

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

July 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.

Public Input: Commissioner Niles noted that there is a bridge by Bruns' that should be torn out and replaced with culverts. Commissioner Clark said we might have to have a study done first before we can do anything. Clark asked if there were any signs posted for the bridge and said if there were not, there should be. The Commission will discuss this with the Highway Superintendent when they meet with him.

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

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to approve the minutes of the July 3rd meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

Discussion was held on whether to implement a burn ban at this time. It was the consensus of the Board to hold off on it for now. The Commission will address it again at their meeting on August 7th.

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

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to sign the following resolution for a Preliminary Engineering Grant for structure # 02-230-198 in Dudley Township. The grant is an 80/20 match. Roll Call Vote: Clark, aye; Studeny, aye; Hanten, aye; Niles, aye; and Dethlefsen, aye. Motion carried.

2026 BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

WHEREAS, Aurora County wishes to submit an application for consideration of award for the Bridge Improvement Grant Programs

STRUCTURE NUMBER AND LOCATION:

Structure No. 02-230-198

Location: 4.8 miles S and 7.0 miles E of Plankinton, SD over an Unnamed creek

and, WHEREAS, Aurora County certifies that the project is listed in the county's Five-Year County Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan;

and, WHEREAS Aurora County agrees to pay the 20% match on the Bridge Improvement Grant funds and 100% of ineligible expenses;

and, WHEREAS, Aurora County hereby authorizes the Bridge Improvement Grant application and any required funding commitments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the South Dakota Department of Transportation be and hereby is requested to accept the attached Bridge Improvement Grant application.

Vote of Commission: Yes 5 No 0

Dated at Plankinton, SD, this 17th day of July 2025.

ATTEST: Susan Urban, County Auditor

s/s Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to authorize Superintendent Vissia and Secretary Beckman to attend a personnel workshop on August 13th in Pierre. Motion carried all voting aye.

Superintendent Vissia reported that Safety Benefits did a safety inspection on July 1st and recommendations were emailed out. One of the recommendations is to move the fuel tank inside the Plankinton shop to an outdoor location because it is a fire hazard. The tank must be double walled and located in an enclosed vault with a 6" concrete wall. Vissia said he would like to check into it further to see if the tank needs to be totally enclosed or if the county can build a berm around it. He will contact SDPAA to get more clarification.

The Commission spoke to Vissia about the bridge by Bruns' and replacing it with culverts. Vissia stated when it was inspected it did not meet bridge qualifications, so it is considered a structure not a bridge. It was noted that a hydrology study needed to be done first according to Jamie VanZee from Brosz Engineering. The study will determine the size of pipe needed and give three options for the County to consider. After the study is completed, then the county would need to apply for a 404 permit. The county can choose to do the work or hire someone. Vissia stated the inspectors are in the area now and maybe they could possibly take a look at it while they are here. VanZee told Doug he will see if they could do it now and then the county can go from there.

Jamie VanZee from Brosz Engineering informed the Commission that all bids for the Jackrabbit Road Bridge replacement project BRF 6119(00)25-2, PCN 0A6Y were conformed to the specs and are considered valid. He recommended approving the bidding and accept the low bid submitted by Nolz Dragline and Construction, Inc. for a total contract value of \$1,062,216.65 contingent on SDDOT concurrence with the bid. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to approve and accept the bid of \$1,062,216.56 from Nolz Dragline and Construction, Inc. for bridge replacement project BRF 6119(00)25-2, PCN 0A6Y contingent on SDDOT concurrence with the bid. Motion carried all voting aye.

Discussion was held on the items that were cut from the proposed contracted maintenance budget for the highway department. One of the cuts was the mastic repair that was to be done on the White Lake oil road north. Commissioner Hanten noted that the county gets money from the wind towers and asked why some of that money couldn't be used to improve the road. It was also noted the highway budget includes a new motor grader. Right now, all graders are under warranty, and one will come off warranty next year. Commissioner Hanten asked if an extended warranty could be purchased for the grader that will lose its warranty rather than purchasing a new one in 2026. Vissia said his plan is to have all graders under warranty and after 2026 the next time to purchase a grader would be in 2030. Commissioner Clark said we need to be careful what we cut so it does not cost us more in the long run. Depending on how soon the mastic repair needs to be chip sealed, we may need to reconsider the mastic and chip seal projects, said Commissioner Clark. The Commission directed Vissia to see what an extended warranty would cost and check into the mastic and how long it can wait before it needs to have a chip seal done.

Colleen Hoffman, Executive Director from Safe Place of Eastern SD, met with the Commission and gave a report on the new facility in Mitchell and the services they provide. She also requested support from the county in the amount of \$3,500 to help support their services in 2026. The Commission thanked her for coming and for providing information to them.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to authorize the Chairman to sign a Statement of Extension to the Joint Cooperative Agreement with District III and to obligate \$12,360.00 for financial support in 2026. Motion carried all voting aye.

Members from the senior citizens centers from Stickney (Jan Bruinsma & Charlotte Brown), White Lake (Lois McCord & Eva Lou Wells), and Plankinton (Sherry Staller) met with the Commission to report on each of their centers and how things are going. Every year the County gives each center \$850 to help support the senior centers and also budgets money to pay ROCS Dining Services for a portion of their meals. It was noted that Plankinton currently does not have any senior meals provided due to the closure of the Commerce Grille & Bar. White Lake and Stickney each have a cook at their center and are able to provide meals to the seniors in their communities. Charlotte said she believes ROCS is planning to have the Stickney senior center provide meals for Plankinton as per the ad that was in the Stickney Argus newspaper. Charlotte said they are currently providing meals that are being delivered to the Corsica seniors, so there is no way their cook can take on another town. Discussion ensued on getting someone to prepare the meals in Plankinton and keep the program going. It was also noted ROCS asked the senior centers in Stickney and White Lake to do fundraisers and give the money to ROCS. The Commission told the ladies present that ROCS met with the Board on July 3rd and it appears there is some conflicting information. The Commission directed the Auditor to contact Kaylene Goehring from ROCS Dining Services to meet on the 7th of August with the Board to clarify things. The Commission thanked the ladies for their time and their feedback.

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

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	48.61
J & D CONTRACTING LLC	MOWING - 7-1 AND 7-11	450.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING	MAY PUBLISHING	457.70
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	MAY PUBLISHING	457.70

		1414.01 *
JUDICIAL SYSTEM		
AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE HEALTH	BA (3)	411.00
S D A C C	3RD QTR CATASTROPHIC LEGAL	2677.00

		3088.00 *
AUDITOR		
AURORA COUNY TREASURER	POSTAGE REIMB	0.59
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, FAX & INTERNET	60.34
SUSAN URBAN	BLINDS FOR OFFICE WINDOWS	350.11

		411.04	*
TREASURER			
AURORA COUNY TREASURER	POSTAGE REIMB	5.00	
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, FAXES & INTERNET	75.88	
STAPLES	CALENDAR, CLIPS, RIBBON	65.37	

		146.25	*
COURTHOUSE			
FIRE PROTECTION SOLUTIONS	FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (2)	69.00	
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	43.54	
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL	90.00	

		202.54	*
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION			
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	83.43	

		83.43	*
REGISTER OF DEEDS			
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	65.87	

		65.87	*
VA OFFICE			
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	60.48	
STANDARD PUBLISHING	MAY PUBLISHING	66.00	
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	MAY PUBLISHING	66.00	

		192.48	*
SHERIFF			
AURORA COUNY TREASURER	POSTAGE REIMB	16.20	
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	107.37	
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	53.64	
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	330.96	

		508.17	*
JAIL			
DAVISON COUNTY SHERIFF	JUNE JAIL HOUSING	840.00	

		840.00	*
AG BUILDING			
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	104.99	
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL	70.00	

		174.99	*
COUNTY EXTENSION			

GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	62.13	

		62.13	*
WEED			
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	LANDFILL ELECTRICITY	65.00	
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	4.94	
SKYLER KEHN	CELL PHONE STIPEND	20.00	

		89.94	*
PLANNING & ZONING			
AURORA COUNY TREASURER	POSTAGE REIMB	40.56	

		40.56	*
R&B CONSTRUCTION			
AURORA COUNY TREASURER	POSTAGE REIMB	3.15	
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC	ERICKSON BRIDGE ENGINEERING	3586.00	
DOUG VISSIA	TAPE	12.11	
DOUG VISSIA	PHONE STIPHEND	50.00	
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	118.58	
LYLE SIGNS	PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNS	841.10	
MEYERINK FARM SERVICE	MOWER REPAIRS	342.69	
MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM	WATER BILL - STICKNEY	33.00	
NAPA CENTRAL	FILTERS & OIL	244.67	
S D A C C	HIGHWAY OFFICE PERSONELL WKSP	50.00	
STANDARD PUBLISHING	MAY PUBLISHING	264.00	
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	MAY PUBLISHING	264.00	
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	20.02	
VESTIS	SERVICES - RAGS & MATS	12.53	
VOLLAN OIL	FUEL	3027.84	
WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	SET UP SCANNER	97.00	

		8966.69	*
E 911 SERVICE			
GOLDEN WEST	E-911 SERVICES 7-1 TO 7-31-25	200.00	
SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS	E-911 SERVICES 7-1 TO 7-31-25	30.00	

		230.00	*
EM&D			
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	57.48	
SKYLER KEHN	CELL PHONE STIPEND	30.00	
STANDARD PUBLISHING	MAY PUBLISHING	148.00	
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	MAY PUBLISHING	148.00	
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	IT SUPPORT - PHONE BOOSTER	357.10	
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	60.03	

		800.61	*
REGISTER OF DEEDS			
P M B 0112	MICROFILM STORAGE	72.36	

72.36 *

Total Checks: 17,389.07 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman
Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost _____.