

**APPROVED MINUTES OF
PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Tuesday – April 15, 2025 • 9:00 a.m.**

- 1a) Meeting called to order by Chairperson J. Aubart at 9:00 a.m., in the County Board Room at the Pierce County Courthouse & via Zoom.
- 2a) A quorum was established with roll call by County Clerk J. Feuerhelm acknowledging 15 supervisors present & 2 excused (J. Johnson, S. Bjork).
Also attending were: Jason Matthys-Administrative Coordinator, Brad Lawrence-Corp Counsel, Greg Weaver-Data Analyst, Allison Preble-HR Manager, Wanda Kinneman-Insurance Coordinator, Chad Koranda-Sheriff, Ayslinn Snyder-Public Health Director, Andy Pichotta-Land Management Director, Kerry Feuerhelm-Clerk of Court, John Worsing-Medical Examiner, Kathy Fuchs-Treasurer, Christine McPherson-EM Director, Tiffany Meyer-Ellsworth Librarian, Francis Schelfhout-Wisconsin DOT, Sherry Quamme-Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission, Jack Zabrowski-WI MRRPC, Sarah Nigbor-PC Journal, Danny Akenson-resident. Wendy Town of River Falls resident.
- 2b) **Adopt Agenda:** Motion by D. Auckland/D. Bergseng to adopt the agenda as presented; motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** led by Supervisor B. Barringer.
- 4) **Public Comment on Issues Not Related to Agenda Items:**
- Supervisor D. Bergseng asked if issues suggested in a letter from a constituent would come before the Board. Chairperson J. Aubart responded that it would need to be brought through the pertinent committees first.
 - Supervisor M. Pittman stated that he attended a movie titled “A World Without Cows”, & encouraged others to watch it as well.
 - Supervisor N. Gulbranson informed the Board that many businesses & others are being affected by recent reductions in Medicaid. He encouraged those with questions to contact pertinent staff in Human Services & Public Health.
 - Supervisor B. Barringer expressed concern about public financing authority & Pierce County being complicit with anything of that nature.
- 5) **Discuss/Take action:** On 2025-2026 County Board Meeting Dates. Proposed dates were presented by the County Clerk & reviewed by Board members. Motion by J. Kosin/M. Kahlow to approve 2025-2026 County Board meeting dates as presented; motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 6) **Discuss/Take action:** On 2024 Annual Reports pursuant to §4-4(B) Pierce County Code. Supervisors previously provided with copies of 2024 Annual Report of departments. J. Matthys informed the Board that these were shared on Google Drive & that hard copies were also available. Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to accept the 2024 Annual Reports provided by the various departments; motion carried unanimously.
- 7) **Election of Committees:** Chairperson J. Aubart announced an election for the Land Management Committee, 2 Citizen members; Term 04-2025 – 04/2028; suggested nominees were Eric Sanden & Jeff Holst. Supervisor N. Gulbranson nominated Dr. Eric Sanden & Jeff Holst. Chairperson J. Aubart called for other nominations; none given. Motion by M. Kahlow/N. Gulbranson to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for E. Sanden & J. Holst; motion carried unanimously. Eric Sanden & Jeff Holst duly elected as Citizen members to the Land Management Committee.

**** All legislation except rezone ordinances may be acted upon on the first reading at the Organizational Meeting.***

RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST CONSIDERATION

8a) Resolution No. 25-01: Memorial to Daniel J. Reis

Resolution read by County Clerk J. Feuerhelm commemorating the life & service of former County Board Supervisor Dan Reis. Motion by M. Kahlow/J. Kosin to approve Resolution 25-01 as presented; motion carried unanimously.

8b) Resolution No. 25-02: Amend Fees for Services of County Medical Examiner and Deputy Medical Examiner

Motion by M. Kahlow/M. Pittman to suspend the rules & waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. J. Worsing explained that this was an annual resolution to amend fees. He further explained that fees are allowed to be increased by the annual cost of living increase index. He added that if fees are not addressed each year, the County or ME cannot increase fees for increased costs in previous years. Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to approve Resolution 25-02 as presented; motion carried unanimously.

8c) Resolution No. 25-03: Approve Municipal Agreement Fee Increase for Commercial Driver's License Testing Program

Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to suspend the rules & waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. W. Kinneman explained that the costs in providing this service have gone up. The current fee structure is \$35/participant & \$55 for first year employees. The recommendation is to increase to \$50/participant & \$75 for first year employees. Motion by M. Kahlow/J. Kosin to approve Resolution 25-03 as presented; motion carried unanimously.

8d) Resolution No. 25-04: Authorize the Use of Opioid Settlement Funds for Parent Recovery Cafes, Drug Disposal Bag Purchase, and Family Centered Treatment-Recovery

Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to suspend the rules & waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. A. Snyder explained how the drug deactivation & disposal bags neutralize the active chemicals in the drugs. J. Krings provided a written summary explaining that the Opioid Ad Hoc Committee has recommended three projects for Pierce County's use of opioid settlement funds. They are as follows: 1) Parent Recovery Cafes; small group meetings that are safe spaces where parents & caregivers can talk about the challenge of raising a family & being in recovery. 2) Detera Drug Deactivation & Disposal Bags; studies have found that providing drug disposal bags increases the likelihood of proper drug disposal. 3) Family Centered Treatment/Recovery; the Human Services Dept. has been providing this service for three years & has had great success. Additional intensive substance use recovery components will be added to the in-home therapy model. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended up to \$55,000 annually for three years but once the program is up & running costs are expected to decrease. Motion by M. Kahlow/A. Claflin to approve Resolution 25-04 as presented; motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

8e) Resolution No. 25-05: Adopting the Pierce County all Hazards Mitigation Plan

Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to suspend the rules & waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. Wendy from Town of River Falls questioned if efforts were being made to collaborate with other counties to demand & reestablish FEMA. Supervisor M. Pittman expressed concern about the title of the resolution stating "all hazards mitigation plan" but within the resolution it indicates "natural hazards". C. McPherson stated that the plan is necessary in order to qualify for grant funding, but could be revised moving forward. Motion by M. Kahlow/M. Pittman to approve Resolution 25-05 as presented; motion carried unanimously.

8f) Resolution No. 25-06: Urging Governor Evers and the Wisconsin Legislature to Support the County Courts

Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to suspend the rules & waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. K. Feuerhelm explained that this legislation urges Governor Evers & State Legislators to support county courts. Courts across the State are advocating for an increase to the State's Circuit Court costs payments from an 80%/20% split in favor of the State to an even 50%/50% split. Also, to increase the amount counties may retain from fines/forfeitures, as well as explore additional funding for circuit courts. She stated Pierce County Courts has struggles for years to keep qualified attorneys, guardian ad litem, & interpreters because of increased costs to provide such services. Motion by M. Kahlow/M. Pittman to approve Resolution 25-06 as presented; motion carried unanimously.

8g) Resolution No. 25-07: Ratify Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) Sheriff's Department - Jail Subunit Collective Bargaining Agreement, with attachment (Jail Tentative Agreement)

Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to suspend the rules & waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. Supervisor M. Pittman questioned the “tentative agreement” language on these two resolutions. Chairperson J. Aubart explained that these bargaining units have ratified their respective contracts & this is the last step in the process. Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Bergseng to approve Resolution 25-07 as presented; motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

8h) Resolution No. 25-08: Ratify Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) Sheriff's Department - Patrol, Investigators Subunit Collective Bargaining Agreement, with attachment (Patrol Tentative Agreement)

Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to suspend the rules & waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. Motion by M. Kahlow/M. Pittman to approve Resolution 25-08 as presented; motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND CONSIDERATION

9a) Resolution No. 24-33 To Support the Designation of the Mississippi River Trail within the Limits of Pierce County

Supervisor M. Pittman asked Francis Schelfhout-Wisconsin DOT if the Town of Isabelle revised their plan to include using Town roads as an alternative to the Highway 35 corridor. Mr. Schelfhout stated that they did not change the plan from what was originally proposed. Motion by M. Kahlow/J. Kosin to approve Resolution 24-33 as presented; motion carried with 14 in favor & 1 opposed (M. Pittman).

9b) Resolution No. 24-34: To Amend the Land Management Department Fee Schedule.

Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to approve Resolution 24-34 as presented. Motion by M. Pittman/D. Bergseng to amend the Resolution to amend page 1 of Exhibit A under Zoning Permits/Agricultural Uses to add Principal Structure greater than 40,000 sq. ft. & Accessory Structure greater than 40,000 sq. ft. with a fee of \$1,000 each. Supervisor M. Pittman expressed concern about user fees for larger agricultural structures & felt that others paying fees or taxpayers should not have to pay for any additional costs relating to these types of structures. Supervisor B. Barringer concurred with the additional fee for larger ag structures. Supervisor N. Gulbranson questioned if the additional fee being proposed was aligned with associated staff actual costs. Chairperson J. Aubart expressed belief that Land Management Director A. Pichotta was able to estimate the actual costs for such fees. A. Pichotta indicated that the Dept. could likely justify the higher fee being proposed. Supervisor M. Kahlow expressed concern about micromanaging recommendations that are brought forth through the committee structure. Supervisors D. Puhmann & J. Aubart concurred. M. Pittman called for the question; no objections made. Motion to amend failed by roll call vote with 4 in favor (N. Maxwell, B. Barringer, M. Pittman, D. Bergseng), & 11 opposed (A. Clafflin, N. Gulbranson D. Auckland, D. Puhmann, J. Kosin, K. Sampson, J. Ashbach, C. McCarty, M. Kahlow, A. Mathison, J. Aubart). Motion to approve Resolution 24-34 as presented carried unanimously by voice vote.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST CONSIDERATION

10) None.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND CONSIDERATION

11) None.

12) **Appointments:** Chairperson J. Aubart announced the following appointments:

Solid Waste Management Board: Scott Bjork (County Board member) – 3 yr. term; April 2025 to April 2028. Also, Chase Kinneman & Nate Hagens (citizen members) – 3 yr. terms; April 2025 to April 2028. Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Puhmann to confirm the appointments of Scott Bjork, Chase Kinneman & Nate Hagens to the Solid Waste Management Board; motion carried unanimously.

13) **Future agenda items:** J. Matthys announced that anything recommended out of the Finance & Personnel Committee could be presented. He added that a proposed tower replacement project could be one thing considered.

- 14) **Next meeting date:** May 27th, 2025; meeting at 7 p.m.; County Board Room, Courthouse Annex.
- 15) **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. by motion of J. Kosin/N. Gulbranson; motion carried unanimously.

THOSE PRESENT

SUPERVISOR NAME	DIST. #	PRESENT	EXCUSED	ABSENT
Kris Sampson	1	X		
Jim Ashbach	2	X		
Jon Aubart	3	X		
Joanne Johnson	4		X	
Claire McCarty	5	X		
Michael Kahlow	6	X		
Scott Bjork	7		X	
Dean Bergseng	8	X		
Angela Mathison	9	X		

SUPERVISOR NAME	DIST. #	PRESENT	EXCUSED	ABSENT
Anne Claflin	10	X		
Neil Gulbranson	11	X		
Dale Auckland	12	X		
Daniel Puhmann	13	X		
Nick Maxwell	14	X		
Jerry Kosin	15	X		
Barry Barringer	16	X		
Mel Pittman	17	X		
TOTAL	17	15	2	

Respectfully submitted by J. Feuerhelm, County Clerk