AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

December 7, 2023

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Input: Commissioner Niles noted that there was a complaint about Dennis Ashwill farming in the road ditch. There will be a problem with water backing up in the ditch with all the dirt filled in there. Niles stated it is a township road. The complaint will need to be addressed with the township.

It was also noted that Steve Beckman has a ground hay pile near his feed lot piled next to the road. This would be a zoning issue and the Zoning Administrator was made aware of it. Commissioner Dethlefsen stated the Zoning Administrator should maybe put a reminder in the papers about the setbacks.

The agenda was amended by adding zoning setback notice in papers. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on November 16th. Motion carried all voting aye.

Treasurer Andrea Pryor stated as per the executive session on October 19th, she is requesting Deputy Treasurer Sue Faulhaber to become full time in her office effective Monday December 11th for a minimum of 6 weeks or until she is able to come back to work. Andrea said she will be available by phone during her time of absence. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to make Deputy Treasurer Sue Faulhaber a full-time employee for a minimum of 6 weeks or until Andrea is able to come back to work. Motion carried all voting aye.

Fuel quotes were received as follows:

MONTHLY QUOTE (December 7 to January 4)			4 MONTH QUOTE (December 7 thru April 8)			
	#1 Diesel	#2 Diesel	<u>Propane</u>	#1 Diesel	#2 Diesel	<u>Propane</u>
Brooks Oil:	\$3.454	\$2.945	\$0.995	\$3.454	\$2.992	\$0.995
Total Oil:	\$3.12	\$2.78		\$3.12	\$2.78	
Agtegra:			\$1.55	\$3.84	\$3.19	\$1.55

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to accept the 4-month propane quote from Brooks Oil @ \$0.995. Motion carried all voting aye. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to accept the 4-month quote from Total Oil for #1 diesel @ \$3.12 and #2 diesel @ \$2.78. Motion carried all voting ae.

Highway Secretary Nancy Beckman was present for the highway report.

The Commission talked about hauling gravel now and questioned about whether it will get packed into the road before snow comes. If it doesn't get packed in, we will put all our gravel in the ditch with the snow removal said Dethlefsen.

Discussion was held on the wind rows along the road. Commissioner Dethlefsen noted there are still some on the roads, but they are getting taken care of in his area. Commissioner Clark stated he has talked to Highway Superintendent Vissia bout this.

Commissioner Niles expressed his dislike on the blades not leaving the shop till an hour after they get to work and wanted to know why they weren't leaving the shop shortly after their start time. Commissioner Hanten stated there is no reason why they cannot be on the road by 8:05 AM.

Jamie VanZee from Brosz Engineering presented the Commission with three BIG grant applications to consider. He noted that two of the three bridges were right at the scoring cutoff to be considered for approval, and the third bridge is below the scoring threshold. In order for the third bridge to have a better chance to qualify, the Board can increase the match the county is willing to pay or having the bridge bid ready would also help our chances.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to authorize the chairman to sign the resolution and submit the BIG application for structure 02-210-082. Roll Call Vote: Clark, aye; Studeny, aye; Hanten, aye; Niles, aye; Dethlefsen, aye. Motion carried.

BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

WHEREAS, Aurora County wishes to submit an application for consideration of award for the Bridge Improvement Grant Program:

Structure Number and Location:

Str. No. 02-210-082 – Aurora County

5.0 miles east and 6.8 miles north of Plankinton, SD on 391st Avenue over West Firesteel Creek

and WHEREAS, Aurora County certifies that the project is listed in the county's Five-Year County Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan;

and WHEREAS, Aurora County agrees to pay the 20% match on the Bridge Improvement Grant funds;

and WHEREAS, Aurora County hereby authorized the Bridge Improvement Grant application and any required funding commitments.

NOW THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the South Dakota Department of Transportation be and hereby is requested to accept the attached Bridge Improvement Grant application.

Vote of Commissioners: Yes 5 No 0

Dated at Plankinton, SD, this 7th day of December, 2023.

ATTEST:

Susan Urban, County Auditor

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize the chairman to sign the resolution and submit the BIG application for structure 02-206-060. Roll Call Vote: Clark, aye; Studeny, aye; Hanten, aye; Niles, aye;

Dethlefsen, aye. Motion carried.

BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

WHEREAS, Aurora County wishes to submit an application for consideration of award for the Bridge Improvement Grant Program:

Structure Number and Location:

Str. No. 02-206-060 – Aurora County 2.5 miles west of Storla, SD on 244th Street over Firesteel Creek

and WHEREAS, Aurora County certifies that the project is listed in the county's Five-Year County Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan;

and WHEREAS, Aurora County agrees to pay the 20% match on the Bridge Improvement Grant funds;

and WHEREAS, Aurora County hereby authorizes the Bridge Improvement Grant application and any required funding commitments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the South Dakota Department of Transportation be and hereby is requested to accept the attached Bridge Improvement Grant application.

Vote of Commissioners: Yes 5 No 0

Dated at Plankinton, SD, this 7th day of December, 2023.

ATTEST:

Susan Urban, County Auditor

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to authorize the chairman to sign the resolution and submit the BIG application for structure 02-097-056. Roll Call Vote: Clark, aye; Studeny, aye; Hanten, aye; Niles, aye; Dethlefsen, aye. Motion carried.

BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

WHEREAS, Aurora County wishes to submit an application for consideration of award for the Bridge Improvement Grant Program;

Structure Number and Location:

Str. No. 02-097-056 – Aurora County 8.5 miles north and 4.7 miles east of White Lake, SD on 378th Avenue over West Firesteel Creek

and WHEREAS, Aurora County certifies that the project is listed in the county's Five-Year County Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan;

and WHEREAS, Aurora County agrees to pay the 20% match on the Bridge Improvement Grant funds;

and WHEREAS, Aurora County hereby authorizes the Bridge Improvement Grant application and any required funding commitments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the South Dakota Department of Transportation be and hereby is requested to accept the attached Bridge Improvement Grant application.

Vote of Commissioners: Yes 5 No 0

Dated at Plankinton, SD, this 7th day of December, 2023.

ATTEST:

Susan Urban, County Auditor

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman

As discussed back in April of this year, the requirement of wetland mitigation is holding up the 404 permit for the bridge on 245th St. (Erickson Bridge). The Commission expressed their desire to Brosz Engineering to get the 2.1 mitigation credits purchased from Ducks Unlimited before the end of this year.

Jamie VanZee from Brosz Engineering informed the Commission that he has checked into the RAISE Grant for Old Hwy 16. He stated the grant is split evenly between the rural and urban areas, but there is not much information available to know what the percentage of the match would be. The estimated cost for the 23.5 miles from the Brule County line to the Davison County line (minus the 2 miles from Plankinton Main Street to Hwy 281) is over 20 million. The county's match would probably be in the 4 to 5 million range, but it's hard to say without knowing what the match will be. Jamie noted the deadline for this grant is February 28th and if the Commission approves to move forward with this grant application, the estimated engineering costs for Brosz would be \$92,200. Due to the costs involved, no action was taken at this time.

States Attorney Rachel Mairose informed the Commission that Sheldon Tobin had reached out to her about reopening a township road in Bristol Township. Also, present were Chance Tobin, Rick Tobin, Perry Tobin, and Culley Tobin. Rachel reported that Rick Tobin cannot access his property and none of the adjoining landowners will grant him an easement to re-open the portion of road he is requesting to open. Rick said he has permission from a landowner for now, but he has to go further around to get to his property and what happens when that current landowner does not own it anymore. There is a conflict with the Township Board, so she suggested to bring the matter to the Commission. The east/west road between sections 5 though 1 and sections 8 through 12 is closed for five miles. Rick is requesting a 1-mile stretch of the road between sections 3 and 10 to be re-opened. Commissioner Clark asked if Bristol Township was a member of the SD Towns & Townships Association, if not, he advised to become a member as they are a good resource and are very helpful. The Commission directed them to contact the SD Towns & Townships and talk with them to see what would be the best option.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to approve a Plat of Lot 1 of Anderson Addition in the SE ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 2, T 105 N, R 63 W of the 5th P.M., Aurora County, South Dakota. Motion carried all voting aye.

Zoning Administrator Tina Gerlach presented the Commissioners with proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance regarding pipelines and solar energy. Tina reported that the Zoning Board will hold a public hearing on the amendments on December 18, 2023.

The Commission directed Zoning Administrator Gerlach to put a notice in the papers reminding everyone of the setbacks for hay bales and ground hay piles along roads.

Sheriff Roman Briggs introduced the new deputy sheriff. Malcom LaFortune began his duties with the sheriff's department on December 4th.

Veterans Service Officer Audrey Champman informed the Commission that she will be changing her hours on Fridays from every other Friday to every Friday from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Thursdays will remain the same.

Permission was granted for the VSO to take Thursday, December 21st off for family. She will be in the office on Friday, December 22nd from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to authorize the VSO to purchase a new laptop with a docking station for \$1,754 from Connecting Point. Motion carried all voting aye.

Emergency Manager Skyler Kehn spoke to the Commission about getting the county a secure domain for emails. He has been in touch with Connecting Point about getting a quote for this. Skyler stated that a Homeland Security Grant could help pay for this.

Emergency Manager Kehn informed the Board that the Skunk Creek mitigation project was turned in by the deadline and told them the Campbell Street project had to be taken out because we were unable to meet the cost benefit ratio with it included.

Skyler presented the Commission with an estimate of \$40 to renovate the emergency management office. He said by having himself and the custodian doing the work there is very little cost in the materials needed. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to go ahead with the renovation. Motion carried all voting aye.

Sheriff Roman Briggs and States Attorney Rachel Mairose were present to discuss contract law and the amount offered by the City of White Lake. Also in attendance were Plankinton City residents Jin Nielsen and Skyler Kehn. It was noted that the City of White Lake felt the contract law amounts should not be included as income in their budget by the county. A spreadsheet prepared by a White Lake City council member showed a deduction of the

contract law amounts off the previous years expended budget totals to arrive at a lower per capita. Commissioner Studeny said the expense budget shows what was truly expended and there is a mis-interpretation on how the budget is arrived. It was noted the Cities are receiving law enforcement services and they are reimbursing the county for those extra services. Commissioner Studeny said he understands the concerns the cities have about the fees going up and maybe the county can help by only going up a certain percentage and not going over that. Both the cities and the county have already approved their budgets for 2024, so I think it is a discussion we need to have with the cities before the budget process next year, said Studeny. Skyler Kehn told the Commission that he has not heard anyone from Plankinton say they agree with what the Plankinton City council is doing with the contract law. Everyone seems to be happy with our law enforcement services, said Kehn. The Commission understands and sympathizes with the municipalities and will work on holding the line on future increases. Sheriff Briggs said without a contract in place the cities will handle traffic and alcohol citations, animals at large, and other misdemeanors at their own time and expense. Jim Nielsen said when he was on the Plankinton City Council, they had talked about the city attorney handling all of these types of things. Paying an attorney \$200/hour or more adds up quickly, said Nielsen, why pay that kind of money when we have officers to help with that. He said services will not be there to serve the people. Sheriff Briggs said it will be a mess without a contract in place. They will pay their attorney to take care of their ordinances and some of the other things our department handles, said Briggs. There are many incurred costs that the county pays for that they do not even see, Briggs told the Commission. It was agreed that a meeting with all the cities is needed before budget time next year. Sheriff Briggs said he is not opposed to setting a percentage for an increase and not going over that. It would help ease some of the worries the cities have. The Commission reviewed the spreadsheet prepared by the council member and the counter proposal of \$26,213.57 for the City of White Lake. The Commission felt the figures are not based on logic and the computing is incorrect. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to reject the proposal of \$26,213.57 and offer the contract that was amended with the original charge of \$44,361 for White Lake City for 2024. The Commission is willing to meet with the town councils to consider protection for future increases. Motion carried all voting aye.

Jim Nielsen informed the Commission that the VFW is helping sponsor a shooting sports program in the county and is looking for any building they can utilize for this.

Auditor Urban reported she reached out to Hanson County to see if they would be interested in sharing a part time 4-H Youth Advisor with Aurora County. Hanson County has decided to hire a full-time advisor on their own county.

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

Reports: November Payroll: Social Security 5,440.44, Medicare 1,272.34; Wellmark 26,876.87, Retirement 5,593.48, Kansas City Life 92.37; Commissioners 4,126.75; Auditor 7,416.55; Treasurer 6,373.64; States Attorney 5,689.22; Courthouse 2,522.57; Director of Equalization 6,049.46; Register of Deeds 4,329.13; Veteran's Service Officer 626.76; Sheriff 16,919.05; Public Welfare 427.62; Extension 1,770.13; Weed 1,222.65; Zoning 748.52; Hwy 34,851.80 EM&D 1,819.77; Payroll Direct Deposit Cost 8.30. Auditor's Account with Treasurer: Cash on Hand 1,989.24; MMDA 2,135,517.97; CD's 942,140.00. Register of Deeds Fees: marriage license/certs 15.00; birth/death 20.00; preservation fund 144.00; driver's license 228.00; copies 37.00; recording fees 1,230.00; transfer fees 1,020.00. CLAIMS:

For: COMMISSIONERS*****		
RON'S MARKET INC	DISTRICT MTG SUPP	11.26
	2024 SDACC DUES	912.00
S D A C C	2024 NACO DUES	450.00
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	NOVEMBER PUBLISHING	423.74
WHITE LAKE AMBULANCE	ADULT & PEDS PADS FOR AED MACH	368.98
		2165.98
For: JUDICIAL SYSTEM****		
MAYA BRIDGE LLC	INTERPRETING SERVICES	380.00
AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE HEALTH		548.00
AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE HEALTH		411.00
	CAA	480.00
		1819.00
For: AUDITOR********		
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	2024 CALENDAR	25.14
POSTMASTER	POSTAGE	264.00
POSTMASTER	YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	
RON'S MARKET INC	DIST MEETING SUPP	11.25
S D A C O	2024 SDACO ASSN DUES	251.99
		581.72
For: TREASURER********		
AURORA COUNY TREASURER	POSTAGE	18.98
POSTMASTER	YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	29.34

RON'S MARKET INC S D A C O STAPLES	DISTRICT MEETING SUPPLIES 2024 SDACO ASSN DUES TONER	11.25 251.98 90.89
		402.44
For: COURTHOUSE******** DAN BECKMANN PLANKINTON CITY POSTMASTER ROADSIDE C - STORE RON'S MARKET INC	VACUUM NOVEMBER ELECTRICITY YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT FUEL FOR LAWN MOWER TOLIET PAPER & PAPER TOWELS	264.43 2207.40 29.33 40.73 280.03
		2821.92
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL POSTMASTER POSTMASTER	POSTAGE YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT DISTRICT MTG SUPPLIES INK FOR PRINTER	500.00 132.00 29.33
For: REGISTER OF DEEDS***		1574.71
AURORA COUNY TREASURER MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL POSTMASTER POSTMASTER RON'S MARKET INC	ZUZ4 CALENDAR	11.25
For: VA OFFICE*******		364.82
AURORA COUNY TREASURER	POSTAGE YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	3.51 29.33
For: SHERIFF*********		32.84
AURORA COUNY TREASURER GOLDEN WEST M & L REPAIR POSTMASTER RON'S MARKET INC RON'S MARKET INC SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION SOUTH DAKOTA SHERIFF ASSOC V I S A V I S A V I S A V I S A	PHONE SERVICES NEW TIRES FOR 2023 EXPLORER YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT BATTERIES PAPER SUPPLIES, COOKIES & JUIC FUEL FOR VEHICLES SHERIFF PATCHES SHERIFF PATCHES POSTAGE CAR WASH WINDSHIELD WIPER BLADES LATE FEES	1820.06 11.50 21.83 28.35 18.00 4.22 15.33
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	435.22

		3651.55
For: JAIL************************************	OCTOBER JAIL HOUSING OCTOBER JAIL HOUSING OCTOBER JAIL HOUSING INMATE MEDS INMATE MEDICAL (1)	434.00 70.00 1600.00 95.25 294.00
For: PUBLIC WELFARE*****		2493.25
POSTMASTER	YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	14.67
For: NURSES OFFICE*****		14.67
AURORA COUNY TREASURER POSTMASTER	POSTAGE YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	2.88 14.67
For: AG BUILDING******		17.55
PLANKINTON CITY RON'S MARKET INC	NOVEMBER ELECTRICITY GARBAGE BAGS	634.25 95.00
For: COUNTY EXTENSION****		729.25
POSTMASTER POSTMASTER	EXTENSION POSTAGE Extension Supplies	30.00 29.33
For: WEED**********		59.33
AURORA COUNY TREASURER C & R SUPPLY POSTMASTER POSTMASTER RON'S MARKET INC	POSTAGE SPRAY TRUCK MAINT & WINTERIZAT POSTAGE WEED POSTAGE MEETING - WATER & COOKIES	17.12 836.14 66.00 33.00 20.00
For: PLANNING & ZONING***		972.26
POSTMASTER S.D. MAIL OFFICE WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	POSTAGE NOVEMBER PUBLISHING TONER	132.00 123.00 110.00
For: R&B CONSTRUCTION****		365.00
A-OX WELDING AUCA CHICAGO MC LOCKBOX AURORA COUNY TREASURER BROSZ ENGINEERING INC BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	WELDING SUPPLIES SERVICES - RAGS & MATS POSTAGE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT GRADER REPAIRS GRADER REPAIRS & FILTERS ETHER FOR MOWER ELECTRIC BILL - AUR CTR & STOR MAIL BOX POST GAS CAN STORLA SHED ACREAGE RENT	182.07 24.36 1.02 380.00 267.65 280.53 27.12 54.23 95.30 41.41 10.00

GRAHAM TIRE - SIOUX FALLS GREAT PLAINS LUMBER & SUPPLY KIMBALL MIDWEST LYLE SIGNS MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM NAPA CENTRAL NORTHWESTERN ENERGY OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL PHEASANTLAND INDUSTRIES PLANKINTON CITY PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY POSTMASTER RDO EQUIPMENT COMPANY RON'S MARKET INC RUNNINGS S.D. MAIL OFFICE	SUPPLIES - NUTS, BOLTS & WASHE TIRES MOWER TRACTOR GARDEN HOSE NOZZLE TERMINALS, COTTER PINS & UNION SIGNS WATER BILL - STORLA SHED FILTER & FLOOR DRY ELECTRIC BILL - WL & STK MOWER TRACTOR REPAIRS SAFETY CLOTHING NOVEMBER ELECTRICITY FUEL LINE, TERMINALS & CLAMPS PROPANE TORCH & CYLINDER, BATT YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT GRADER REPAIRS TOWELS, BAGS, FOLDERS & DIST M WHISK BROOM & AIR FRESHNERS NOVEMBER PUBLISHING MOWER & TRACTOR REPAIRS BRIDGE REPLACEMENT FUEL FOR VEHICLES GRADER REPAIR WATER BILL - STICKNEY SHOP FUEL TRUCK REPAIRS LOADER LEASE BACKUP PROGRAM CELL PHONE USAGE TRAILER & TRUCK REPAIRS CABLE TIES	2800.00 9.99 614.76 301.20 31.00 153.55 140.29 27.93 159.41 406.20 36.38 134.73 152.00 176.88 55.32 10.98 116.42
WHEELCO BRAKE AND SUPPLY INC	CABLE TIES -	18.62
For: E 911 SERVICE*****		27101.17
GOLDEN WEST MID-STATE TELEPHONE CO. SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS	E-911 SERVICES 12-1 TO 12-31 E-911 SERVICES 12-1 TO 12-31 E-911 SERVICES 12-1 TO 12-31	200.00 357.44 30.00
	-	587.44
For: EM&D**************** MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL POSTMASTER RON'S MARKET INC VERIZON WIRELESS	2024 CALENDAR EM & D SUPPLIES BATTERIES CELL PHONE USAGE	5.99 29.33 10.05 95.95

Total Checks: 45,896.22

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

A 444.	Aurora County Commission
Attest:	
Susan Urban, Auditor	
(Published once at the total approximate	ost of)