osmond Republican, Plainview News and Pierce County Leader as the legal newspapers for Pierce County for 2026. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Steinkraus, seconded by Martinson, to approve the County Web Page piercecountyne.gov as an additional method of providing notice for Pierce County for 2026. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Albers, seconded by Steinkraus, to appoint LaVern Schroeder as the County Surveyor for Pierce County for 2026. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Albers, seconded by Steinkraus, to appoint Brian McDonald, License No. S1132 Class A, as the County Highway Superintendent for Pierce County for 2026. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Albers, seconded by Martinson, to approve the reappointment of Dr. Lane Handke as County Physician and County Coroner Physician for Pierce County for 2026. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Albers, seconded by Steinkraus, 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), Nebraska CLASS (Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System) and Elkhorn Valley Bank and Trust, Pierce as Pierce County Bank Depositories for county funds for 2026. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Albers, seconded by Steinkraus, to approve the machine hire rates for 2026 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 and with a minimum of 1 hour.

\$250 per hour for Backhoe/Excavator with man;

\$175 per hour for Motor Grader with man;

\$250 per hour for Loader with man;

\$200 per hour for Scraper with man;

\$150 per hour for 10-yard Dump Truck with man

\$150 per mile for mowing of roadway ditches (SS 39-1811)

Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Steinkraus, seconded by Albers, 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: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Christine Bahr-reimbursed travel expense-\$271.88; Bishop Business-supplies-\$87.27; Black Hills Energy-utilities-\$62.23; Cintas-supplies-\$10.57; Wendy Cutting-court appointed attorney costs-\$148.15; Rick Eberhardt-travel & uniform expense-\$192.48; Egley, Fullner, Montag, Morland & Easland-court appointed attorney costs-\$2,848.14; Jack's Uniforms & Equipment-supplies-\$97.44; M & M Sanitation-service-\$330.00; Madison National Life-premiums-\$65.04; Midamerica Adm. & Retire Solutions-1st quarter reimbursement costs-\$16,600.00; Midwest Bank-co share-\$5,604.61; MIPS- IT, website, microfilming-\$2,944.43; NACEB-dues-\$50.00; NE NE News-ads-\$218.13; Norfolk Daily News-subscription-\$206.00; One Office Solution-supplies-\$75.45; Pierce Telephone-service-\$1,824.35; Pierce City-utilities-\$3,173.97; Prime Stop-gas-\$169.29; Protex Central Inc-fire alarm testing-\$300.00; Quill-supplies-\$10.78; Randolph Times-ads-\$52.00; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas Life Ins. Corp-co. share-\$5,191.48; Rice's Body Shop-repairs-\$423.00; Brett Rix-reimbursed travel expense-\$279.58; Schroeder Land Surveying-service-\$250.00; Security Shredding-service-\$180.00; State of NE Central Finance-computer service-\$701.95; Tiger Town Food Center-prisoner food-\$568.00; Tom's Service LLC-gas & repairs-\$1,331.15; UNL Print & Copy Services-services-\$182.25; Shannon Wragge-reimbursed travel expense-\$260.10; Payroll-\$74,897.94.

COUNTY HIGHWAY FUND: AKRS Equipment Solutions-repair parts-\$2.84; Cintas-supplies-\$87.27; Farmers Pride-diesel-\$3,266.42; Filter Care-repairs-\$93.90; JEO Consulting Group Inc-engineering-\$21,425.00; Jerry's Hilltop-gas-\$287.75; Lind-Gubbels Inc-repairs-\$1,748.62; M & M Sanitation-service-\$105.00; Matheson Tri-Gas-supplies-\$106.45; McLean Village-utilities-\$86.25; Midwest Bank, NA-co share-\$2,495.79; NE Power-utilities-\$246.00; Pierce Telephone-service-\$237.36; Pierce City-utilities-\$213.76; R & D Welding-repairs-\$126.21; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas Life Ins. Corp-co. share-\$2,193.76; Daniel Risinger-reimbursed premiums-\$31.84; Safety Kleen Systems Inc-repairs-\$331.17; Tom's Service LLC-gas-\$166.92; Wattier's True Value-supplies-\$121.42; Payroll-\$33,771.69.

REGISTER OF DEEDS FUND: MIPS-IT service-\$361.88.

E911 FUND: OPTK Networks-service-\$529.40; Page My Cell-service-\$600.00.

E911 WIRELESS FUND: Pierce Telephone Co Inc-service-\$341.15.

There being no further business, Chairman Martinson adjourned the meeting at 9:45 A.M. and will meet at a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 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/ Carl Martinson, Chairman
Pierce County Board of Commissioners

/s/ Shannon Wragge
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
