

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

September 2, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM 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 SDVSO Benefits School. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Nile to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Clark to approve the minutes of the August 21st meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

Discussion was held on the burn ban. No action was taken to implement a ban at this time.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to authorize Veterans Service Officer Audrey Chapman to attend a required training on veterans benefits in Sioux Falls on September 9th – 12th. Motion carried all voting aye.

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

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to approve the request for the renewal of authorization under the permit for petroleum contaminated soil land application. Motion carried all voting aye.

Superintendent Vissia told the Commission the grader tracking through Verizon Fleet does not match the tracking from Butler Machinery. Vissia said he thinks the Verizon report he received from Commissioner Hanten for a grader is only the idle time, not the actual blade time. Commissioner Studeny noted that he was under the assumption that the Verizon Fleet tracking system was to be used as a safety feature and to help answer a question if a township road had been bladed. Did I misunderstand, because it should not be an “I gotcha” thing, said Studeny. Chairman Dethlefsen answered yes and no and said we also need to show that a grader was in an area for a certain amount of time and make sure we are working when we are supposed to be. If something is not accurate or does not match up, we need to figure out why, said Dethlefsen. Commissioner Studeny reminded the Commission that if there was a

question about something that it needed to come from the Board not an individual Commissioner. Commissioner Hanten asked Superintendent Vissia how many miles get bladed in a day by a blade operator. Vissia said approximately 22 miles more or less per day. Hanten said he bladed 27 miles a day when he was a blade operator. Chairman Dethlefsen and Superintendent Vissia both said if you double the miles that makes it 44 miles going 5 mph, as recommended by SDLTAP, adds up to a good 8 hours a day just in blading. Auditor Urban told Superintendent Vissia she will check with Deputy Johnson and see what reports she is getting the data from and try to find out why it's not matching.

Commissioner Hanten noted that some intersections are a little rough and the blade operators need to feather them out. Clyde told Superintendent Vissia to have the blade operators work on this.

Hanten also addressed the importance of making sure there is enough gravel up against the pavement so there is not such a drop off. This could be dangerous, especially for a motorcycle if they got close to the edge of the road and hit it. The gravel also keeps the pavement from breaking, said Hanten, the blade operator needs to make sure he is filling in that area with gravel.

Commissioners Clark and Dethlefsen stated the roads are decent in their areas of the county and the washboards have not been an issue. Commissioner Hanten said the White Lake Oil has dips in it and it's getting bad. Dethlefsen noted that with harvest coming, all the roads will only get worse.

Chairman Dethlefsen recommended having someone show the blade operators how to fix and fill in the edges of the road to eliminate the drop off and to feather out the intersections so they are not so rough. Dethlefsen directed Superintendent Vissia to work with the guys on these issues.

Treasurer Andrea Pryor notified the Commission that there is tax deed property, owned by the County, that Central Electric will charge a monthly maintenance fee on the transformer. If the monthly fee is not paid, Central Electric will remove the poles, lines, and the transformer. Treasurer Pryor will be able to recover the cost for the maintenance fees paid to Central Electric. The Commission felt it was in the county's best interest to pay the monthly fee so the property would have utilities when it is sold at auction. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to pay the \$65 maintenance fee so the utilities could remain on the property. Motion carried all voting aye.

The 2026 proposed provisional budget was considered. No changes were made to the proposed budget. The Commission will approve and adopt the 2026 budget on September 18th.

County Health Nurse Lacey Wieszorek gave her biannual report. She continues to provide school services to the schools within Aurora County. Lacey said she will be holding a flu clinic on October 7th for State employees and County employees are welcome to get flu shots through her office as well.

Sheriff Roman Briggs presented the Commission with two quotes for equipment installation for the new patrol vehicle. The quotes are as follows:

1. 2 Way Solutions \$4,879.99
2. Tri M Tunes \$3,725.00

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to accept the quote from Tri M Tunes for \$3,725 to install equipment in the new patrol vehicle. Motion carried all voting aye.

Sheriff Briggs presented the Commission with a quote from Make It Mine Design for the graphics/decals for the new patrol vehicle. The cost for full reflective decals was quoted at \$1,525 and a quote of \$1,360 was given for half reflective decals. Sheriff Briggs noted that the previous decals on the patrol vehicles have been half reflective. Chairman Dethlefsen asked Briggs to check with TK Designs out of Stickney to see what they would charge. If we can do business locally, said Dethlefsen, we should do so as long as it is comparable to the quotes you have. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to have TK Designs put on the graphics/decals as long as the price is comparable to the quote from Make It Mine Design for the half reflective graphics/decals. Motion carried all voting aye.

Sheriff Briggs noted that Emergency Manager Kehn has ordered computers for his department and told the Commission he had budgeted \$10,000 to purchase them in 2026. Briggs asked if the Commission wanted to re-allocate that money for something else. It was the consensus to leave the 2026 budget as presented just in case there are unexpected expenditures that may come up.

It was also noted that radios for the sheriff's department will be purchased with grant money if the grant request is approved.

Chairman Dethlefsen said he has heard good things about the sheriff's department. He noted that Deputy Malcolm Lafortune made it a point to visit with the citizens of Stickney while off duty and the people were happy to see him visiting and getting to know people. Commissioner Hanten stated the presence of law enforcement has been good in all the communities. The Board told Sheriff Briggs that they have not received any complaints about his department.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to participate in the Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMGP) for the 2026 fiscal year. Motion carried all voting aye. This is a grant program that provides financial support to the county emergency management program and pays up to 50% of the emergency manager's salary and benefits.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to enter into executive session as per SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel at 3:15 PM. Motion carried all voting aye. The Chairman declared the Board out of executive session at 3:57 PM with no official action taken.

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

Reports: August Payroll: Social Security 6,314.36; Medicare 1,476.80; Wellmark 28,177.17, Retirement 6,419.41; Kansas City Life 89.24; Commissioners 4,438.20; Auditor 8,106.29; Treasurer 6,866.23; States Attorney 5,536.37; Courthouse 2,730.35; Director of Equalization 6,608.95; Register of Deeds 4,943.33; Veteran's Service Officer 119.13; Sheriff 20,374.03; Welfare 842.03; Extension 3,693.98; Weed 1,398.44; Zoning 838.51; Hwy 38,360.12; EM&D 2,569.00; Payroll Direct Deposit Cost 8.40. Auditor's Account with Treasurer: Cash on Hand 1,086.33; MMDA 1,523,074.71; CD's 942,140.00. Register of Deeds Fees: Marriage Lic/Certs 150.00; Birth/Death Certs 60.00; Preservation Fund 156.00; Driver's License 372.00; Copies 70.00; Other 0.00; Recording Fees 1,330.00; Transfer Fees 3,154.00.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS
S.D. MAIL OFFICE

AUGUST PUBLISHING

1586.41

		1586.41 *
JUDICIAL SYSTEM		
CERTIFIED LANGUAGES INTERNATIO	INTERPRETING SERVICES	18.15
FORTE	COURTROOM AV UPGRADE	7150.68

		7168.83 *
TREASURER		
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	TAX NOTICES & ENVELOPES	304.95
STAPLES	MOTOR VEHICLE TONER	159.49

		464.44 *
STATE'S ATTORNEY		
THOMSON * WEST	2025 POCKET PARTS CODIFIED LAW	337.57

		337.57 *
COURTHOUSE		
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	1583.73
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	227.09
TRANE US INC	HVAC SYSTEM LOW ON REFRIGERANT	1742.30
VESTIS	SERVICES - MATS	11.18

		3564.30 *
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
JESSICA DURRIN	1ST 3 WORKSHOP FOR JESS & SAM	50.00

		50.00 *
VA OFFICE		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	AUGUST PUBLISHING	58.50

		58.50 *
AG BUILDING		
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	223.90

		223.90 *
COUNTY EXTENSION		
NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL-SUPPLY	4-H RIBBONS	245.80
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	SUBSCRIPTION	52.00

		297.80 *
PLANNING & ZONING		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	AUGUST PUBLISHING	108.00

		108.00 *

R&B CONSTRUCTION		
AVERA OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE	DRUG TESTING - STODDARD	37.70
GREAT PLAINS LUMBER & SUPPLY	SHOP LIGHT REPAIR	69.18
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	168.07
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	AUG PUBLISHING & SUBSCRIPTION	505.00
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	BRIDGE INSPECTIONS	4398.27
STICKNEY REPAIR & SERVICE	LAWN MOWER REPAIR	12.39
STICKNEY WATER	WATER BILL - STICKNEY SHOP	98.75
TOTAL OIL	FUEL	5938.42
TRANSOURCE	LOADER LEASE	3200.00
WEGNER AUTO CO	2026 DODGE PICKUP	49706.00

		64133.78 *

Total Checks: 77,993.53 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman
Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

(Published once at the total approximate cost of _____)