

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

March 20, 2025

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no public input.

The agenda was amended by adding LEMPG grant, Dakota Air Spray, interest in White Lake Haying bid and a correction was made noting that Magdalena Popek-Hurst was meeting with the Commission as a citizen of Plankinton, not as a representative for the Plankinton City Council. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten 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 March 6th meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to authorize the auditor to make an operating transfer from the General Fund into the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of \$45,000. Motion carried all voting aye.

Director of Equalization Jessica Durrin informed the Commission that she has passed her CAA test and is now certified. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to take her off her probationary status and increase her wage by .50/hour effective March 11, 2025. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to approve a Plat of Lot 1 of Mayclin Addition in the SE ¼ of Section of 13, Township 103 N, Range 64 West of the 5th P.M., Aurora County, South Dakota. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve Abatement #1044 for property in SE ¼ Lot 1 of Geuke Addition in 1-104-66 in Firesteel Township for \$149.97. Motion carried all voting aye.

Highway Secretary Nancy Beckman was present for the highway report.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Studeny to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the Bridge Improvement Grant Agreement (BIG) for Structure #02-097-056 (Jackrabbit Bridge), Project #BRF

6119(00)25-2, PCN 0A6Y. The amount of the grant is \$1,470,900.00, which is 80% of the project. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to approve an approach permit for Shogun Investments along oil road #11 for field access to NE ¼ SE ¼ 3-102-66 at the county's expense. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to approve an approach permit for Shogun Investments along oil road #11 for field access to NW ¼ SW ¼ of 2-102-66 at the county's expense. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Clark to approve an approach permit for Shogun Investments along oil road #11 on 374th Ave to widen an approach to SW ¼ NW ¼ of 11-102-66 at the landowner's expense. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to approve an approach permit for Paul Borgman on county road #2 for field access to SE ¼ SW ¼ 1-105-66 at the landowner's expense. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to adopt the 2023 edition of the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Chairman asked highway secretary Beckman if the county has gotten all the gravel from Gerrit Overweg that was purchased from him a few years ago. Beckman stated that they have not gotten all of it. The Commission directed the highway department to get the gravel as soon as possible.

4-H Program Assistant Brandi Shroyer spoke to the Commission about the rates that the county is charging for the extra days that renters use to set up or tear down/clean when they rent the building. Currently the renters are charged \$25 extra to be able to set up the day before and another \$25 to tear down/clean up the day after their event. Brandi recommended increasing the amount and felt that \$25 was a little low for someone who takes the entire day to decorate. She suggested increasing it to \$50 or even \$100 if they take the whole day to decorate the day before. A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Studeny to adjust the rental rates for the additional days they use to set up and take down/clean. The new charges are as follows: \$100.00 to use the building for the entire day before their event and \$50 from 2:00 pm or later; and an extra \$50 for the following day to tear down/clean up, which must be done by Noon. The new rates are effective immediately, except for those who have already booked their event. Motion carried all voting aye.

Emergency Manager Skyler Kehn presented the Commission with quotes for vehicle decals for his new pickup. Quote were received from Make It Mine Designs for \$635.50 and TK Design, LLC for \$500.00. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to accept the quote from TK Designs for \$500.00. Motion carried all voting aye.

Emergency Manager Kehn requested permission to apply for a UJS grant to replace a couple of panels in the clerk of courts door and one in the sheriff's office with glass. Kehn also stated that the grant would help pay for a secured service counter in the sheriff's office so no one can enter the office. Skyler noted he received two quotes for this project. Plankinton Lumber submitted a quote for \$14,307.84 and Mueller Lumber's quote was for \$6,316.00. A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Clark to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to apply for a UJS grant for this project and accept the quote from Mueller Lumber for \$6,316.00. Motion carried all voting aye. It was also noted that there is security grant money left over from a previous security project and a portion of that can be applied to the 25% match the county has to make.

Kehn informed the Commission that the LEMPG grant that is received by the county to help cover a portion of the cost for his salary will be will be decreasing. Last year it was decreased by 10% and in September 2025 it will decrease another 35%. Kehn said currently the grant pays about 45% of his salary and now it will pay about 27.5% with the proposed decrease. He said the county has until April 30th to notify the state if we are still going to participate in this grant program. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to continue with the LEMPG grant through the State of SD. Motion carried all voting aye.

Plankinton citizen Magdalena Popek-Hurst proposed a Community Safety Day(s) event to be held in October of 2026. She stated this event would bring together local emergency services, safety education, and community activities to improve safety awareness in our county. Currently she is researching what it would take to create such an event that brings together people from neighboring communities while providing valuable safety information. Magdalena said she cares deeply about this community even though she has not lived here her entire life. She would like to contribute to its success and believes bringing people together around safety can help build the kind of community where young people want to stay and where our seniors feel secure. Magdalena asked the county to

support this event with \$1,000 for basic expenses. Emergency Manager Kehn noted that he is required to do two outreach programs each year and this would be great for that. The Commission asked if it could be made a county-wide event so that all communities could benefit from it. She said that is a wonderful idea and will reach out to Stickney and White Lake. Magdalena said this would create multiple events. There is potential for free safety training & education for residents of all age groups. It would provide opportunities for local business to showcase their services. It could have a direct financial benefit through event profit-sharing and highlight the work of our emergency services, make opportunities for recruitment of volunteers, and increase public awareness of available county resources. It could also help economic development by attracting visitors who will eat & shop in our communities and possibly attract future residents & businesses. Magdalena said she would like the county to consider working with her to develop and manage the event. She will handle the planning and organization, while working closely with the county. The Commission agreed that this is a great idea and the county will give her our full support.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to grant permission for Dakota Air Spray to operate, take off, or land aircraft on any county road in Aurora County for aerial application of chemical or fertilizer materials with the condition that a flag person is present at both ends of the road and the highway superintendent is contacted prior to use of road. Motion carried all voting aye.

Auditor Urban informed the Commission she has been contacted by someone wanting to submit a bid for the hay land lease for the property in Lot H2 in the E ½ of NE ¼ of 15-103-66 and Lots 7-12, Block 34 in White Lake. Since no bids were received at the bid letting on March 6th, the Commission directed the Auditor to send the lease agreement to the interested party and have them return it for signatures.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Clark to approve the following addendum to the contract law agreement for the City of Plankinton. Motion carried all voting aye.

ADDENDUM TO AGREEMENT FOR MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES
BY THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

This addendum to the agreement for Municipal Law Enforcement Services by the County Sheriff's Department dated January 1, 2025, is entered into by Aurora County, the Aurora County Sheriff, and the City of Plankinton, for the purpose of amending Section 9.1 Fees – Total Sum. All parties agree as follows:

Section 9.1 Fees – Total Sum shall be amended and adopted to read as follows:

9.1 Total Sum: the City shall pay the County, bi-annually, \$39,050.00 for the cost of salary and equipment maintenance during the term of this agreement.

All other provision of the Agreement of Municipal Law Enforcement Services by the County Sheriff's Department dated January 1, 2025, shall remain in full force.

Dated: 3-20-2025

s/s Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST: Susan Urban, County Auditor

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to authorize Welfare Director Susie Hanson to attend the SD Association of County Welfare Officials spring workshop on April 3rd in Pierre. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Commission discussed the use of flex time with States Attorney Mairose. Rachel told the Commission that flex time is not addressed in the handbook, so it is not allowed and did not feel it was necessary for an addendum to be added to the handbook. Chairman Dethlefsen asked how do we stop it, because it is happening. Mairose said the Board has the option of disciplining the supervisor if they are not enforcing it. She also said the Commission could send out a reminder or have a meeting about it. Chairman Dethlefsen said we addressed this with the employees at our employee meetings that we have and it has not changed anything. It was noted that flex time could be used in emergency situations only such as weather-related emergencies. Emergency Manager Skyler Kehn asked if it could be changed to emergencies only rather than weather-related emergencies because he will more than likely have emergencies that are not weather related. The Commission said it can include emergencies so that it will cover his duties. The Commission asked what type of recourse does the county have if an individual does not abide by the flex time policy. Rachel said the Board may do a written reprimand on the employee and if they continue with their actions the county can suspend without pay or put them on a probationary status for a while. The Commission noted there needs to be consequences in order to get this to stop. States Attorney Mairose was directed to draw up an addendum about flex time for them to consider at their next meeting.

States Attorney Mairose said she was approached by Emergency Manager Kehn about amending Burn Ban Ordinance No. 2015-3 that would make an exception for the local fire departments to do control burns during a burn ban. It was noted that control burns are done during March 1st to May 1st. Commissioner Studeny stated he did not

want to put exceptions in the ordinance and said a burn ban is a burn ban. The Commission voiced concerns about the liability if the control burn gets away. It was the consensus of the County Commission that a burn ban is in effect for everyone and no exceptions should be made.

Discussion was held on putting a burn ban on at this time due to the dry conditions. The Commission directed the Auditor to publish a notice in the papers stating that if there is little or no moisture by April 1st, the County will consider implementing a burn ban at their April 3rd meeting. This will give those individuals who need to burn the opportunity to do so before the next meeting.

States Attorney Mairose informed the Commission she has several NW Digest Books that she would like to get rid of. She said she has an online subscription for them and has not used them since she has been here. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize the States Attorney to offer the books for sale. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Auditor presented the Commission with a letter from the City of White Lake informing the county they will asking for a motion at their meeting on April 7th to vacate a certain portion of South Ellis St which abuts Lot 6, Block 34, original addition to the City of White Lake as per the county's request at the City's meeting on January 6, 2025.

The Auditor informed the Commission that she has figured a new longevity rate that they asked her to come up with. The Commission reviewed the proposed tier plan and directed her to have the States Attorney draw up an addendum to the handbook for the changes.

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

Reports: Wheel Tax Paid: Cities \$1,097.50, Townships \$745.53.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS
GOLDEN WEST
S D P A A

COMMISSIONERS PHONE
LIABILITY INSURANCE - 2025

48.51
80874.10

80922.61 *

JUDICIAL SYSTEM

MAYA BRIDGE LLC	INTERPRETING SERVICES	350.00
AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE HEALTH	B/A (11)	1507.00

		1857.00 *
AUDITOR		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	57.73
P M B 0112	JANUARY NETWORK SERVICES	57.25
WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	RESEARCH ON SECURITY ON PRINTE	150.00

		264.98 *
TREASURER		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	76.09

		76.09 *
COURTHOUSE		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	43.58
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL - COURTHOUSE	90.00

		133.58 *
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	71.86
S D A A O	SDAAO MEMBERSHIP FEES	75.00
VANGUARD APPRAISALS	REMOTE ACCESS TO TABLET	1400.00

		1546.86 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	63.03

		63.03 *
VA OFFICE		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	68.78

		68.78 *
SHERIFF		
B & L COMMUNICATION	TUNE & ALIGN EXTENDER	135.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	101.15
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	52.53
HILLMANS REPAIR	OIL CHANGE IN MALCOLM'S VEHICL	55.92
KARL'S	NEW TV FOR THE CAMERA'S	239.99
TRITECH SOFTWARE SYSTEMS	ANNUAL SUB FEE FOR OPS LICENSE	120.00
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	514.50

		1219.09 *
JAIL		
BRULE COUNTY	FEBRUARY JAIL HOUSING	666.00
HUGHES COUNTY FINANCE OFFICE	FEBRUARY JAIL HOUSING	115.00

LEWIS FAMILY DRUG LLC	INMATE MEDS	46.47

		827.47 *
PUBLIC WELFARE		
S D A C C	WELFARE WORKSHOP	20.00

		20.00 *
AG BUILDING		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	105.03
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL - AG BUILDING	70.00

		175.03 *
COUNTY EXTENSION		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	61.86

		61.86 *
WEED		
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	LANDFILL ELECTRICITY	65.00
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	4.94

		69.94 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
AVERA OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE	DRUG TEST - SCOTT	51.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	114.55
MCCOOK COUNTY HIGHWAY	CRACK SEALANT	2970.10
NANCY BECKMAN	MUTCD BOOK	103.13
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	TAPE & LATH	145.95
TRANSOURCE	LOADER LEASE	3200.00
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	104.92

		6689.65 *
E 911 SERVICE		
SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS	E-911 SERVICES 3-1 TO 3-31-25	30.00

		30.00 *
EM&D		
AURORA COUNTY TREAS	TITLE & REG FOR NEW PICKUP	15.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	58.44
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	124.89

		198.33 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS	MONTHLY EQUIPMENT RENTAL	330.00
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS	MONTHLY EQUIPMENT RENTAL	330.00

		660.00 *

ADVANCE TAX
AURORA COUNTY TREASURER ADV TAX PAYMENT 1626.12

1626.12 *

Total Checks: 94,884.30 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman
Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost _____.