

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

January 16, 2025

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 health nurse report . 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 Hanten to approve the minutes from the January 2nd meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

Health Nurse Lacey Wiczorek informed the Commission that she had some changes that she would like to inform them of. She told the Board she still serves Aurora County 3 days a week along her school health duties statewide and has been serving Kimball too, but now she will be covering Chamberlain as well . Nothing will change in Aurora, said Wiczorek, I will cover Kimball and Chamberlain on the days I am not in Aurora County. Lacey also reported that her office had done 177 immunizations and 69 flu shots in the county in 2024. Chairman Dethlefsen asked how she was getting along without a secretary. Lacey said it can sometimes get busy without someone to help. Dethlefsen said it would be great if we could find someone to work part-time for just a few hours a week. Wiczorek agreed.

Highway Superintendent Doug Vissia and Secretary Nancy Beckman were present for the highway report. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the following resolution for bridge inspections. Roll Call Vote: Clark, aye; Studeny, aye; Hanten, aye; Niles, aye; Dethlefsen, aye. Motion carried.

BRIDGE REINSPECTION PROGRAM RESOLUTION FOR USE WITH SDDOT RETAINER CONTRACTS

WHEREAS, 23 CFR 650 Subpart C, requires initial inspection of all bridges and reinspection at intervals not to exceed two years with the exception of reinforced concrete box culverts that meet specific criteria. These culverts are reinspected at intervals not to exceed four years.

THEREFORE, Aurora County is desirous of participating in the Bridge Inspection Program. The County requests SDDOT to hire Brosz Engineering, LLC (Consulting Engineers) for the inspection work. SDDOT will secure federal approvals, make payments to the Consulting Engineer for inspection services rendered, and bill the County for 20% of the cost. The County will be responsible for the required 20% matching funds.

Dated this 16th day of January, 2025, at Plankinton, South Dakota.

Board of County Commissioners
Of Aurora County

s/s Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST: Susan Urban, County Auditor

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize Highway Superintendent Vissia to attend the SD Asphalt Conference in Mitchell on February 12th & 13th. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to authorize members of the highway department to attend the Mine Safety & Health Act (MSHA) refresher & safety training on February 11th in Plankinton. Motion carried all voting aye.

Discussion was held on the remaining oversized rock that the county has left to get from Gerrit Overweg. Highway Secretary Beckman noted that the county is still waiting for 2,354 out of the 4,000 ton we purchased. Overweg was paid \$6.00/ton for 4,000 ton in 2021 for oversized rock for a total of \$24,000. Chairman Dethlefsen stated that we should get the remaining oversize as soon as possible. Commissioner Clark told Doug to check with Overweg to see if the county could get some gravel in exchange for the rock if we cannot get the remaining rock. It has been long enough, said Clark, we need to close this deal up. Hopefully he will try to work with the County to get this settled as soon as possible, said Clark.

A hearing was held for a temporary/special liquor license for the Ranch Bar & Grill, LLC. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to approve the temporary/special on-sale alcoholic beverage license for the Ranch Bar & Grill, LLC for the date of January 25, 2025 at the location of Tract 5 in SW ¼ 11-103-66 (old White Lake School Building). Motion carried all voting aye.

State Auditor Brandi Pitts met with the Commission for her closing conference regarding the county's recent audit for the years 2022 and 2023. She stated that things went very smoothly and there were no significant findings.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize Sheriff Roman Briggs and Secretary Trisha VanDrongelen to attend the SOR conference in Deadwood on April 8th & 9th. Motion carried all voting aye. It was noted that DCI would be paying the cost for one night of lodging.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to approve and sign the James Valley Drug Task Force Joint Powers Agreement for 2025. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to approve and sign the 2025 Brule County Jail Contract at \$74.00 per prisoner day. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to allow 4-H Program Assistant Brandi Shroyer to work on the upcoming holiday on January 20th so she can attend a 4-H Leaders meeting Motion carried all voting aye.

Emergency Manager Skyer Kehn presented information on items he would like to purchase through the Homeland Security Grant program. He would like to apply for two projects for the Sheriff's Department and one for Emergency Management. One of the projects for the Sheriff's Department will include four mobile printers and one label inventory printer/scanner. The second project for the Sheriff is five video storage devices for videos and body camera footage. Kehn also said he will be applying for tracks and a mount for the side-by-side for search and rescue for the Emergency Management. All the projects will be 100% paid for by Homeland Security Gants. A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Studeny to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to apply for the HS grant for \$3,890 for 4 mobile printers and a label inventory printer/scanner for \$2,191. Motion carried all voting aye. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to apply for a HS grant for \$728 for five video storage devices. Motion carried all voting aye. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to apply for a HS grant for \$6,399.98 for tracks and a mount for the side-by-side. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Studeny to authorize Weed Supervisor Skyler Kehn and Weed Secretary Brandi Shroyer to attend the Weed & Pest Conference in Huron on February 19-21. Motion carried all voting aye. Brandy will only attend the conference on the 20th and 21st.

Weed Supervisor Kehn presented the Commission with weed spray report for 2024.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to authorize the Emergency Manager to purchase an I-pad for his office. Motion carried all voting aye. Kehn stated this will be very helpful when he uses the Crisis Track in the event of a county disaster.

It was asked if there was a tracker on the weed spray truck. Weed Supervisor Kehn told the Commission there is no plugin to make it work. It was noted that it should be looked into to see if something couldn't be done to get it hooked up before spray season. The Commission asked if the truck was being stored inside somewhere. Kehn said it was in a shed out at the landfill. The Board told him to make sure there is poison out there to keep the rodents out.

NRCS representative Dan Ostrem met with the Commission to discuss the Firesteel Watershed Project that has been brought before the Commission before. Joe Schroeder from the City of Mitchell Public Works arrived a short time later. It was noted that the James River Water District approved to become a sponsor of the project at their last meeting. Dan told the Commission that if the county becomes a sponsor, we have the ability to chose what we want to have done in our area. He stated that the project is funded in phases and the first phase is to do a study, which is funded 100% by a grant. Once the study is done it will allow us to choose what type of projects we want to do for our county. There are seven authorized purposes that we can address. One of the purposes includes flood prevention. Emergency Manager Kehn said a flood prevention project could help with the water problems we have had down in the southern part of the county over the past few years. It can greatly benefit us, said Kehn. Chairman Dethlefsen asked how soon does the county need to decide on this. Ostrem said there is no real time table, the federal government earmarks certain portions of funding for different areas across the country. Commissioner Studeny said James River Water District had the same concerns that we do. Studeny said in order for everyone to feel comfortable with all of this, we need to make sure the supporting documents state the projects identified shall be entered into voluntarily and eminent domain decisions must be a unanimous board decision before going ahead with anything or any project. Studeny asked if the County was able to get out at any time if we agree to do the study or are we in it through the entire process. Dan and Joe told the Commission that if the county agrees to support this project and once the study is done and plans are drafted, you can look at different option to move forward and if there is something you do not like and if you cannot find anything that interests you, the county can opt out at no cost. Mr. Ostrem told the Commission the project will be done if four phases. The first phase is the planning (study) phase, which is 100% paid for by the

NRCS. The second phase is the design for the projects and this is also 100% paid for by NRCS. The third phase is construction, which is a cost share. At this point the parties involved in the project have the ability to decide if they want to invest in the project or not. If not all the parties agree, then the project does not happen. Everyone must agree or it does happen, said Schroeder. Ostrem said during the first phase (planning) he would meet with all the sponsors of the watershed project to see what everyone's wishes are. Commissioner Dethlefsen asked if GF&P were going to be stakeholders since they have a lot of ground in the watershed area. Ostrem said we can invite anyone we want to be at meeting, they will be stakeholders not sponsors. The Commission asked how long will the Feds give us to get our projects done. Dan said there is nothing written in the rules on when it has to be done or completed. But if Congress sees that we are sitting on a large amount of money for a year or longer and not doing anything with it, they probably are not going to give us more money. As long as we are spending the funds we will be fine. Mr. Schroeder said the study/planning can lead to a lot of valuable information for the county. Mr. Ostrem told the Commission the cost for the construction does not have to be direct dollars, it can be made up by an in-kind match, Joe also said by doing the study, it will give us multiple options to consider. The Commission thanked Joe and Dan for taking the time to come to the meeting and answer the questions and concerns they had. This topic will be discussed again at the next regular commission meeting.

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

Reports: Wheel Tax Paid: Cities \$414.67, Townships \$281.69.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	48.51

		48.51 *
ELECTIONS		
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	GENERAL ELECTION CODING	1414.68

		1414.68 *
JUDICIAL SYSTEM		
DAILEY LAW OFFICE	CAA	661.30
DEVY ALVIZURES	INTERPRETER FEES	50.00
THERESA MAULE ROSSOW	CAA	1217.23

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT OF HEALTH	B/A (1)	40.00
STEVEN SMITH	CAA	1098.96

		3067.49 *

AUDITOR		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	68.50
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	W-2 & 1099 - END OF YEAR FORM	129.70
P M B 0112	NOVEMBER NETWORK & ACCESS FEES	71.25

		269.45 *

TREASURER		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	78.08
MINERAL COUNTY SHERIFF	TAX DEED SERVICE	45.00
OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF	TAX DEED SERVICE	40.00

		163.08 *

COURTHOUSE		
BROOKS OIL COMPANY	FUEL FOR COURTHOUSE	345.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	43.58
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL	90.00
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY FOR COURTHOUSE	3066.77
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	DOOR KNOB & WEATHERSTRIPING	47.99
TK ELEVATOR CORP	ANNUAL MAINT CONTRACT GOLD	2398.33

		5991.67 *

DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
DISTRICT III	GIS ANNUAL CHARGE 2025	1500.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	71.48

		1571.48 *

REGISTER OF DEEDS		
AURORA CO REGISTER OF DEEDS	CHECK BLANK ORDER	30.01
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	66.22

		96.23 *

VA OFFICE		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	64.98

		64.98 *

SHERIFF		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	106.40
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	52.66
HILLMANS REPAIR	TIRES FOR 2021 TAHOE - NESS	1091.96
JAMES VALLEY DRUG TASK FORCE	2025 DUES	6250.00
MALCOLM LAFORTUNE	UJS INK STAMP	31.25
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	WARNING TICKETS	175.90
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	TRAFFIC TICKETS	199.66

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION	2025 DUES	125.00
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	OIL CHGE & TIRE ROD, WHEEL ALI	580.68
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	BATTERY	5.29
SOUTH DAKOTA SHERIFF ASSOC	2025 DUES	582.41
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	HARD DRIVE FOR SHERIFF OFFICE	145.60
V I S A	MEAL	8.97
V I S A	POSTAGE	5.50
V I S A	INTEREST	2.00
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	514.26

		9877.54 *

JAIL		
DAVISON COUNTY SHERIFF	JAIL HOUSING	8610.00
LEWIS FAMILY DRUG LLC	INMATE MEDS	5446.95
MITCHELL CLINIC LTD	MEDICAL INMATES (3)	636.00

		14692.95 *

CORONER		
ROMAN BRIGGS	CORONER TRAINING IN PIERRE	15.00

		15.00 *

NURSES OFFICE		
OFFICE OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVI	JANUARY - JUNE 2025 AGREEMENT	3761.82

		3761.82 *

MENTALLY HANDICAPPED		
DAKOTA COUNSELING INSTITUTE	JAN - MAR SUPPORT 2025	762.50

		762.50 *

DRUG & ALCOHOL		
DAKOTA COUNSELING INSTITUTE	JAN - MAR SUPPORT 2025	300.00

		300.00 *

AG BUILDING		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	105.03
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL	70.00
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY FOR AG BUILDING	1115.09

		1290.12 *

COUNTY EXTENSION		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	63.94

		63.94 *

WEED		
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	LANDFILL ELECTRICITY	64.00
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	4.94

WARNE CHEMICAL & EQUIPMENT	WEATHER WIND METERS	143.55

		212.49 *
PLANNING & ZONING		
DISTRICT III	2025 DUES	12173.00

		12173.00 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC	BRIDGE REPLMT ENG - JACK RABBI	32045.00
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	ELECTRIC BILL - AUR CTR & STOR	168.40
FASTENAL COMPANY	BOLTS & SAFETY GLASSES	189.26
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	119.91
KIMBALL MIDWEST	RING TERMINALS & O RINGS	371.98
KONECHNE HEATING AND COOLING	REPAIR HEATER - STK SHOP	402.00
MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM	WATER BILL - STORLA SHOP	32.00
NAPA CENTRAL	PICKUP REPAIRS	1020.10
NAPA CENTRAL	GLOVES & LUBE SPRAY	99.94
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	ELECTRIC BILL - WL & STK	173.68
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRIC - HIGHWAY	467.98
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	GRADER CAP SCREWS	16.12
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	ELECTRIC SUPP, GREASE, DUCT TA	60.89
RUNNINGS	WIRE CRIMPER & ELECTRICIAL SUP	131.36
SDSU	ASPHALT CONFERENCE REG	125.00
STEVE'S WELDING REPAIR	ROAD GROOMER & GRADER REPAIRS	245.14
STEVE'S WELDING REPAIR	IRON	39.79
STICKNEY REPAIR & SERVICE	GRADER HOSES	123.48
TIM MATLOCK CONTRUCTION	ROCK FOR MILLING & CULVERT	36256.37
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	104.91
VESTIS	SERVICES - RAGS & MATS	12.18
WHITE LAKE WELDING	IRON & CUTTING - GRADER	37.25

		72242.74 *
E 911 SERVICE		
GOLDEN WEST	E-911 SERVICES 1-1 TO 1-31-25	200.00
MID-STATE TELEPHONE CO.	E-911 SERVICES 1-1 TO 1-31-25	357.44
MITCHELL REGIONAL 911	E-911 SERVICES 1-1 TO 3-31-25	10788.84
MITCHELL REGIONAL 911	TRAFFIC STOPS 1-1 TO 3-31-2025	2368.33
SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS	E-911 SERVICES 1-1 TO 1-31-25	30.00

		13744.61 *
EM&D		
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	56.22
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	BATTERY FOR EM & D PICKUP	286.09
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	114.81

		457.12 *

DOMESTIC ABUSE
SAFE PLACE OF EASTERN SD 2025 SUPPORT 2500.00

2500.00 *

Total Checks: 150260.15 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman
Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost _____.