

# AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

November 2, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman Clyde Dethlefsen, with Randy Niles, Roger Hanten, and John Paul Studeny. Absent was Travis Clark.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no public input.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to approve the agenda. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Studeny to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to authorize Highway Superintendent Vissia to attend one day of the SD Association of Towns & Townships annual conference on December 7<sup>th</sup> in Oacoma. Motion carried with Studeny, Niles, and Dethlefsen vote aye. Hanten voted nay.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to allow those who want to attend the Southeast Central District meeting in Buffalo County on November 8<sup>th</sup> to be able to do so. Motion carried all voting aye. One representative from each office of the treasurer, auditor, register of deeds, director of equalization, and highway are authorized to attend.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to approve renewal of the retail (on-sale) liquor license for Firesteel Creek Hunting Lodge, LLC (Todd Worrell). Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Hanten to approve the renewal of the retail (on-off sale) wine & cider license for CC&F Retail, Inc (Coffee Cup). Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to approve the renewal of the retail (on-sale) liquor license for Fish Lake Country Club, Inc. Motion carried all voting aye.

County health insurance agent Clint Bultsma presented the county's health insurance renewal to the Commission. Clint noted that the current plans we offer (deductible of \$1,500 or \$5,000) went up approximately

6.7%. No action was taken at this time. The employee insurance committee will visit with other employees to get their input on keeping the same coverage or changing.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to authorize the Auditor to sign a letter of match commitment for the Skunk Creek Project. Motion carried all voting aye.

Sherriff Deputy Kyle Ness will complete his first year of employment on November 14, 2023. As per the work incentive in the employment contract, a motion was made by Niles, seconded by Studeny to pay Kyle Ness \$2,080 with the November payroll. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to authorize Emergency Manager Skyler Kehn to attend the Region 6 meeting in Brookings on November 13, 2023. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Niles to authorize Weed Supervisor Skyler Kehn to attend the weed & pest district meeting in Mitchell being held today. Motion carried all voting aye.

Auditor Urban updated the Commission on the zoom meeting held late yesterday afternoon regarding the restructure in the SD Dept of Health.

A supplemental budget hearing was held as per notice in the county's legal newspapers. No one appeared for or against it. A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Studeny to make and adopt the supplemental budget and approve the following resolution. Motion carried all voting aye.

#### RESOLUTION TO MAKE AND ADOPT SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2023 at 10:00 AM, pursuant to the Notice of Intention to Make and Adopt Supplemental Budget; and

WHEREAS, it appears necessary to the Board of County Commissioners that the County appropriate the additional amounts in the following budget line items from the general cash reserves:

1. General Fund budget line item 101-130-422 for Court Appointed Attorney in the amount of Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000.00).
2. General Fund budget line item 101-411-422.8 for Indigent Hospital in the amount of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00).
3. General Fund budget line item 101-416-411 for WIC Salary in the amount of Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$19,800.00).
4. General Fund budget line item 101-615-434 Weed Machinery & Equipment in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that such supplemental budget is hereby approved and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Aurora County, South Dakota.

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2023.

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman  
Aurora County Commission

ATTEST: Susan Urban, Aurora County Auditor

Extension Secretary Tina Kieffer informed the Commission the Plankinton School has once again requested to hold the high school MVPCS wrestling practices in the Community/4-H Building. The youth wrestling program requested it for practices as well. In the past the rental fee has been \$500/month. Tina presented the Commission with a spreadsheet of the past 6 years of the utility expenses compared to the revenue from the rental fees. She noted that the utility bills increase during the months they use it and asked if the Commission wanted to increase the fees to cover the increase in expenses. At one time we were not keeping up with the expenses, said Kieffer, but lately we have been close. Discussion was held on allowing the practices and whether to increase the rental fee or leave it the same. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to approve the rental for the high school and youth wrestling teams and leave the fee at \$500 per month. Motion carried all voting aye.

Roger Risty and Dan Johnson from Risty Benefits presented the Commission with a proposal for the county's health insurance. The proposal included a medical expense reimbursement plan (MERP) along with our plan through Wellmark. The MERP is designed to save the county and employees money. The objective is to reduce the premium costs paid to the insurance carrier and help offset the rising medical insurance costs. In return for a lower premium, the employer and the employee will fund small claims out of the premium savings. The Insurance carrier is still responsible for the catastrophic claims. The MERP is funded by contributions made to the plan by both the employer and the employees based on a fixed rate each year. No action was taken at this time.

The Commission had a discussion with States Attorney Rachel Mairose about the possibility of adopting a pipeline ordinance. Commissioner Studeny stated this topic was discussed at a past zoning meeting and the zoning board does not feel our zoning ordinance addresses this issue. Studeny said if the pipeline cannot be laid in the original route that they planned for, they will go county by county seeking approval until they find one with the least amount of resistance. It was noted the county should be able to prohibit or regulate how and where a pipeline can go in. Commissioner Studeny said we do not want to cause undue hardship to the people within our county. We want to make sure there is something in place so that property is not taken by eminent domain, said Studeny. Commissioner Niles agreed that an ordinance should be in place to protect the people that live here. A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Studeny to authorize States Attorney Mairose to draft an ordinance that regulates pipelines. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to enter into executive session per SDCL 1-25-2(1) at 11:32 AM. Motion carried all voting aye. The Chairman declared out of executive session at 12:07 PM with no official action taken.

Discussion was held on time away from work while serving on an ambulance or fire call. The Commission noted, the personnel handbook states an employee, during regular working hours, will be paid for emergency response calls ONLY and they also need to notify the auditor's office.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Niles to file reports and pay vouchers as listed below. Motion carried with Niles, Hanten, and Dethlefsen voting aye. Studeny abstained from the vote.

**Reports:** October Payroll: Social Security 5,078.85, Medicare 1,187.82; Wellmark 26,876.87, Retirement 5,208.84, Kansas City Life 92.37; Commissioners 4,126.75; Auditor 7,263.43; Treasurer 5,977.65; States Attorney 4,925.01; Courthouse 2,777.00; Director of Equalization 5,910.58; Register of Deeds 4,240.26; Veteran's Service Officer 696.57; Sheriff 14,409.72; Public Welfare 111.66; WIC 1,060.40; Nurse 650.98; Extension 1,541.44; Weed 1,047.29; Zoning 748.52; Hwy 31,978.74; EM&D 1,587.65; Payroll Direct Deposit Cost 8.35. Auditor's Account with

Treasurer: Cash on Hand 4,472.09; MMDA 3,468,003.87; CD's 942,140.00. Register of Deeds Fees: marriage license/certs 30.00; birth/death 70.00; preservation fund 150.00; drivers license 240.00; copies 199.00; recording fees 1,280.00; transfer fees 1,431.50.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS			
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	OCTOBER PUBLISHING	593.48	
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		593.48	*
ELECTIONS			
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	2024 SERVICE CONTRACT ON MACH	1330.88	
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		1330.88	*
JUDICIAL SYSTEM			
DOUGLAS N PAPENDICK	CAA	244.60	
		-----	
		244.60	*
AUDITOR			
P M B 0112	SEPTEMBER ACCESS FEES	52.75	
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		52.75	*
TREASURER			
DRIVER'S LICENSE GUIDE COMPANY	ID CHECKING GUIDE BOOK	31.95	
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	OCTOBER PUBLISHING	198.00	
		-----	
		229.95	*
COURTHOUSE			
PLANKINTON CITY	COURTHOUSE ELECTRICITY	1747.56	
RON'S MARKET INC	PLEDGE & PAPER TOWELS	141.38	
US BANK ST PAUL	ADMIN FEES 22-23	2000.00	
		-----	
		3888.94	*
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION			
US POSTAL SERVICE	STAMPED ENVELOPES	1603.20	
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		1603.20	*
SHERIFF			
JAMES VALLEY DRUG TASK FORCE	DUES FOR 2024	6250.00	
ROBERT T HENNRICH	VEHICLE EQUIPMENT	4353.20	
RON'S MARKET INC	CLOROX WIPES	5.99	
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	1877.16	
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		12486.35	*

JAIL		
BRULE COUNTY	SEPTEMBER JAIL HOUSING	930.00
DAVISON COUNTY SHERIFF	SEPTEMBER JAIL HOUSING	3600.00
LEWIS FAMILY DRUG LLC	INMATES MEDICATIONS	46.58
MITCHELL CLINIC LTD	INMATE MEDICAL (2)	334.00
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		4910.58 *
NURSES OFFICE		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	OCTOBER PUBLISHING	168.00
SMILE MAKERS	BANDAIDES & STICKERS	49.59
		-----
		217.59 *
AG BUILDING		
PLANKINTON CITY	AG BUILDING ELECTRICITY	269.45
RON'S MARKET INC	BAGS	55.50
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		324.95 *
PLANNING & ZONING		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	OCTOBER PUBLISHING	54.00
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		54.00 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
GREAT PLAINS LUMBER & SUPPLY	SUPPLIES	52.36
LYLE SIGNS	SIGNS	167.00
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	ELECTRIC BILLS - WL & STK	73.54
PLANKINTON CITY	HIGHWAY ELECTRICITY	340.56
SD ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS & TWP	TOWNS & TOWNSHIP CONF REG	30.00
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	STRIPING & BRIDGE INSPECTIONS	5770.69
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	782.69
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	1369.84
STICKNEY WATER	WATER BILL - STICKNEY SHOP	92.50
THE LODGE AT DEADWOOD	MIDWEST BRIDGE CONF LODGING	188.00
TOTAL OIL	FUEL	5412.94
		-----
		14280.12 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	STRIPING	71.01
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	STRIPING	124.27
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	STRIPING	71.01
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	STRIPING	142.02
		-----
		408.31 *
EM&D		
NAPA CENTRAL	EM & D VEHICLE DOOR HANDLE	126.17
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	102.73
TWO WAY SOLUTIONS INC	RADIO BATTERY	139.99
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368.89 \*

Total Checks: 40,994.59 \*

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

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Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman  
Aurora County Commission

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Urban, Auditor

(Published once at the total approximate cost of \_\_\_\_\_)