

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

August 17, 2026

The Pierce County Board of Commissioners met pursuant to adjournment on Monday, August 17, 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, Deputy Sheriff Dan Hallock, David Hood, Dewey Gubbels, Mike Mayfield, Nextera Matthew Jones, Nextera Stephen Chase, NIRMA Rd Safety KC Pawling, Michelle Reikofski, Nextera Pilivrsburg Salanoa 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 shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public. Chairman Martinson called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M. and presided. Chairman 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 Martinson, to approve the agenda. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The minutes of August 3, 2026, were approved as printed.

Motion by Steinkraus, seconded by Albers, to recommend approval to the NE Liquor Control Commission for the request of 5 Special Designated liquor licenses for Pierce American Legion for the following dates: September 5, 12, 18, 26 and October 10, 2026, all from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pierce County Fairgrounds Pavilion. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Matthew Jones with Nextera gave an update of the solar project along with Dewey Gubbels speaking on behalf as a hauler for Nextera.

Motion by Albers, seconded by Steinkraus, 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: Applied Connective Technologies-IT services-\$3,447.46; Bishop Business-supplies-\$20.00; BCBS of NE-premiums-\$28,398.87; Cintas-supplies-\$9.63; Classic Rentals-service-\$301.63; Ann Fenton-mileage-\$102.32; Jenkins Electric – repairs-\$1,657.63; Kate M. Jorgensen PC LLO-public defender-\$4,720.83; Magdanz Inc-supplies-\$71.79; Microfilm Imaging Systems Inc-scanner rent-\$92.00; Midwest Bank-co share-\$5,275.88; MIPS-Website, software & support-\$2,192.52; NE Assn of County Extension Agents-dues-\$50.00; NACO-registration-\$120.00; NE NE News Co-publication costs-\$1,000.40; Osmond Mini Mart-gas-\$45.51; Pierce County Court-court costs-\$299.00; Pierce County Leader-publication costs-\$693.77; Pierce Pharmacy-prisoner meds-\$15.24; Pierce Telephone Co Inc-service-\$1,920.86; Plainview News-publication costs-\$1,276.50; Quill-office supplies-\$281.80; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas Life Ins. Corp-co. share-\$4,764.61; Schroeder Land Surveying-services-\$300.00; Steinkraus Service-gas-\$173.95; Tiger Town-prisoner food-\$393.04; Tom's Service-gas & repairs-\$629.19; Verizon-telephone-\$399.38; VISA-supplies-\$87.57; Western Oil Inc-gas-\$669.66; Wisner West Inc-gas-\$431.14; Payroll-\$70,465.30.

COUNTY HIGHWAY FUND: AKRS-repair parts-\$152.60; Allstar Parts-repair parts-\$248.43; Appeara-service-\$132.90; Backus Sand & Gravel-gravel-\$58,957.64; Black Hills Energy-service-\$52.56; Chad's Tire Service-repairs-\$4,772.42; Cintas-supplies-\$119.75; Classic Rentals-service-\$273.17; Culligan of Norfolk-service-\$8.00; Farmers Pride-propane-\$559.50; Fastwyre Broadband-service-\$113.91; Filtercare of NE-repairs-\$191.20; Steve Gathman-reimbursed travel expense-\$144.81; Heartland Fire Protection Co-inspections-\$697.75; JEO Consultant Group-service-\$19,397.50; Leiting Auto Supply-repair parts-\$736.24; Magdanz Inc-supplies-\$7.49; McLean Village-utilities-\$84.75; Midwest Bank, NA-co share-\$2,975.91; NE Machinery Co-repair parts-\$2,641.99; North Central Public Power-utilities-\$224.27; Osmond Farm Supply Center Inc-diesel-\$3,773.20; Osmond Mini Mart-gas-\$403.10; Paul's Welding-repairs-\$374.58; Pierce Automotive Supply-repair parts-\$244.56; Pierce Telephone Co Inc-service-\$244.06; Plainview Telephone Co Inc-service-\$100.52; Plainview City-utilities-\$181.18; Power Plan-repair parts-\$6,541.41; Randolph Farm Supply-diesel & gas-\$4,989.97; Retirement Plans Division of Ameritas Life Ins. Corp-co. share-\$2,617.26; Sapp Bros Norfolk-supplies-\$1,029.58; Seth Williams Electric-repairs-\$2,430.00; Steinkraus Service-gas-\$878.00; Jeremy Suckstorf-CDL reimbursement-\$60.00; Tom's Service-gas-\$652.62; Uline-equipment-\$1,375.79; Wattier True Value-repair parts-\$120.72; West Hodson Lumber Co Inc-supplies-\$59.62; Western Oil Inc-gas-\$169.03; Payroll-\$40,255.50.

INHERITANCE TAX FUND: Estate of Keith Wachholtz-refund of inheritance tax-\$474.89.

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

E911 FUND: Optk Networks-service-\$529.40.

E911 WIRELESS FUND: Pierce Telephone Co Inc-911 service-\$69.95.

Motion by Albers, seconded by Martinson, to go into executive session regarding possible litigation at 9:16 a.m. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Steinkraus, seconded by Albers, to come out of executive session regarding possible litigation at 10:05 a.m. with no action taken. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the 2026/2027 valuations and on levy allocation for the fire districts and agricultural society. Valuations have not yet been received therefore tax allocations for subdivisions cannot be approved per Clerk Wragge.

Chairman Martinson recessed the meeting at 10:06 a.m., Monday, August 18, 2026, and will reconvene on, Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. to approve levy allocation resolutions for said subdivisions and set the county budget hearing date.

Chairman Martinson reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, August 20, 2026, with the following members present: John Steinkraus and Carl Martinson; Brad Albers was absent. Co. Clerk Shannon Wragge, Co. Attorney Ted Lohrberg, Co. Treasurer Christine Bahr, Co. Assessor Jean Lubke, Mike Mayfield 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 shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public. Chairman Martinson called the meeting to order at 1:10 P.M. and presided. Chairman 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.

Discussion was held on levy allocation for the fire districts and agricultural society. The Board stated that since they tried to keep a 2% increase for the County Offices and Road Fund Budgets, so they should follow suit with the levy allocations for the Ag Society and Fire Districts. The MFO agreement between the county fire districts states all parties agreed to a levy of .270 mill levy so therefore that is the max levy the County Board can approve for the fire districts and state statute states that rural MFO fire districts need that same levy 1 in 3 years that was agreed upon in interlocal MFO agreement and the first year of the new MFO for the county rural fire districts was 25/26 fiscal year.

CPA Mike Pommer was unable to be present but sent an email to the County Board about the 26/27 FY budget request and the budget hearings. Because of the possible legislative changes coming for 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 FY for the counties and taxpayers concerned the board decided to drop the levy by 1.75 cents, keep 2 million in reserve and in term of dollars ask for \$185,000 less than a year ago. The County will not have to be part of the joint public budget meeting planned for Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026 at 6:15 p.m. at the Plainview Public Library meeting room for this fiscal year.

Motion by Steinkraus, seconded by Martinson, to Authorize Clerk to advertise and set the county budget public hearing date for Monday, September 14, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. to receive input regarding 2026/2027 fiscal year budget, followed by a second public hearing at 11:15 a.m. for the adoption of property tax at an amount different than prior fiscal year (per SS 148). Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus and Martinson; Albers absent. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brad Albers was now present.

Motion by Steinkraus, seconded by Albers, to approve Resolution 2026-13 as follows:

RESOLUTION #2026 - 13

WHEREAS, Nebraska State Statute 77-3443(3) requires all political subdivisions subject to county levy authority to submit a preliminary request for levy allocation to the county board; and

WHEREAS, the Pierce County Board of Commissioners is the levy authority for the following Fire District Subdivisions in Pierce County,

WHEREAS, all Fire Districts are given not more than 3.5 cents of the County’s 15 cents for miscellaneous political subdivisions (per \$100 of valuation);

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Pierce County Board of Commissioners/Board of Equalization that the tax allocation for the following subdivisions for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year be limited to and is approved as follows:

<u>SUBDIVISION</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>	<u>LEVY</u>
Pierce Rural Fire	General	\$165,341.00	\$222,083.92	2.7000 cents
Plainview Rural Fire	General/Sinking	\$160,009.00	\$199,629.74	2.7000 cents
Osmond Rural Fire	General	\$158,433.00	\$197,601.91	2.7000 cents
Hadar Rural Fire	General	\$46,013.19	\$60,702.21	2.7000 cents

Dated this 20th day of August, 2026, at Pierce County, Nebraska.

Chairman of the Board of Equalization

/s/ Carl Martinson, Chairman

/s/ Brad Albers

/s/ John Steinkraus

ATTEST: /s/ Shannon Wragge, Pierce County Clerk

Whereas the original is on file at the office of the Pierce County Clerk and available for inspection. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Albers, seconded by Steinkraus, to approve Resolution #2026-14 as follows:

RESOLUTION # 2026 - 14

WHEREAS, Nebraska State Statute 77-3443(3) requires all political subdivisions subject to county levy authority to submit a preliminary request for levy allocation to the county board; and

WHEREAS, the Pierce County Board of Commissioners is the levy authority for the Pierce County Agricultural Society Subdivision in Pierce County,

WHEREAS, the Ag Society is to be given not more than 3.5 cents of the County’s 15 cents for miscellaneous political subdivisions and may be given an additional 3.5 cents for capital construction and maintenance of county fairgrounds per Nebraska State Statutes 2-257 and 2-259 (per \$100 of valuation);

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Pierce County Board of Commissioners/Board of Equalization that the tax allocation for the following subdivision for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year be limited to .4309 cents for General is approved as follows:

<u>SUBDIVISION</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>
Pierce County Ag. Society	General	\$190,000.00	\$135,268.95

Dated this 20th day of August, 2026, at Pierce County, Nebraska.

Chairman of the Board of Equalization

/s/ Carl Martinson, Chairman

/s/ Brad Albers

/s/ John Steinkraus

ATTEST: /s/ Shannon Wragge, Pierce County Clerk

Whereas the original is on file at the office of the Pierce County Clerk and available for inspection. Roll call vote: Aye: Steinkraus, Albers and Martinson. Nay: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Chairman Martinson adjourned the meeting at 1:25 A.M. and will meet again at a regular meeting on Monday, August 31, 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
