

# AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

January 2, 2025

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Auditor called for nominations for the 2025 chairman. Studeny nominated Clyde Dethlefsen. Hanten nominated Travis Clark. Dethlefsen nominated John Paul Studeny. A vote was taken by paper ballot with the results showing 2 votes for Dethlefsen, 2 votes for Clark, and 1 vote for Studeny. A second vote was taken by paper ballot with the results showing 3 votes for Dethlefsen and 2 votes for Clark. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to appoint Clyde Dethlefsen as the 2025 Chairman as per results of the votes. Motion carried all voting aye. Chairman Dethlefsen then asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Hanten nominated Travis Clark as Vice Chairman. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to cease nominations, and cast a unanimous ballot for Travis Clark as Vice Chairman. Motion carried all voting aye.

Public Input: Jeff Gray asked about an update on the ditch south of the highway in White Lake that he had discussed with the Commission this past summer along with White Lake City Council Nathaniel Schroeder. It was noted in the August meeting that there was a need to get rid of the water faster so the sewer does not back up into homes and council member Schroeder had told the Commission that there is a hump that keeps the water from flowing as it should. The Commission told Mr. Gray that it needed to go through the NRCS and not through the county because the area with the problem is on private property. Chairman Dethlefsen told Gray that it was agreed upon at the August meeting that the landowner and the city should start with the NRCS to clean the ditch out first and then see if that resolves the issue.

The agenda was amended by adding trackers for highway equipment and employee longevity pay. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried all voting aye.

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

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

A quote from Central Electric was presented to the Commission for an outlet outside the highway shop in Plankinton. The quote was in the amount of \$2,405 for materials & labor for a new 100-amp single phase panel to be mounted on the meter pole with (2) double gfci outlet boxes below it. Commissioner Clark stated if there are already plug-ins on the outside of the building, if there are, why can't we just park the vehicles or equipment closer to the building and utilize the plug-ins we do have. Vissia noted that every side but the north has outlets. Chairman Dethlefsen asked if the trucks were used in the winter. Vissia stated no, unless we have a nice day and need to use them. Dethlefsen told the Highway Superintendent that if we do use the trucks, we need to make sure they are plugged in first before starting them. After the discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission to leave things as they are for now and utilize the outlets that we currently have.

Commissioner Hanten asked about the graveling that Greg Kroupa is supposed to do. Vissia said it will wait until spring to get done.

Aurora Township submitted an application for RAIF funding (Rural Access Infrastructure Fund) to help fund a project that consists of removing three box culverts and replacing them with three flat bottom ones. The total cost of the project is \$78,000. Aurora Township will be responsible for paying \$15,600 and \$62,400 will be paid from the RAIF fund. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to approve the RAIF application from Aurora Township. Motion carried all voting aye.

Gales Township submitted an application for RAIF funding to help fund a project that consists of removing an old culvert and replacing it with a new one, along with putting riprap down on the inlet end, as well as grading the surface. The total cost of the project is \$18,000. Gales Township will be responsible for paying \$4,500 and the remaining \$13,500 will be paid out of the RAIF fund. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to approve the RAIF application from Gales Township. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Chairman directed the highway department to get the remainder of the tracking devices on the other 3 motor graders as soon as possible.

Commissioner Niles noted the new right rear tire was flat on the tractor and should be fixed before it gets ruined.

Commissioner Hanten asked who was doing the work on the Stoddard Bridge and Superintendent Vissia said Tim Matlock was.

On May 22, 2024 the Commission discussed how to handle holidays for the highway department when they work four 10-hour days and made a motion to have the highway department switch to five 8-hour days when a holiday is on a weekday. By working from 8 – 4:30, this allows them to get their 8-hour paid holiday without having to take 2 hours of vacation time to make it a 10-hour day. Members of the highway department requested to have it changed back to the way it was before they made the motion to change it in May. Chairman Dethlefsen informed Vissia and Beckman the Board discussed the request and have decided to keep the five 8-hour day workweek as it cleans it up and everybody is doing the same thing.

Commissioner Hanten suggested to move the mower into the barn at the 4-H grounds to free up space in the highway shop. Since the mower and the building are not being used in the winter, this would be an ideal place to store it. Discussion was held on whether there was a 100-year lease on the buildings or just the land from the City of Plankinton or if the county owns the buildings. Auditor Urban will check into this.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to make the following appointments. Motion carried with all voting aye.

**Coroner:** Diana Spinar

**Deputy Coroner:** Roman Briggs

**Emergency Manager/Weed Supervisor:** Skyler Kehn

**Zoning Administrator:** Jessica Durrin

**Highway Superintendent:** Doug Vissia

**Custodian:** Dan Beckmann

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Clark to appoint the following to the Zoning Board as their terms have expired. Motion carried all voting aye.

John Paul Studeny (Commissioner)  
Blake VanGorp

Peter Licht  
Dan VanDrongelen

Other Zoning Board members are Travis Clark (Commissioner), Andy Espedal, and Joe Koch.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to designate the SD Mail, White Lake Standard, and Stickney Argus as the county's official newspapers. Motion carried all voting aye. Studeny abstained from the vote.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to designate the following. Motion carried all voting aye.

**Bank Depositories:** Farmers & Merchants State Bank- Plankinton & White Lake, and American Bank & Trust - Stickney.

**Site for Foreclosure Sales:** Inside the front door of the Courthouse.

**Official Posting Board:** Courthouse bulletin board & front door of Courthouse.

**Income Guidelines for Poor Applications:** as per [www.fns.gov/snap/income-rules-incomes-limits](http://www.fns.gov/snap/income-rules-incomes-limits)

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to authorize the Chairman, Vice Chairman, or Auditor to sign EM&D quarterly reports and time sheets during the year. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Niles to send a letter to invite the SD Highway Patrol into the County for the purpose on enforcing applicable weight limits and sign the following resolution. Roll Call Vote: Clark, aye; Studeny, aye; Hanten, aye; Niles, aye; Dethlefsen, aye. Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION TO ENFORCE WEIGHT LIMITS**

WHEREAS overweight vehicles cause damage to roadways; and

WHEREAS the taxpayers bear the burden of the cost of road repair;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Aurora County Commission hereby invites the South Dakota Highway Patrol into Aurora County for the purpose of enforcing the applicable weight and load restrictions on the oil roads of Aurora County.

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2025.

Randy Niles, Commissioner Dist. 1

Roger Hanten, Commissioner Dist. 2

Clyde Dethlefsen, Commissioner Dist. 3

John Paul Studeny, Commissioner Dist. 4

Travis Clark, Commissioner Dist. 5

ATTEST: Susan Urban, Auditor

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve, and sign the following resolution regarding the designation of rangeland fire coordinator. Roll Call Vote: Clark, aye; Studeny, aye; Hanten, aye; Niles, aye; Dethlefsen, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AURORA COUNTY  
RANGELAND FIRE COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Aurora County has the authority, pursuant to SDCL 41-20A-11, to request assistance of range fires within the County from the State Wildland and Fire Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has the authority to designate persons to act on behalf of the Board of Commissioners in making such request; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners believes that the appropriate person to make such request is the Aurora County Director of Emergency Management, Skyler Kehn.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following individual is hereby authorized to request rangeland fire assistance, on behalf of the County of Aurora as specified in SDCL 41-20A-11. This appointment shall be effective February 1, 2025 to February 1, 2026. The authority to request assistance as provided shall continue in full force and effect until terminated or modified by resolution of the County of Aurora Board of Commissioners.

Skyler Kehn, Emergency Manager  
Phone 605-942-7751  
Cell 605-680-4687

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Skyler Kehn, Emergency Manager, is appointed County Rural Fire Coordinator for the County of Aurora. The Rural Fire Coordinator is hereby authorized to act as a single point of contact, on behalf of the County of Aurora, in dealing with administrative matters such as burn bans, billings, or questions about this Rangeland Fire Agreement specific to the County. This authority shall continue in full force and effect until terminated or modified by resolution of the County of Aurora Board of Commissioners.

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2025.

s/s Randy Niles, Commissioner District 1

s/s Roger Hanten, Commissioner District 2

s/s Clyde Dethlefsen, Commissioner District 3

s/s John Paul Studeny, Commissioner District 4

s/s Travis Clark, Commissioner District 5

ATTEST: Susan Urban  
County Auditor

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to allow county employees to attend meetings pertaining to their offices with prior approval and an agenda is to be given to the County Commission when the request is made. Motion carried all voting aye. Permission must be granted first before any reimbursements will be paid.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to set the following reimbursement rates for meals, mileage, and lodging. Employees will be reimbursed at the actual cost, but not to exceed the following rates. Receipts must be provided. Motion carried all voting aye.

**2025 Reimbursement Rates for Meals, Lodging & Mileage:**

Breakfast \$6.00	Lunch: \$14.00	Dinner: \$20.00
Lodging: \$107.00 plus tax	Mileage: .655 per mile	

Any reimbursement above and beyond these rates will need to be approved by the Board prior to the expense and will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to set the following rates for burials, Coroner calls, and court interpreter fees. Motion carried all voting.

**Burial Rates 2025:** (SDCL 7-14.1) Flat fee of \$2,000.00 for a traditional burial or cremation.

**Corner Call 2025:** \$100 per call

**Court Interpreting Fees:** \$50 for the first hour and \$25/hour for each hour after. Only the actual time of interpreting will be considered for reimbursement.

A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Hanten to set the rate of \$25 per week for use of county vehicles that are taken home anytime during the week for the Emergency Manager or Highway Superintendent. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to set the following for holiday pay and snow days. Motion carried all voting aye.

**Holiday Pay:** Additional days off in conjunction with a holiday will be considered a holiday and paid at the employees' regular rate of pay and if they are called out, in addition to the regular holiday pay, they shall be paid 1 ½ the hourly rate for the actual hours worked. The highway department will work five 8-hour days during the week when the holiday falls on a weekday.

**Snow Days:** No employee, except for law enforcement, is allowed to come to work when the courthouse is closed by the Chairman of the County Commission. The highway department will be allowed to come to work once it is deemed safe or in an event of an emergency. How to handle pay for snow days is addressed in the county personnel manual.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to set the following rates and precincts for county elections. Motion carried all voting aye.

**Election Workers:**

2025 Rates

- Election Day: \$150.00 per day
- School: \$30.00 to attend
- Post Election Audit: \$65.00 per day
- Tabulators & Resolution Board: \$40.00 per day
- Mileage for Superintendent to bring ballots back to courthouse .51 / mile
- Election lists: Set by Secretary of State's Office

**Election Precincts:**

- Precinct 1 – Stickney Community Building  
(Aurora Twp., Dudley Twp., Hopper Twp. & Stickney Town)
- Precinct 2 – Stickney Community Building  
(Pleasant Lake Twp., Truro Twp., Center Twp. & Washington Twp.)
- Precinct 3 – White Lake City Hall  
(Lake Twp., White Lake Twp., White Lake City, Gales Twp., Patten Twp., Pleasant Valley Twp., Cooper Twp., Eureka Twp., & Crystal Lake Twp.)
- Precinct 5 – Aurora County Ag Building  
(Firesteel Twp., Plankinton Twp., Bristol Twp., Belford Twp., Palatine Twp.)
- Precinct 7 – Aurora County Ag Building  
(Plankinton City)

A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Hanen to approve the 2025 annual salaries and hourly rates.

Motion carried all voting aye.

**2025 Annual Salaries & Hourly Rates**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman  
Randy Niles  
Roger Hanten  
John Paul Studeny

**ANNUAL SALARY**

\$11,131.71  
\$10,531.71  
\$10,531.71  
\$10,531.71

Travis Clark \$10,531.71

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**ANNUAL SALARY**

Susan Urban, Auditor \$51,945.26  
Andrea Pryor, Treasurer \$48,546.84  
Arlene Koch, Reg of Deeds \$49,361.16  
Rachel Mairose, States Attorney (50%) \$45,921.38  
Roman Briggs, Sheriff \$61,855.75

**APPOINTED EMPLOYEES**

**ANNUAL SALARY**

Doug Vissia, Hwy Supt \$60,929.51  
Jessica Durrin, Dir of Equalization & Zoning Director \$47,857.80

**DEPUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**HOURLY RATE**

April Johnson, Deputy Auditor \$20.53  
Sue Faulhaber, Deputy Treasurer (80%) \$18.67  
Nancy Beckman, Deputy Reg of Deeds (20%) \$19.30  
Kyle Lewis, Deputy Sheriff \$48,955.60 Annual Salary  
Kyle Ness, Deputy Sheriff \$48,955.60 Annual Salary  
Malcolm LaFortune, Deputy Sheriff \$48,892.96 Annual Salary

**APPOINTED EMPLOYEES**

**HOURLY RATE**

Sam Simkins, Deputy Dir of Equalization \$18.58  
Dan Beckmann, Custodian \$18.83  
Susie Hanson S/A Secretary (50%) / Welfare (25%) \$18.52  
Trisha Van Drongelen, Admin Sheriff Secretary \$16.98  
Skyler Kehn, Emergency Manager/Weed Supervisor \$18.88  
Audrey Chapman, Veterans Service Officer (30%) \$18.82  
Brandi Shroyer, 4-H Coordinator (80%) \$20.42  
Nancy Beckman, Hwy Secretary (80%) \$19.30

**HIGHWAY WORKERS**

**HOURLY RATE**

Larry Falk \$20.73  
Ron Urban \$20.28  
Scott German \$20.25  
Clint Moore \$20.25  
Derek Koch \$20.13  
Steven Nussbaum \$20.07  
Jesse Thuringer \$20.04  
Nathan Wolbrink \$20.01  
New Hwy Employee \$19.98  
  
Part Time Help \$15.00  
State Hourly Minimum Wage \$11.50

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to appoint the individuals to following boards. Mileage will be paid to a commission member when fulfilling their duties on the following boards. Motion carried all voting aye.



**District III:** Roger Hanten, (Alternate: John Paul Studeny)  
**DeTox & Mental Health:** Travis Clark  
**ROCS:** Randy Niles  
**Weed & Pest:** Clyde Dethlefsen  
**Title III Hazardous Material:** Roman Briggs/Skyler Kehn  
**Tri-County Landfill:** John Paul Studeny  
**Housing:** Randy Niles

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to appoint the following individuals to the County Board of Health. Motion carried all voting aye.

**County Board of Health**  
Melissa Davis  
Rachel Mairose  
Tia Hetland

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to appoint the following individuals to the Housing Board. Motion carried all voting aye.

**Housing Board**  
Todd Clark  
Chris Plamp  
(Additional Members: April Johnson & Dale Steffen)

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to appoint the following individuals to the Weed Board. Motion carried all voting aye.

**Weed Board**  
Rodney Schabot  
Ronnie Prien  
(Additional Members: James Evans & Matthew Koch)

The Aurora County Commissioners recognize that it appears to be a conflict with Commissioner John Paul Studeny as owner of the SD Mail. As per SDCL, it states that a county shall designate three official newspapers unless there are less than three within the county to designate. The County has not changed the amount of business that we have done with the SD Mail and has done business with them for many years. It was also noted that Commissioner Studeny does not own all of the newspapers within the County.

4-H Program Assistant Brandi Shroyer gave a report on some of the goals she has set for 2025 and the positive impact 4-H is having on the community. Brandi informed the Commission that she will be able to go into the schools to promote 4-H. She also will have to fill several more requirements than in previous years in this role and will be

more involved with community outreach, along with creating a County Advisory Board. Brandi is also looking into getting a shooting sports club going and told the Commission she already has found three certified coaches and there are two more willing to become certified. There are several things that need to be worked out, but she is hoping this club will get more kids involved.

Treasurer Andrea Pryor presented a list of properties that are delinquent in taxes and will have to go through the tax deed process. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to have Treasurer Pryor proceed with taking the property through tax deed. Motion carried all voting aye.

Discussion was held on longevity pay for employees. No action was taken at this time.

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

**REPORTS:** December payroll: Social Security 6,029.56 Medicare 1,410.14; Wellmark 29,247.03; SD Retirement 6,483.67; Commissioners 4,269.45; Auditor 7,525.39; Treasurer 6,564.92; States Attorney 5,156.06; Courthouse 2,525.78; Dir of Equal 6,991.39; Reg of Deeds, 4,392.76; Vet Service, 674.73; Sheriff 23,207.36; Public Welfare 721.44; Extension 2,537.80; Weed 1,217.79; Zoning 1,061.10; Hwy 36,287.48, EM&D 1,826.60. Reg of Deeds Fees: Marriage Lic/Certs 30.00; Death/Birth Certs 40.00; Preservation Fund 168.00; Driver's License 294.00; Copies 88.00; Other 0.00; Recording Fees 1,450.00; Transfer Fees 1,384.00. Payroll direct deposit for December 8.50. Auditors Acct with Treasurer: Cash on Hand 1,221.62, MMDA 1,669,137.59, Fund Investments 942,140.00.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS

BEST WESTERN	MOTEL ROOM FOR CONVENTION	208.00
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	PUBLISHING FOR DECEMBER	743.26
SDML WORK COMP FUND	2025 WORK COMP FUND	21855.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING	NOVEMBER PUBLISHING	576.72
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	NOVEMBER PUBLISHING	576.72
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		23959.70 *

AUDITOR

BEST WESTERN	MOTEL ROOM FOR CONVENTION	104.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAILS	129.84
WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	PRINT CARTRIDGE - SUSAN'S	120.00
		-----
		353.84 *

TREASURER		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	PUBLISHING FOR DECEMBER	80.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAILS	196.26
		-----
		276.26 *
STATE'S ATTORNEY		
SD STATE'S ATTY ASSOCIATION	2025 DUES	747.41
		-----
		747.41 *
COURTHOUSE		
L & L SANITATION	2025 GARBAGE HAULING	600.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAILS	113.10
		-----
		713.10 *
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
PERSONALIZED STAMPED ENVELOPE	STAMPED ENVELOPES	1345.60
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAILS	132.84
VANGUARD APPRAISALS	ENTIRE VANGUARD SYSTEM PROGRAM	8775.00
		-----
		10253.44 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
BEST WESTERN	MOTEL ROOM FOR CONVENTION	104.00
		-----
		104.00 *
VA OFFICE		
STANDARD PUBLISHING	NOVEMBER PUBLISHING	65.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	NOVEMBER PUBLISHING	65.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAILS	66.42
		-----
		196.42 *
SHERIFF		
HILLMANS REPAIR	OIL CHANGE - ROMAN	50.92
KYLE LEWIS	LONG SLEEVE UNIFORM SHIRT	131.57
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	PUBLISHING FOR DECEMBER	60.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAILS	522.68
		-----
		765.17 *
FIRE PROTECTION		
PLANKINTON FIRE DEPARTMENT	2025 SUPPORT	20500.00
STICKNEY FIRE DEPARTMENT	2025 SUPPORT	20500.00
WHITE LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT	2025 SUPPORT	20500.00
		-----
		61500.00 *
PUBLIC WELFARE		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAILS	3.00
		-----

		3.00 *
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED		
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE	MONTHLY SUPPORT	60.00
JAMES TAYLOR	MI ATTY FOR 2024	2549.00
		-----
		2609.00 *

SENIOR CITIZENS		
PLANKINTON SENIOR CITIZENS	2025 SUPPORT	850.00
STICKNEY SENIOR CITIZENS	2025 SUPPORT	850.00
WHITE LAKE SENIOR CITIZENS	2025 SUPPORT	850.00
		-----
		2550.00 *

COUNTY EXTENSION		
STANDARD PUBLISHING	NOVEMBER PUBLISHING	88.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	NOVEMBER PUBLISHING	88.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAILS	126.84
		-----
		302.84 *

R&B CONSTRUCTION		
AVERA OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE	DRUG TESTING	112.00
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC	BREUK & ERICK BRG RPLMT	7725.00
DOUG VISSIA	PICKUP GAS	30.00
GREAT PLAINS LUMBER & SUPPLY	BOLTS, NUTS & WASHERS	18.43
GREAT PLAINS LUMBER & SUPPLY	GLOVES, TAPE & GRINDING WHEELS	30.15
L & L SANITATION	ANNUAL GARBAGE HAULING	330.00
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	PICKUP REPAIRS	185.60
S D A C H S	2025 DUES	350.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING	NOVEMBER PUBLISHING	113.50
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	NOVEMBER PUBLISHING	113.50
STAPLES	FILE FOLDERS & PAPER	52.20
STICKNEY WATER	WATER BILL - STK SHOP	94.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAILS	132.84
VESTIS	SERVICES - RAGS & MATS	12.18
		-----
		9299.40 *

EM&D		
AVERA OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE	DRUG TESTING	112.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAILS	66.42
		-----
		178.42 *

REGISTER OF DEEDS		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAILS	193.26
		-----
		193.26 *

Total Checks: 114,005.26 \*

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman  
Aurora County Commissioners

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

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