

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

June 5, 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 executive session as per SDCL 1-25-2(1) and re-zoning. 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 Studeny to approve the minutes of the May 15th meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

Discussion was held on the burn ban, a motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Niles to leave the burn ban off until further notice. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to authorize the Auditor to purchase a new computer for her office from Twotrees Technologies in the amount of \$1,931.90. Motion carried all voting aye.

Auditor Urban informed the Commission that she received a letter from Cole Uecker representing Disability Rights of SD. The letter outlined areas for improvements at polling sites. The letter addressed concerns they observed at the polling site in White Lake during the 2024 General Election. The accessible parking in front of the White Lake City Hall is in the middle of the block with no close curb cut. Without the curb cut, the voter must go on the road to either end of the block to access the sidewalk. The letter noted this may pose as an obstacle to those voters who live with disabilities and suggested to use this letter as areas for improvement. Urban stated that there is a fully accessible ramp and entrance in the back of the City Hall, but it has not been used for a while since the city put up a handicap parking sign in front of their building. It was suggested to possibly change the polling location to the fire station or have a portable handicap ramp built that can be used just for election day. The Commission directed the Auditor to contact the City of White Lake and see what their thoughts were.

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

Nathan Wolbrink completed his 6-month probationary period on May 25th. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to remove Wolbrink off his probationary status and increase his hourly rate of pay from \$19.48 to \$19.98 effective May 25, 2025. Motion carried all voting aye.

Discussion was held on changing the hiring status of Rick Pryor that was done at the May 15th meeting. Vissia stated that he would like to use Rick more than 20 hours per week and hire him as a temporary/seasonal employee. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to hire Rick Pryor as a seasonal/temporary employee for the highway department from May 19th – November 15th, 2025 up to 40 hours per week at \$19.33/hour with no benefits. Motion carried all voting aye. The Commission will re-assess the number of hours and possibly cut them back once a new full-time highway worker is hired.

Discussion was held on hiring Randy Stoddard back as a part-time employee. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to hire Randy Stoddard as part-time help in the highway department for less than 20 hours a week at \$19.33/hour with no benefits. Motion carried all voting aye.

It was noted that there have been no applications turned in for the open highway position in the Storla area. With the county being short on blade operator, all four blades need to be out blading at all times, said Hanten.

Jamie VanZee from Brosz Engineering presented the Commission with the final change order for the contract on the Erickson Bridge (02-213-070) BRO 8002(00)22-5, PCN 08WU. The change order showed a -\$332.50 from the original contract. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to authorize the Chairman to sign the change order. Motion carried all voting aye.

VanZee also presented the Commission with the final payment application from BX Civil & Construction for the Erickson Bridge (02-213-070) BRO 8002(00)22-5, PCN 08WU in the amount of \$106,529.81. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to approve the final payment for the Erickson Bridge (02-213-070). Motion carried all voting aye.

VanZee from Brosz Engineering informed the Commission that he has received authorization to let bids for the Jackrabbit Bridge. He would like to have the project advertised over the next few weeks and open them at the

Commission meeting on July 3rd. VanZee noted that this project will be funded through the BIG (Bridge Improvement Grant) Program. The State of SD will pay out 75% of their share up front so the county will not have to pay for all of it and then get reimbursed. He stated there is a slight chance that the project could start later this fall, so the county could possibly have to pay a little bit this year. Jamie said he estimates the project will take approximately 6 months to complete. He will set the calendar day for 7 months for the contractor to complete it, so the road could be closed for that amount of time. The extra month is to cover the days when the weather prohibits the contractor from working on the project. A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Clark to advertise for the project with the bids being opened on July 3rd at 9:30 AM. Clark, Niles, Hanten, and Dethlefsen all vote aye. Studeny abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

Chairman Dethlefsen reminded Vissia to get the rock we purchased from Overweg and told him he would like to see the county get all our rock by the end of fall.

Commissioner Hanten asked about the money we budgeted for stockpiling gravel and what was going to happen to those extra funds that we budgeted for that purpose now that we are not going to do it. Chairman Dethlefsen suggested we should get some gravel hauled and stockpiled this year so we do not have to pay to stockpile gravel and pay for the Jackrabbit Bridge all in one year. It was noted that we can also purchase gravel from Kroupa and Markhardt if we need to.

States Attorney Rachel Mairose introduced her intern, Spencer Davis, to the Commission.

States Attorney Mairose told the Commission that she had been contacted by Commissioner Niles to see if the County would be able to declare the old nursing home in Storla a nuisance. Mairose said there are two options to possibly remedy the situation: 1) Take it to circuit court as a civil action, 2) Have the County declare it a nuisance by an ordinance. She stated the complaints should come from more than one individual if we are going to declare it a nuisance. Commissioner Niles said the complaints were due to it being unsightly, junk vehicles sitting around and tall weeds growing up around the place. The individuals were also worried about critters moving into the building as well. Mairose asked how anyone was being harmed by it rather than just being an eyesore. Commissioner Hanten wanted to know if it is actually the County's business to do something about it. Gayle VanGenderen representing the SD Mail

asked if the County has something in an ordinance on what a nuisance is. It was noted that there was nothing on the books that anyone was aware of. Commissioner Clark said maybe we should start with the Township and see if they can do something. If we start declaring nuisances, we might be opening things up to something much bigger than what we want to deal with. Commissioner Dethlefsen stated that if it was a health hazard we would have to do something otherwise we may be getting into something we don't want to. After further discussion, the Commission directed States Attorney Mairose to send a letter to the Township letting them know about the complaints.

States Attorney Mairose told the Commission that she had an inquiry on a little triangle piece of property the county owns. She said an individual is interested in purchasing it from the county. It was estimated there were approximately 3 acres of land that the county could sell. Mairose showed the Commission a map of the property that is located in the NE ¼ 30-105-65. There is a road that separates the triangle from the rest of the quarter, said Clark, it really should belong to the landowner of the quarter. Rachel checked with the Register of Deeds and found that in 1913 it was deeded to the County. After further discussion, the Commission decided to leave it as is and not sell it at this time.

States Attorney Mairose addressed the 2026 budget request for the Victims Services Program. Chairman Dethlefsen asked how many individuals they have served from Aurora County and is it something we need to continue supporting. Mairose said she does not know how many they have helped, but she has worked with them on a few cases. Commissioner Studeny noted that they also should be giving the County reports on a regular basis and they are not doing that. Mairose will talk to them about giving reports. No action was taken to sign the 2026 Budget request at this time.

Treasurer Andrea Pryor informed the Commission that Deputy Treasurer Faulhaber misspoke at the last meeting and wanted to let them know that the mowing for the White Lake tax deed property will not be put on the tax notice as an added assessment. White Lake City will be mowing the property and the County will be charged for it. Andrea said she has up to \$400 of county expense that she can recoup when the property is auctioned, and the mowing will be included in the expenses. Commissioner Hanten will secure the windows on the property with plywood and

put a “No Trespassing” sign up as well. Treasurer Pryor informed the Board the auction for the tax deed properties will be held around May of next year rather than this fall.

The Commission talked to Andrea about keeping the Deputy Treasurer’s hours at 32 hours per week and no more. They also addressed flex time and told her they do not want Sue flexing her hours.

4-H Program Assistant Brandi Shroyer requested extra hours for four special events that she has scheduled. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve extra hours for the special events on June 26th (4-H membership recruitment at Donnie Days in Stickney); June 27th (4-H membership recruitment on alumni weekend in Plankinton); June 30th (4-H Leaders meeting); and July 12th (4-H membership recruitment on Friendship Days in White Lake). Motion carried all voting aye. Shroyer said she will spend approximately 2 hours at each event.

Auditor Urban presented the Commission with a quote for tilling, dragging, and seeding the upper section of the courthouse lawn from J&D Contracting. The quote for labor, fertilizer and seed was \$1,225.00 with an option of a straw blanket cover for an additional \$875.00. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to accept the quote for the labor, seed, and fertilizer for \$1,225.00 from J&D Contracting. Motion carried all voting aye. No decision was made on the straw blanket at this time. The Commission directed the Auditor to let them know that we would like this project to be done in the fall.

A memorandum of understanding for the SecureSD Program was reviewed. The purpose of the SecureSD Program is to protect and enhance cybersecurity in counties and municipalities. It is designed to support counties by providing technical mitigation assistance to reduce cybersecurity risks, deliver training and awareness programs to staff, and enhance cybersecurity resilience through the implementation of best practices and security tools through a secure email system. This program is funded by the appropriation established by SB 187 during the 2024 legislative session. The SecureSD Program will be no cost to the County. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to authorize the chairman to sign the MOU between Dakota State University and Aurora County for the SecureSD Program. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to authorize Chairman Dethlefsen to sign the Preliminary Investigation Findings Report/Sponsor Authority and Role Declaration Checklist for the Firesteel Creek

Watershed Project with the condition that if the use of eminent domain is necessary, it must have 100% approval of the Aurora County Commission. Motion carried all voting aye.

Emergency Manager Kehn informed the Board at the 2024 SDEMA meeting, the Emergency Manager's voted to move from Class A Retirement to Class B Public Safety Retirement under the SD Retirement System. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to authorize Chairman Dethlefsen to sign the following resolution to support the Emergency Manager position to be classified as Class B Public Safety. Motion carried all voting aye.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
CLASS B RETIREMENT FOR EMERGENCY MANAGERS

WHEREAS, Aurora County asserts that the primary duties of the emergency management personnel services are to protect life and property, and they receive intensive and specialized training to carry out those duties; and

WHEREAS, Aurora County asserts the duties are hazardous to the employee, are physically demanding, and directly subject the employee to a risk of injury or death; and

WHEREAS, Aurora County asserts that the capacity to effectively perform the duties declines with advancing age, resulting in increased risk to both the employee and the public and justifying an earlier normal retirement age; and

WHEREAS, Aurora County acknowledges that both the employer's and employee's contributions to the South Dakota Retirement will increase by 2%, and family benefits are not payable upon death of a member who has reached normal retirement age.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Aurora County through its Commission, support the Emergency Management position being classified as Class B Public Safety. This said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Dated this 5th day of June, 2025 at Plankinton, SD.

S/s Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman
Aurora County Commission

ATTEST: Susan Urban, Auditor
Aurora County

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve a Plat of Tract 1 and Tract 2 in the N ½ of Section 20, Tract 3 in the N ½ and S ½ of Section 20, Tract 4 in the SW ¼, and Tract 5 in the S ½ of Section 20, all being in T 104 N, R 66 W of the 5th P.M., Aurora County, South Dakota. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Studeny to approve a Plat of Lot 1 of Everson Addition in the SE ¼ of Section 18, T 103 N, R 64 W of the 5th P.M., Aurora County, South Dakota. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to authorize Director of Equalization Jessie Durrin and her deputy Sam Simkins to attend the SDAAO Conference in Mitchell June 10-13. Motion carried all voting aye.

Zoning Director Jessie Durrin told the Commission she had an inquiry from a hunting lodge that is applying for a federal firearms license (FFL). It was questioned as to whether the property needed to be re-zoned from ag to commercial. It was noted that the intent is not to allow public sales from anyone other than their secured clients and would not be competing with other gun shops in the area. Durrin said the lodge let their FFL lapse during renewal time and are trying to get one again. She said they need the license to allow for transfers that assist their clients that fly airlines and send firearms directly to the lodge and then back to home base when they leave. The Commission agreed that if the lodge is simply receiving privately owned guns shipped by the gun owners, who then hunt with them and ship them back home, there is no need for the county to re-zone the property.

Auditor Urban informed the Board that the north pump on the HVAC system went out and she received a quote from Trane to replace it. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to accept the quote of \$12,202.00 to replace the bad pump on the geo loop, this also includes a day of trying to find the leak on the north system, and includes the previous trip and refrigerant used. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to enter into executive session at 12:01 PM for personnel as per SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Motion carried all voting aye. The Chairman declared the Commission out of executive session at 12:16 PM with no official action taken.

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

Reports: May Payroll: Social Security 6,206.01; Medicare 1,451.43; Wellmark 27,914.12, Retirement 6,539.52; Kansas City Life 104.56; Commissioners 4,438.35; Auditor 7,953.36; Treasurer 6,924.86; States Attorney 5,468.34; Courthouse 2,278.43; Director of Equalization 6,450.63; Register of Deeds 5,073.61; Veteran's Service Officer 298.67; Sheriff 22,065.52; Welfare 808.38; Extension 2,922.31; Weed 1,389.95; Zoning 796.57; Hwy 36,884.36; EM&D 2,354.34; Payroll Direct Deposit Cost 8.35. Auditor's Account with Treasurer: Cash on Hand 2,189.65; MMDA 2,352,627.51; CD's 942,140.00. Register of Deeds Fees: Marriage Lic/Certs 55.00; Birth/Death

Certs 25.00; Preservation Fund 252.00; Driver's License 312.00; Copies 120.00; Other 0.00; Recording Fees 2,250.00;

Transfer Fees 4,829.00.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS

LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE	COURTHOUSE GENERAL OBLIGATION	1507.00
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	MAY PUBLISHING	565.73
STANDARD PUBLISHING	APRIL PUBLISHING	807.07
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	APRIL PUBLISHING	807.07

		3686.87 *

JUDICIAL SYSTEM

THERESA MAULE ROSSOW	CAA	674.56

		674.56 *

AUDITOR

P M B 0112	ACCESS FEES FOR APRIL	57.25
RAMKOTA HOTEL	SPRING WORKSHOP LODGING	136.00
SUSAN URBAN	SHREDDER BAGS	14.25
SUSAN URBAN	MEAL REIMB FROM WORKSHOP	20.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	129.84
WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	REPAIR TO PAPER TRAY	81.00

		438.34 *

TREASURER

ANDREA PRYOR	MEAL REIMB FROM WORKSHOP	20.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING	APRIL PUBLISHING	80.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	APRIL PUBLISHING	80.00
STAPLES	MAILING ENVELOPES	56.62
STAPLES	MAILING ENVELOPES	84.93
SUSAN URBAN	SHREDDER BAGS	14.19
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	196.26

		532.00 *

STATE'S ATTORNEY

BEADLE COUNTY AUDITOR	2025 VICTIMS SERVICES PROGRAM	2200.00

		2200.00 *

COURTHOUSE

HEIMAN INC	FLOOD LED FLASHLIGHT	275.41
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	1625.83
SUSAN URBAN	FLAGS FOR THE COURTHOUSE	84.87
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	113.10
VESTIS	SERVICES - MATS	11.18

		2110.39 *
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
S D A A O	SDAAO CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	500.00
SUSAN URBAN	SHREDDER BAGS	14.19
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	132.84

		647.03 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
RAMKOTA HOTEL	SPRING WORKSHOP LODGING	136.00
SUSAN URBAN	SHREDDER BAGS	14.19

		150.19 *
VA OFFICE		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	MAY PUBLISHING	90.00
SUSAN URBAN	SHREDDER BAGS	14.19
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	66.42

		170.61 *
SHERIFF		
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	1704.23
SUSAN URBAN	SHREDDER BAGS	14.19
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	522.68
V I S A	INK CART, TASER BATTERY, MOUSE	663.70
V I S A	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	102.27

		3007.07 *
PUBLIC WELFARE		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	3.00

		3.00 *
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED		
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE	MONTHLY SUPPORT	60.00

		60.00 *
AG BUILDING		
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	366.28

		366.28 *
COUNTY EXTENSION		
SUSAN URBAN	SHREDDER BAGS	14.19
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	126.84

		141.03 *

WEED		
C & R SUPPLY	SPRAYER PARTS	70.71
HELENA	WEED CHEMICAL	880.00
MENARDS - MITCHELL	TV MOUNT SUPPLIES	46.45
STANDARD PUBLISHING	APRIL PUBLISHING	342.70
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	APRIL PUBLISHING	342.70
STEVE'S WELDING REPAIR	SUPPLIES FOR SPRAY TRUCK	69.62

		1752.18 *

PLANNING & ZONING		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	MAY PUBLISHING	66.00

		66.00 *

R&B CONSTRUCTION		
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC	ERICKSON BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	5202.50
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	GRADER BATTERIES	818.38
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	FILTERS	1032.34
BX CIVIL & CONSTRUCTION INC	FINAL PAYMENT ERICKSON BRIDGE	106529.81
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	ELECTRIC - AUR CTR & STORLA	165.62
DIAMOND MOWERS	MOWER BLADES	318.54
FASTENAL COMPANY	NUTS, BOLTS & WASHERS	382.62
SD FEDERAL PROPERTY AGENCY	TOOLS	69.00
FLEETPRIDE	PICKUP STROBE LIGHT	389.99
GRAHAM TIRE - SIOUX FALLS	TIRE REPAIR TOOL	47.50
GREAT PLAINS LUMBER & SUPPLY	GLASS, DRILL BITS, BALL VALVE	32.73
HOMETOWN FAMILY HEALTH	DRUG TEST - RICK PRYOR	57.00
INDEPENDENT VIKING GLASS INC	GRADER WINDOWS	1173.13
LOISEAU CONSTRUCTION INC	GRIND & LAY BACK STICKNEY OIL	79897.92
MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM	WATER BILL - STORLA	33.00
NAPA CENTRAL	PICKUP REPAIRS & WIPER BLADES	465.81
NAPA CENTRAL	GLOVES, FILTERS & SHOP TOWELS	320.82
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	ELECTRICITY - WL & STK	90.96
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	366.66
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	BATTERIES, FITTINGS, ADAPTER	87.73
RUNNINGS	HINGE, DEGREASER & STREAK REMO	29.47
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	MAY PUBLISHING	360.00
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	RIES BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	2415.71
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	1226.56
STANDARD PUBLISHING	APRIL PUBLISHING	37.33
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	APRIL PUBLISHING	37.33
STEVE'S WELDING REPAIR	ACETYLENE, OXYGEN, 90/10	230.00
STICKNEY WATER	WATER BILL - STICKNEY SHOP	189.25
TIM MATLOCK CONSTRUCTION	HAULING	8285.46
TIM MATLOCK CONSTRUCTION	SAND	1633.23
TITAN MACHINERY	TRACTOR REPAIRS	44.25
TOTAL OIL	DEF	836.40
TRANSOURCE	LOADER LEASE & DELIVERY	3700.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	132.84
VESTIS	SERVICES - RAGS & MATS	24.36

		216664.25 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
LOISEAU CONSTRUCTION INC	GRIND & LAY BACK STICKNEY OIL	1700.00

		1700.00 *
E 911 SERVICE		
GOLDEN WEST	E-911 SERVICES 6-1 TO 6-30-25	200.00
MID-STATE TELEPHONE CO.	E-911 SERVICES 6-1 TO 6-30-25	357.44
SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS	E-911 SERVICES 6-1 TO 6-30-25	30.00

		587.44 *
EM&D		
GREAT PLAINS LUMBER & SUPPLY	STRAPS & CABINET SCREWS	36.04
MENARDS - MITCHELL	CORD, COUNTERTOP & TV MOUNT	180.59
OVERWEG AUTO	4 SPARK PLUGS	32.48
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	MAY PUBLISHING	109.20
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	111.51
STANDARD PUBLISHING	APRIL PUBLISHING	217.35
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	APRIL PUBLISHING	217.35
SUSAN URBAN	SHREDDER BAGS	14.19
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	66.42

		985.13 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS	MONTHLY EQUIPMENT RENTAL	330.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	193.26

		523.26 *

Total Checks: 236,465.63 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman
Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

(Published once at the total approximate cost of _____)