

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

August 15, 2024

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no public input.

The agenda was amended by adding LEMPG Agreement. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on August 1st. Motion carried all voting aye.

Chairman Dethlefsen informed the rest of the Board he has had a lot of feed-back from the public about the Firesteel watershed project. Commissioner Studeny said he has too. The Commission all agreed that they need to hold a public meeting before any decision is made by the County.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to accept with regret the resignation of Tina Kieffer as the Extension Secretary/4-H Coordinator effective September 12, 2024. Motion carried all voting aye. The Commission would like to thank Tina for her 15 years of service to the County and her dedication to her position that she has held in the extension office.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to authorize the Chairman to sign the 2025 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) agreement. Motion carried all voting aye.

Commissioner Studeny reported that he has not received any information from Mr. Larson as of today on the acoustics in the Community/4-H Building.

Highway Superintendent Vissia and Secretary Beckman were present for the highway report.

State bids for a new motor grader were presented to the Commission for consideration. The grader will be purchased in 2025 and both quotes for the grader include a ripper, wing, and lift group.

Butler:

- 2025 Cat Grader (150JOY-BR) with a 9-year 10,000-hour warranty for \$482,978.61
- Trade in value for 2016 Cat Grader \$162,000
- Total cost after trade in \$320,978.61

John Deere:

- 2024 John Deere Grader (772G) with a 9-year 9,000-hour warranty for \$469,346.12
- Trade in value for 2016 Cat Grader \$115,000
- Total cost after trade in \$354,346.12

Commissioner Niles asked if a packer was included. Hwy Superintendent Vissia said the packer will be separate from the grader bid. Hwy Superintendent Vissia estimated the packer to cost approximately \$3,200. Vissia noted that the warranty on the 2016 Cat grader will be done in June of 2025. Commissioner Hanten asked Vissia about the cracks in the window of the 2016 grader that will be traded in and asked if it shouldn't be replaced. Superintendent Vissia said if it hinders the operator, it will get replaced. A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Clark to accept the bid from Butler for the 2025 150JOY-BR Cat grader at \$482,978.61 with a trade in value of \$162,000 for the 2016 Cat grader. Motion carried all voting aye.

Secretary Nancy Beckman informed the Commission there is a portion of land in the SW part of White Lake City that was at one time a tax deed and was sold to B.A. Hanten that later became county property in 2015. The property is the right of way along Hwy 16. In the past it had been mowed and put up for hay. Vissia said he had received a call from the Mayor of White Lake about who owned it and that it needed to be mowed. This area was mowed prior to today's meeting. White Lake City Council member Nathaniel Schroeder and the Commission all agreed the easiest solution would be to have someone put it up for hay. It was proposed to have the County lease it for little or nothing for haying. Nathen said he would take the proposal back to the City Council for approval. If approved by the city council, then the County would get a lease in place.

A public meeting for the county 5-year road plan will be held on September 19th at 1:00 PM.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to approve an approach permit for St. John's Catholic church on oil road #32 in the SW ¼ SW ¼ of 14-103-64 for an entrance to a parking lot. Motion carried all voting aye. Expenses will be paid for by the county.

Commissioner Hanten asked who is doing the blading down by Aurora Center. Hwy Superintendent Vissia said that Larry Falk was. Commissioner Hanten asked Vissia why is Larry in Plankinton everyday if he is supposed to be down in Aurora Center. Larry has clocked in at the Plankinton shop for two straight weeks, said Hanten. Vissia said he has had Larry up in Plankinton doing other things and he had been blade patching.

The Commission asked if the mowing was done. Vissia said it should be done within the next week or so.

Jamie VanZee from Broz Engineering along with White Lake City Council member Nathaniel Schroeder and White Lake City resident Jeff Gray met with the Commission to discuss water flow south of town and the possibility of a hydrology study for a culvert replacement on the south edge of White Lake City. Schroeder said there is a need to get rid of the water faster in the city so we don't have the sewer backing up into homes. Schroeder told the Commission that it is more of a water flow issue than a culvert issue. He said he walked the area where the water drains/flows to and he found there is a hump that keeps the water from flowing. Commissioner Clark suggested to talk with the NRCS to clean out the ditch since it is on private land. He told Schroeder that the NRCS will clean out the ditch and take it all the way down to the clay if it's on private ground. The Commission asked VanZee what his thoughts were on the problem. VanZee agreed that the problem is not with the culvert and so the hydrology study would not do any good at this point. VanZee and the Commission agreed to start with NRCS to clean out of the drainage ditch and then see if a study is needed.

Jeff Hyett and Jim Reedy from USDA/NRCS, and Joe Schroeder from the City of Mitchell along with Mitchell resident Steve Sibson met with the Commission to discuss the Firesteel watershed protection project. Also present was States Attorney Mairose and Emergency Manager Kehn. Joe Schroeder said right now we are looking at getting the paperwork done in order to move ahead with the study for this project. Commissioner Studeny said the Board had asked States Attorney Mairose to look at the legal aspect of it. States Attorney Mairose said her understanding, so far, was the cost of the study will be paid by a grant and there is no cost to Aurora County. Mr. Schroeder told her that is correct and that the City of Mitchell will be the ones that will take care of the fees and be the ones who will receive the reimbursed from the grant. Schroeder said the study will show potential ways the county and or it's producers to protect the watershed. Nothing in the agreement for the study says that Aurora County has to do what the study recommends, said Schroeder. Clyde said the Commissioners feel they need to have a public meeting

before signing anything so questions from the public can be answered and concerns can be addressed. The main concern has been eminent domain. Mr. Schroeder stated the City of Mitchell does not want any eminent domain used and the Aurora County Board of Commissioners has the authority on whether or not to use it. Steve Sibson said as a tax payer he does not want to see money spent on the Mitchell Lake dredging project and not have the problem resolved with the watershed. Which means that Aurora County would need to agree to help protect the watershed, otherwise the problem is not being fixed. States Attorney Mairose asked if there was an option to agree to the study without eminent domain being included. Schroeder said they are only looking for a sponsor for the area in Aurora County. In order to get the grant, there needs to be eminent domain language in there, otherwise the grant won't happen. If the County sponsors the study and once the study is complete and there are projects that are suggested, the county has the authority to decide what they want to do. If people are not comfortable in doing something, it won't be done, said Schroeder. Mr. Hyett said there will be 3 public meetings for the study. One will be before it begins, one during, and one after. This is so everyone is comfortable in what is being proposed. It was noted by Mr. Reedy that when people think of USDA projects, they were usually dams or flood prevention projects. Things have changed a lot over the years, said Reedy, they now include watershed protection, water supplies, and landscapes that focus on water quality. The Commission thanked them for taking the time to come and clarify some of the questions and concerns the Board had. It was asked if they could select a couple of dates that would work best for them to attend a public meeting to answer any questions or concerns that the public may have. The said they would most definitely like to be at the public meeting and will be contacting Emergency Manager Kehn on some potential dates.

Chairman Dethlefsen said he was approached by a Douglas County Commissioner about possibly sharing positions between the two counties. He said sharing resources between the two counties could possibly help both counties. It was noted that Douglas County currently shares a States Attorney with Charles Mix County. Clyde said he was told that States Attorney is planning on retiring in 2026 and was asked if Aurora County would be interested in sharing that position with them. Clyde said no decision needs to be made, but he wanted to bring it to the rest of the Commission and States Attorney Mairose to think about and keep in mind.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to authorize the new Director of Equalization Jessica Durrin to attend a class for basic courses on September 29th through October 4th in Pierre. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to authorize Veterans Service Officer Audrey Chapman to attend the VSO annual conference on September 3rd – 5th in Sioux Falls. Motion carried all voting aye. A motion as made by Clark, seconded by Niles to allow the veterans service office to be closed in the afternoon on the dates of September 13th, October 25th, and December 13th. Motion carried all voting aye. The Commission directed her to put a notice in the paper so the public is aware she will be out of the office on those afternoons.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Clark to file reports and pay vouchers as listed below. Motion carried all voting aye.

Reports: Wheel Tax Paid: Cities \$1,284.93; Townships \$872.85.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	48.26
S D A C C	CONVENTION REGISTRATION	200.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING	JUNE PUBLISHING	782.35
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	JUNE PUBLISHING	782.35

		1812.96 *
ELECTIONS		
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	TEST BALLOTS - PRIMARY	71.95

		71.95 *
JUDICIAL SYSTEM		
DAILEY LAW OFFICE	CAA	450.10
DAVA WERMERS	CAA	1213.80
STEPHANIE MOEN & ASSOC	TRANSCRIPT	44.10

		1708.00 *
AUDITOR		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	54.65
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	AUDITOR SOFTWARE PROGRAM	4400.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	LIEN SOFTWARE PORGRAM	350.00

		4804.65 *
TREASURER		

GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	69.42
QUILL CORPORATION	MV TONER	163.02
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	TREAS TAX PROGRAM CONTRACT	2650.00

		2882.44 *

COURTHOUSE		
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	5.52
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	43.35
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	COURTHOUSE PEST CONTROL	90.00
PLANKINTON CITY	CH & AG BLDG ELECTRICITY	1640.20
VESTIS	SERVICES - MATS	11.18

		1790.25 *

DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	81.26
S D A A O	SCHOOL REGISTRATION	400.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	DOE SOFTWARE PROGRAMS	4020.00

		4501.26 *

REGISTER OF DEEDS		
BULTSMA AGENCY	SURETY BOND	50.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, FAX & INTERNET	63.00
SD STATE CAPITOL	NOTARY APPLICATION OATH & BOND	30.00

		143.00 *

VA OFFICE		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	50.92
S D V S O A	VSO REGISTRATION	50.00

		100.92 *

SHERIFF		
AXON	TASER BATTERIES	174.40
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	125.26
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	52.30
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	1736.87

		2088.83 *

JAIL		
BRULE COUNTY	JUNE/JULY HOUSING	1080.00
LEWIS FAMILY DRUG LLC	INMATE MEDS (2)	829.18
MINNEHAHA COUNTY REGIONAL	JUVENILE JAIL HOUSING	916.96
PENNINGTON COUNTY JAIL	INMATE TRANSPORT (2)	225.69

		3051.83 *

PUBLIC WELFARE		
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	7.47

		7.47 *
NURSES OFFICE		
SMILE MAKERS	BANDAGES & STICKERS	113.52

		113.52 *
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED		
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE	MONTHLY SUPPORT	60.00

		60.00 *
AG BUILDING		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	104.80
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	AG BUILDING PEST CONTROL	70.00
PLANKINTON CITY	AG BUILDING ELECTRICITY	246.29

		421.09 *
COUNTY EXTENSION		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	62.70

		62.70 *
WEED		
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	LANDFILL ELECTRICITY	64.00
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	7.47

		71.47 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	17594.00
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	GREASE & GREASE GUN	473.88
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	ELECTRICITY - AUR CTR & STORLA	140.21
DIAMOND MOWERS	MOWER BLADES	373.15
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	125.54
GRAHAM TIRE - SIOUX FALLS	FLUID IN TRACTOR TIRES	1182.89
GREAT PLAINS LUMBER & SUPPLY	WRENCH & AIR FRESHNERS	28.68
KIEFFER REPAIR & SALES	PICKUP TIRES	1204.56
MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM	WATER BILL - STORLA SHOP	32.00
NAPA CENTRAL	BRAKE & CARB CLEANER	100.29
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	ELECTRIC BILLS - STK & WL	62.69
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	STUMP GINDER BATTERY	191.46
PLANKINTON CITY	HIGHWAY ELECTRICITY	376.86
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	LIGHT BULBS	9.49
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	1165.59
STAPLES	PAPER	45.59
STICKNEY WATER	WATER BILL - STK SHOP	94.00
TITAN MACHINERY	MOWER REPAIRS	1258.56
TOTAL OIL	FUEL	1487.84
TRANSOURCE	TRUCK BEARING	101.58
TRANSOURCE	LOADER LEASE & DELIVERY	3750.00
VESTIS	SERVICES - RAGS & MATS	12.18

29811.04 *

E 911 SERVICE		
GOLDEN WEST	E-911 SERVICES 8-1 TO 8-31-24	200.00
MID-STATE TELEPHONE CO.	E-911 SERVICES 8-1 TO 8-31-24	357.44
SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS	E-911 SERVICES 8-1 TO 8-31-24	30.00

587.44 *

EM&D		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	61.09
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	119.97
STANDARD PUBLISHING	JUNE PUBLISHING	142.50
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	JUNE PUBLISHING	142.50
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	MICROSOFT OFFICE	150.00

616.06 *

REGISTER OF DEEDS		
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS	MONTHLY EQUIPMENT RENTAL	330.00

330.00 *

Total Checks: 55,036.88 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman
Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost _____.