

# AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

March 6, 2025

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no public input.

The agenda was amended by adding EM&D equipment transfer costs for new pickup, abatement, approve Plat, training for sheriff's department, and contract law. 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 Niles to approve the minutes from the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

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

Discussion was held on employees flexing time and also whether the highway department should close when the courthouse closes when weather conditions are bad. Commissioner Studeny said the highway is different than the courthouse. Chairman Dethlefsen said when the courthouse is closed, it's because we want to keep the employees safe when traveling home in bad weather. When there's a full-blown blizzard, it was noted that it doesn't make much sense to have the highway employees drive in to work and the courthouse employees stay home. If it's to the point where the visibility is so bad, the highway is not going to be out plowing snow because the roads will just blow shut again. It was suggested that if blizzard conditions exist and the courthouse is closed, the highway employees stay home as well and the highway superintendent can use his discretion as to whether to call the highway employees in to work if conditions improve.

The agenda item for approach permits was not acted upon since no permits were turned in.

**BID LETTING:** Pursuant to notice of bids the following bids were opened:

**ONE YEAR SUPPLY OF PATCH MIX AND HOT MIX:** Bids were received from the following:  
Commercial Asphalt: Patch Mix @ \$120.00/ton; Hot Mix @ \$73.00/ton and Omega Mix @ \$170.00/ton; A

motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to accept the bids from Commercial Asphalt. Motion carried all voting aye.

**BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE:** Bids were received from the following: Scott Construction @ \$250/hr. for excavator, \$250/hr. for payloader, \$250/hr. for dozer, and \$200/hr. for track skid loader; Matlock Construction @ \$750/hr. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to accept the bid from Scott Construction and use Matlock Construction in emergency situations only. Motion carried all voting aye.

**GRAVEL CRUSHING:** Bids were received from the following: First Rate Excavate @ \$5/ton. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to reject all bids for gravel crushing due to no mining permits in place. Motion carried all voting aye.

**STOCKPILED GRAVEL:** Bids were received from the following: Greg Kroupa @ \$6/ton (for 1-5,000), \$5.50/ton (for 5,001-10,000), and \$5/ton (over 10,001); Gerrit Overweg @ \$6/ton. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to accept the bid from Greg Kroupa. Motion carried all voting aye.

**ASPHALT OVERLAY:** Bids were received from the following: Commercial Asphalt @ \$105/ton and \$1,300/ton for MC 70 for Prime. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to accept the bid from Commercial Asphalt. Motion carried all voting aye.

**MASTIC GAP REPAIR BID:** Bids were received from the following: Highway Improvement, Inc. @ 4.58/ft.; Seal Pros Inc. @ \$6.28/ft.; and Black-Top Paving @ \$5.13/ft. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to accept the bid from Highway Improvement, Inc. Motion carried all voting aye.

**EQUIPMENT RENTAL RATE WITH OPERATOR:** Bids were received from the following: Matlock Construction – Excavator @ \$295.00/hr.(Komatsu) & \$285/hr. (Cat), Pay Loader \$250/hr., Track Skid Loader \$200/hr., Dozer @ \$250/hr., Belly Dump @ .34/mile; Side Dump @ .34/mile; Doubles @ .29; Scott Construction – Excavator \$250/hr., Pay Loader \$250/hr., Track Skid Loader \$200/hr., Dozer \$250/hr., Belly Dump @ .30/mile, Side Dump @ .30/mile; Gerrit Overweg Belly Dump @ .35/mile. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to accept bids from Matlock and Scott and use whichever is in the best interest of the county. Motion carried all voting aye.

**LANDFILL LEASE:** Bids were received from the following: Justin Krell @ \$1,300/annually; Travis Fink @ \$1,250/annually. A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Niles to accept the bid from Justin Krell. Motion carried all voting aye.

**RIGHT-OF-WAY LEASE:** No bids were received.

Highway Superintendent Vissia informed the Commission that he was notified that the Jackrabbit Bridge Project to be funded with funds from the BIG grant has a good possibility of having a bid letting this year. The total cost of the project is \$1,838,534.31 with the BIG grant covering \$1,470,900.00 and the county picking up the rest of the cost for approximately \$370,000. Since the gravel crushing bid was rejected, the money that was budgeted for that would go toward the Jackrabbit Bridge project. Vissia told the Commission the county will be fine with gravel this

year and there are a few options he will look at to get mining permits for. Vissia said he budgeted approximately \$350,000 for the gravel expenses this year, so that can be put toward the Jackrabbit Bridge.

It was decided load limits will go on oil roads on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March.

Superintendent Vissia noted that the time changes on Sunday so the highway department will be going to their four 10-hour days on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

4-H Program Assistant Brandi Shroyer asked permission for her office to be closed during the week of March 24-27<sup>th</sup> for a family vacation. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to authorize Brandi to close her office for that week. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to waive the rental fee for the City of Plankinton when they hold their election on April 8<sup>th</sup> in the Community/4-H Building. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Commission wanted to clarify their motion made at the last meeting about waiving the rental of the Community/4-H building for non-profits. A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Clark to waive the rental fee for the fire department, but other non-profits will need go before the county commission to waive any rental fee. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded Niles to authorize Brandi to attend a training on April 7<sup>th</sup> in Mitchell. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Director from District III, Lori Cowman, reviewed with the Commission the 2024 Annual Performance Report.

Emergency Manager Skyler Kehn informed the Commission that there was a mistake in his purchase order for his new EM/Weed truck. He said the order was for a regular cab, not a crew cab, and the difference in cost is \$3,329. There is a crew cab available right now if we want it, said Kehn. He also noted there was enough left in his budget to cover this. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to purchase a Ford crew cab off the state bid for \$52,550. Motion carried all voting aye.

Emergency Manager Kehn told the Commission he is now a certified Traffic Incident Management Instructor and asked what the reimbursement costs should be if he is asked to do a class for training. It was noted that the county

should at least recover the cost for his time and mileage. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to charge \$30/hour and mileage at the state rate. Any lodging costs will be reimbursed at the state rate as well. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Studeny to approve B&L Communications to transfer the equipment from the old EM vehicle to the new one at a cost of \$705.00. Motion carried all voting aye.

Chairman Dethlefsen, Commission Studeny and Emergency Manager Kehn attended a Firesteel Watershed Project meeting for the sponsors on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> in Mitchell. Kehn reported that two projects were identified for Aurora County with one being for flood protection and the other for watershed protection. There will be a list of partners to add and then in the near future a meeting will be held with the sponsors and the partners. After the sponsor and partner meeting, a public meeting will be held. Kehn also noted that the City of Mitchell is the lead sponsor for the entire project.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to approve A Plat of Tract 1 of Hillman Addition in the West ½ of Section 17, Township 103, Range 66 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Aurora County, South Dakota. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Clark to approve abatement #1043 in the amount of \$1,322.54 for property in Lot A in Block 1, SW1/4 14-103-66. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Studeny to only pay mileage for a zoning board member who arrived late for a zoning meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to authorize the sheriff's department to attend the highway safety grant training on March 26<sup>th</sup> in Aberdeen; the sheriff's conference in Deadwood on April 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, and a narcotics officers' conference on April 30 - May 1<sup>st</sup> in Deadwood. Motion carried all voting aye. The lodging for the narcotics conference will be paid for by the James Valley Drug Task Force.

Discussion was held on the error in the amount for the contract law for the City of Plankinton. There was a typo that was made in the contract and the city was notified of the error. It was discussed to see if the city wanted a

new contract or if we can edit the one that was given to them. Chairman Dethlefsen will speak with the States Attorney to see what would be in the best interest of the county and the city.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to enter into executive session at 12:06 PM as per SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel. Motion carried all voting aye. The Chairman declared the Board out of executive session at 12:11 PM with no action taken.

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

**Reports:** February Payroll: Social Security 6,112.99; Medicare 1,429.65; Wellmark 29,160.32, Retirement 6,407.15; Kansas City Life 108.39; Commissioners 4,438.35; Auditor 8,106.31; Treasurer 6,841.02; States Attorney 6,309.42; Courthouse 2,398.94; Director of Equalization 6,393.49; Register of Deeds 4,636.07; Veteran’s Service Officer 968.10; Sheriff 20,192.72; Extension 2,896.38; Weed 1389.57; Zoning 818.46; Hwy 37.609.50; EM&D 2,089.64; Payroll Direct Deposit Cost 8.30. Auditor’s Account with Treasurer: Cash on Hand 2,012.53; MMDA 1,966,392.86; CD’s 942,140.00. Register of Deeds Fees: Marriage Lic/Certs 55.00; Birth/Death Certs 15.00; Preservation Fund 195.00; Driver’s License 198.00; Copies 92.00; Other 0.00; Recording Fees 1,615.00; Transfer Fees 1,831.00.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS

S.D. MAIL OFFICE	FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	472.04
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		472.04 *

JUDICIAL SYSTEM

DAVA WERMERS	CAA	1632.75
DAVA WERMERS	CAA	989.75
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT OF HEALTH	B/A (5)	420.00
STEPHANIE MOEN & ASSOC	TRANSCRIPTS	78.40
		-----
		3120.90 *

AUDITOR

QUILL CORPORATION	OFFICE SUPPLIES	230.42
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	129.84
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		360.26 *
TREASURER		
QUILL CORPORATION	POST IT NOTES & POST IT FLAGS	27.40
QUILL CORPORATION	PAPER CLIPS	70.36
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	191.59
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	196.26
		-----
		485.61 *
COURTHOUSE		
BROOKS OIL COMPANY	FUEL FOR COURTHOUSE	356.50
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY & WATER	2788.54
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	113.10
		-----
		3258.14 *
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	126.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	132.84
		-----
		258.84 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	193.26
		-----
		193.26 *
VA OFFICE		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	66.42
		-----
		66.42 *
SHERIFF		
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	BATTERIES	17.99
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	522.68
		-----
		540.67 *
JAIL		
DAVISON COUNTY SHERIFF	FEBRUARY JAIL HOUSING	6300.00
		-----
		6300.00 *
PUBLIC WELFARE		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	3.00
		-----
		3.00 *

MENTALLY HANDICAPPED		
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE	MONTHLY SUPPORT	60.00
LEWIS & CLARK BEHAVIORAL	MI - HOLLOW HORN	225.00
		-----
		285.00 *
AG BUILDING		
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY & WATER	1097.18
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		1097.18 *
COUNTY EXTENSION		
QUILL CORPORATION	ADJUSTABLE DESK CONVERTER	210.74
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	126.84
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		337.58 *
WEED		
LAMB MOTOR COMPANY	EM & WEED TRUCK - 2024 FORD	26275.00
QUILL CORPORATION	OFFICE SUPPLIES	50.55
		-----
		26325.55 *
PLANNING & ZONING		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	69.00
		-----
		69.00 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
BROOKS OIL COMPANY	PROPANE	816.50
BULTSMA AGENCY	NOTARY PUBLIC BOND	50.00
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	GRADER	320978.61
C & B OPERATIONS LLC	SKID LOADER REPAIRS	347.02
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	ELECTRIC BILL	355.42
SD FEDERAL PROPERTY AGENCY	TOOLS	140.00
FLEETPRIDE	TRUCK WIPER BLADES	22.18
INDEPENDENT VIKING GLASS INC	GRADER WINDOWS	1122.57
MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM	WATER BILL - STORLA SHOP	33.00
NAPA CENTRAL	PICKUP REPAIRS, WIPER BLADES	268.21
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	ELECTRIC BILLS - WL & STK	103.40
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	438.39
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	MISC SHOP SUPPLIES	311.62
RUNNINGS	WELDER REPAIRS	11.18
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	348.00
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	BRIDGE INSPECTIONS	767.75
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	JACK RABBIT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	617.95
SD STATE CAPITOL	NOTARY PUBLIC RENEWAL	30.00

STICKNEY WATER	WATER BILL - STICKNEY SHOP	94.00
TIM MATLOCK CONTRUCTION	RIP RAP FOR PRANGLEY CULVERT	34540.20
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	132.84
VESTIS	SERVICES - RAGS & MATS	12.18
VOLLAN OIL	FUEL	7960.51
WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	COPIER TONER	116.00
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		369617.53 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
TIM MATLOCK CONTRUCTION	56 ROAD FOR ROCKS	2600.00
		-----
		2600.00 *
E 911 SERVICE		
GOLDEN WEST	E-911 3-1 TO 3-31-2025	200.00
MID-STATE TELEPHONE CO.	E-911 SERVICES 3-1 TO 3-31-25	357.44
		-----
		557.44 *
EM&D		
LAMB MOTOR COMPANY	EM & WEED TRUCK - 2024 FORD	26275.00
QUILL CORPORATION	OFFICE SUPPLIES	50.56
TWO WAY SOLUTIONS INC	RADIO PROGRAMMING (7)	260.99
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	66.42
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		26652.97 *
	Total Checks:	442601.39 *

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 \_\_\_\_\_)