

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

April 17, 2025

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no public input.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve the agenda. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on April 3rd and the equalization meeting on April 8th. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize the Auditor, Treasurer, and Register of Deeds to attend their spring workshop on May 14th & 15th in Pierre. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to enact a burn ban effective immediately and approve the following resolution. Roll Call Vote: Clark, aye; Studeny, aye; Hanten, aye; Niles, aye; and Dethlefsen, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION BANNING OUTDOOR BURNING AND DECLARING A FIRE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS Aurora County has been experiencing unseasonal warm, dry, windy weather conditions; and

WHEREAS these weather conditions have contributed to a very high fire danger by drying out of fields, grass lands, and shelter belts; and

WHEREAS the rural areas of Aurora County are protected by volunteer firefighters who must take leave from their employment to fight fire; and

WHEREAS South Dakota Law imposes liability for damages upon persons who negligently allow a fire to spread, or who willfully maintain a public nuisance, or who burn off land without giving due consideration to prevailing weather conditions; and

WHEREAS South Dakota Law also imposes criminal liability including fines of up to \$1,000.00 and jail sentences of up to one year in the county jail, or lesser penalties for persons who commit the acts described above; and

WHEREAS the Board of County Commissioners has consulted with local fire officials and law enforcement officials as to the fire hazard conditions prevailing in the County; and

WHEREAS Aurora County has the authority under South Dakota State Law to declare, abate and prevent public nuisances; and

WHEREAS Aurora County has adopted Ordinance No. 2015-3, An Ordinance to Exercise the County's Statutory Authority to Prohibit or Restrict Open Burning and to Provide for a Penalty, which provides, among other things a procedure for imposing a burn ban;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Aurora County, as follows:

1. It is the determination of the Board that adverse conditions exist as defined in Ordinance No. 2015-3.
2. All outdoor burning in the unincorporated areas of Aurora County is hereby determined and declared to be forbidden as a public nuisance until adequate precipitation has significantly reduced the hazard of outdoor burning. The only exception to this shall be the following: cooking fires; attended campfires; and fires in properly constructed burning barrels equipped with screens to prevent flying brands or sparks.
3. This Resolution is declared to be necessary for the immediate preservation of the public safety as defined by SDCL 7-18A-8, and shall, therefore, become effective immediately, and shall continue in full force and effect until rescinded by the Board of County Commissioners of Aurora County.

Dated this 17th day of April, 2025.

s/s Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman,
Aurora County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: Susan Urban, Auditor
Auditor

Auditor Urban informed the Commission that she has been looking into getting a commercial shredder for the courthouse. The Auditor's office currently uses their shredder to shred documents for other offices. Urban said their office is more than happy to do this for other offices within the courthouse because it is a hands-free shredder so you don't have to stand there and feed it by hand. The problem is the amount of paper that is shredded becomes too much for it to handle and then gets overheated and eventually wears it out. The commercial shredder has a hands-free function and manual one as well, it also has bigger bin capacity, said Urban. The cost for the commercial grade shredder is \$3,303.09 and Urban noted that the Treasurer's office has a credit as well as coupons they can apply to knock the price down to about \$2,600. Urban also stated that the cost of the shredder that is currently being used in her office would cost \$625 to replace and it has almost doubled in price since it was purchased two years ago. A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Clark to authorize the purchase of a commercial grade shredder and have the cost split between those offices in the courthouse that want to use it. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to authorize Chairman Dethlefsen to sign the MOU with the Dept. of Agricultural and Natural Resources pertaining to being a sponsor for the Watershed Protection & Flood Prevention Program. Motion carried all voting aye. Other sponsors listed in the MOU are the City of Mitchell, Jerauld County, and James River Water Development District.

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

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Niles to remove the 6-ton load limits, but leave the oil roads posted for 80,000 lbs. and 40 mph. Motion carried all voting aye. This will be effective Monday, April 21st.

Superintendent Vissia informed the Commission that he would like to close 2 miles of road from the Davison County line and west for a couple of days due to the start of the milling project. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to authorize Superintendent Vissia to close the road from 394th Ave to 392nd Ave. on the Stickney Oil. Motion carried all voting aye. The section of road will be closed on Monday, April 28th.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to approve an approach permit for Dave Hargens for field access to SE ¼ SW ¼ 13-101-64 on Oil Road #60. The approach will have a 50 ft. culvert, the county will pay for 40 ft. of the culvert and the remaining 10 ft. will be paid by the owner. Motion carried all voting aye.

Chairman Dethlefsen told Superintendent Vissia that he's heard many compliments about the good work that Clint Moore is doing.

Commissioner Hanten recommended to Vissia that when the highway department uses the disk on the road, they need to slow down in order to get it all. Commissioner Hanten also recommended that the highway department fill in the area on the side of the road with gravel along the 7 miles of road north of White Lake. It should be filled in with gravel to help keep the oil road from breaking up along the sides, said Hanten.

Commissioner Hanten noted that Scott German is doing a great job on the roads in his area.

4-H Program Assistant Brandi Shroyer informed the Commission about recent problems with renters from the Ag Building using the city dumpster. She recommended to include something in the contract that would give a renter the option of paying for the use of a dumpster during their event. The Commission agreed with this.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to authorize Brandi Shroyer to work extra hours on May 20th for livestock weigh-ins which begin at 4:30 PM and to attend a 4H Leader's meeting after the weigh-ins. Motion carried all voting aye.

Erin Geuke from the Clerk of Courts and States Attorney Rachel Mairose were present to discuss the request made by the 1st Circuit to have Aurora County consider an upgrade in the courtroom. The upgrade to the courtroom sound system would help integrate the ITV, electronic recording systems, and the conference phones into the courtroom audio system. The conference calls and Zoom and ITV hearings do not go through the sound system or speakers and this has been a concern during interpreter hearings. Erin Geuke noted there has been an increase in the need for interpreters. She stated that it can be very difficult for the parties to hear and understand as the conversation does not go through the courtroom audio system and speakers. Defendants have had to come up to the bench to be able to speak and hear the matters at hand on the conference phone which is a security issue. States Attorney Mairose said it would be nice to integrate all audio into one system. She told the Commission that some of the court proceedings are electronically recorded and with the poor sound quality it can make the accuracy of the record and the ability to create a transcript of the proceedings difficult. The 1st Circuit presented a bid of \$29,394.10. The UJS will reimburse Aurora County \$10,000 and the UJS is authorizing the county to use the available Law Library Funds in the amount of \$12,694 to help with the cost. A motion as made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve the request and to authorize the expenditure for the courtroom sound system. Motion carried all voting aye.

Addendums to the handbook were reviewed and discussed for flex time, longevity pay, and tracking devices. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to approve the adoption of the amendment to the Personnel Manual of Aurora County dated April 2022 to add a new subsection to Section III, Work Periods – 306 FLEX TIME effective immediately. Motion carried all voting aye. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve the adoption of the amendment to the Personnel Manual of Aurora County dated April 2022 to be amended as follows: Section VI Pay Plan, 602 Longevity Pay, shall be repealed in its entirety and replaced with the new Longevity Pay Scale. Motion carried all voting aye. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to approve the adoption of the amendment to the Personnel Manual of Aurora County dated April 2022 to be amended as follows: Section II

Conduct of Employees, 204 County Equipment and Safety pertaining to tracking devices. Motion carried all voting aye.

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

Reports: Wheel Tax Paid: Cities \$1,579.41, Townships \$1,072.89.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS		
APRIL JOHNSON	FIRST AID KIT & SHIELD AED	29.74
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	48.55

		78.29 *

JUDICIAL SYSTEM		
MORGAN THEELER	CAA	1228.00
AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE HEALTH	BA (2)	274.00
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT OF HEALTH	BA (4)	160.00
ZYLSTRA INVESTIGATIONS	INVESTIGATION	5428.03

		7090.03 *

AUDITOR		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	59.67
P M B 0112	FEBRUARY ACCESS FEES	57.25
P M B 0112	MARCH ACCESS FEES	57.25
S D A C O	SPRING WORKSHOP REGISTRATION	200.00

		374.17 *

TREASURER		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	77.21
POSTMASTER	TREASURER OFFICE POSTAGE	2742.00
POSTMASTER	MV POSTAGE	806.00
S D A C O	SPRING WORKSHOP REGISTRATION	200.00
STAPLES	RIBBON, CABLES & LAMINAT SHEET	65.14

		3890.35 *

STATE'S ATTORNEY		
MAIROSE AND STEELE	POSTAGE	9.71
MAIROSE AND STEELE	OVERHEAD CHARGES	1300.00
MAIROSE AND STEELE	FLASH DRIVES	15.00
MAIROSE AND STEELE	LAW BOOKS	821.18

		2145.89 *
COURTHOUSE		
APRIL JOHNSON	FLAG FASTENERS	98.80
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	43.62
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	COURTHOUSE PEST CONTROL	90.00

		232.42 *
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	77.04
SAM SIMKINS	BOOKS FOR SCHOOL	625.00

		702.04 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	72.88
S D A C O	SPRING WORKSHOP REGISTRATION	200.00

		272.88 *
VA OFFICE		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	64.48
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION EMAIL VSO	60.00

		124.48 *
SHERIFF		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	119.67
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	52.78
HILLMANS REPAIR	INSTALL WHEEL LINERS & OIL CHG	260.11
KYLE LEWIS	MEALS AT THE SEX OFFENDER CONF	60.00
M O C I C	2025 MEMBERSHIP FEES	100.00
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	OIL CHANGE - MALCOLM	79.01
TRISHA VANDRONGELEN	MEALS AT THE SEX OFFENDER CONF	68.00

		739.57 *
JAIL		
DAVISON COUNTY SHERIFF	MARCH JAIL HOUSING	5670.00
LEWIS FAMILY DRUG LLC	INMATE MEDS	30.78

		5700.78 *
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED		
DAKOTA COUNSELING INSTITUTE	2ND QTR SUPPORT FOR 2025	762.50

		762.50 *
DRUG & ALCOHOL		

DAKOTA COUNSELING INSTITUTE	2ND QTR SUPPORT FOR 2025	300.00

		300.00 *
AG BUILDING		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	105.07
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	AG BLDG PEST CONTROL	70.00

		175.07 *
COUNTY EXTENSION		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	62.03

		62.03 *
WEED		
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	LANDFILL ELECTRICITY	65.00
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	4.94
NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS INC	WEED CHEMICAL	58478.60

		58548.54 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
BROOKS OIL COMPANY	PROPANE	204.00
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ENGINEERING	2755.00
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	GRADER REPAIR	237.30
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	GREASE	197.48
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	124.07
MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM	WATER BILL - STORLA SHOP	33.00
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	PICKUP BATTERY	183.69
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	TRUCK REPAIRS	9.19
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	THREADLOCKER, BUSHINGS, VALVE	160.73
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	GLOVES	16.99
STAPLES	PAPER & FLASH DRIVES	277.04
STICKNEY REPAIR & SERVICE	GRADER HYD HOSE & ENDS	140.08
SUSIE HANSON	FUEL FOR WELFARE WORKSHOP	25.08
TIM MATLOCK CONTRUCTION	REPAIR FEMA & FAS FLOOD SITES	34557.00
TIM MATLOCK CONTRUCTION	ROCKS	16255.07
VESTIS	SERVICES - RAGS & MATS	12.18

		55187.90 *
E 911 SERVICE		
GOLDEN WEST	E-911 SERVICES 4-1 TO 4-30-25	200.00

		200.00 *
EM&D		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	56.89

56.89 *

REGISTER OF DEEDS

MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS

P M B 0112

MONTHLY EQUIPMENT RENTAL

MICROFILM STORAGE

330.00

72.36

402.36 *

Total Checks: 137,046.19 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman
Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost _____.