

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

November 6, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Chairman Clyde Dethlefsen, with John Paul Studeny and Roger Hanten present. Randy Niles and Travis Clark were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no public input.

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

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Studeny to approve the minutes from the October 16th meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to enter into executive session for personnel as per SDCL 1-25-2(1) at 8:10 AM. Motion carried all voting aye. The Chairman declared the Board out of executive session at 8:59 AM with no formal action taken.

Auditor Urban informed the Commission that the County had increased their insurance liability limit in 2004. The reason was due to the County being named as an additional insured under Cornell's insurance policy when they took over the State Training School after the State of SD closed it. Auditor Urban told the Commission she spoke with the County's liability insurance carrier, SDPAA, about any savings if the County should decide to lower the liability limit. Due to very little in cost savings, the Commission opted to leave the liability limit amount to \$5,000,000.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Studeny to give employees extra time off at Christmas as a paid holiday. The county offices will close at 3:00 PM on Christmas Eve and will also remain closed on Friday, December 26th. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to authorize the Auditor to make an operating transfer of \$24,366 from the General Fund (101) to the Emergency Management Fund (226). Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the 2026 Charles Mix County jail housing contract for \$90/per prisoner day. Motion carried all voting aye.

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

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Studeny to enter into executive session for an interview as per SDCL 1-25-2(1) at 9:15 AM. Motion carried all voting aye. The Chairman declared the Board out at 9:23 AM. With no action taken at this time.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to authorize highway superintendent Vissia to attend the SD Association of Towns & Townships road show, conference and annual meeting in Huron. Motion carried all voting aye. This is a two-day event, but Vissia is requesting to only attend Thursday, December 4th.

Vissia reported that highway worker Rick Pryor has come to the end of his 6-month employment. Doug said he would like to keep him on if possible. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to hire Rick Pryor as part-time help for another 6 months with May 16th being the end of the 6 months. He will work only as needed and at the discretion of the highway superintendent, up to 40 hours per week (if needed) and at \$19.33/hr. Motion carried all voting aye.

Jamie VanZee and Zack Wilsey from Brosz Engineering went over the recent findings on the bridge inspections that were done in Aurora County. Mr. Wilsey noted that there were 5 structures out of the 40 that he was bringing to the Commissioner's attention. He noted that one of the structures is the Jackrabbit Road Bridge (structure #02-097-056), which is already in the process of being replaced. After reviewing the report, VanZee told the Commission that if the county would like to proceed with BIG grants for one of these structures, the deadline is January 2nd. The Commission agreed to apply for funding for Structure #02-029-270 (Ries Bridge). Jamie will get the application ready for the Board to sign. Wilsey noted that the county needs to make sure the proper signage is posted on some of our bridges, if not, the county may not get funding for them. He also reported that there is no funding for bridges on minimum maintenance roads.

The Commission discussed the position opening for the blade operator in Storla and considered the applicant that was interviewed earlier in the meeting. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to offer the position to Rich Peters at \$19.98/hour with .50 less for the 6-month probation period or longer if necessary. Motion carried all voting aye.

Commissioner Hanten stated that White Lake City Maintenance Operator Josh Podzemik asked that some gravel be dumped on West 1st Street, which is just south of the old Co-op building. Hanten said he thought it was a county road, but Vissia and Beckman stated it is not on their road system according to the State. Hanten said according to the City of White Lake, it is a county road. Hanten also noted when he was the blade operator, he had always maintained it. Chairman Dethlefsen suggested having Commissioner Hanten see if the City is interested in the county offering to dump a load of gravel on that block if the City maintains it.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to approve a Plat of Lot 1 or Nydam Addition to the NE ¼ of Section 7, T 101 N, R65 W of the 5th P.M., Aurora County SD. Motion carried all voting aye.

Magdalena Popek-Hurst gave an update to the Commission on the Community Safety Days that the county agreed to support at their meeting on March 20th. She informed the Commission that the event is scheduled for October 2nd & 3rd in Plankinton in 2026. She has received letters of support from the City of Plankinton and the City of White Lake. She hopes the event will bring people from neighboring communities together while providing valuable safety information. The City of White Lake will host the event in 2027. Popek-Hurst informed the Commission that she already has educational things lined up for 2026. Magdalena stated that October is already recognized nationally as fire prevention month and October 28th is national first responders' day. She respectfully requested the County Commission to approve a proclamation to make October our first responders' appreciation month. By doing this, we can officially recognize and honor our 1st responders in October, said Magdalena. The proclamation will make Aurora County the first in the State of SD to take this step in joining the nation in recognizing our first responders. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to approve and sign a proclamation for Aurora County First Responders' appreciation month. Roll call vote: Studeny, aye; Hanten, aye; Dethlefsen, aye. Motion carried

PROCLAMATION

AURORA COUNTY FIRST RESPONDERS' APPRECIATION MONTH

WHEREAS, first responders in Aurora County, including firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and 911 dispatchers, dedicate their lives to protecting and serving the residents of Aurora County; and

WHEREAS, these brave men and women are often the first to arrive at the scene of emergencies, providing critical assistance and risking their own lives to save others; and

WHEREAS, first responders face dangerous situations daily, including fires, medical emergencies, severe weather events, vehicle accidents, and other life-threatening incidents; and

WHEREAS, many of Aurora County's first responders are volunteers who sacrifice their personal time and make tremendous commitments to serve their community without expectation of recognition or reward; and

WHEREAS, the mental and physical demands placed upon first responders require ongoing support, training, and resources to ensure they can effectively protect our community; and

WHEREAS, Aurora County residents depend on first responders 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and their service is essential to the safety, security, and well-being of all who live, work, and visit Aurora County; and

WHEREAS, National First Responders Day is recognized annually on October 28th, providing an opportunity for communities nationwide to honor these everyday heroes; and

WHEREAS, Aurora County seeks to become the first county in South Dakota to designate an entire month to recognize and appreciate our first responders; and

WHEREAS, the community event "South Dakota Safety Days" will be held first weekend of October, within the cities of Aurora County to promote safety awareness and raise funds for Aurora County First Responders; and

WHEREAS, acts of appreciation and recognition from the community provide first responders with encouragement and demonstrate that their sacrifices do not go unnoticed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Aurora County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the month of October as **AURORA COUNTY FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION MONTH**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Aurora County calls upon all residents, businesses, organizations, and officials of Aurora County to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and expressions of gratitude to honor the courage, dedication, and selfless service of our first responders.

Dated this 6th day of November 2025.

Absent, Randy Niles, Commissioner District 1

s/s Roger Hanten, Commissioner District 2

s/s Clyde Dethlefsen, Commissioner District 3

s/s John Paul Studeny, Commissioner District 4

Absent, Travis Clark, Commissioner District 5

ATTEST: Susan Urban, Auditor

4-H Program Assistant Brandi Shroyer discussed the storage of the acoustic panels out at the fairgrounds. She stated when the panels first arrived they were stored in the barn but have now been moved inside the Community/4-H Building in the storage room. There is a concern about not having any protection around them when the tables and chairs are moved in and out when the building is rented. She said Joe Larsen is going to come out and do some testing on what type of magnets that will properly hold the panels when they are hung from the ceiling. Once he gets the magnets ordered, the Commission along with other volunteers will work to get them hung up on the afternoon of November 20th.

Brandi informed the Commission about a pilot program that she is participating in called Beyond Hunting, which includes learning to prepare and cook wild game. She is also working on a star gazing chair workshop as well.

Hilary Kroupa, State Program Manager for Regional Youth Educators, along with Brandi Shroyer discussed providing office space for her to use/rent. Hilary told the Commission that she would like an office closer to her home in the Gan Valley/Kimball area. There is enough room and an extra desk available in the Brandi's office to be able to accommodate her. Kroupa said the State of SD would be willing to pay rent for the office space. Hilary said if the county would agree to provide the office space, she could have a contract drawn up for the Commission to approve and sign. The Commission gave their approval and will sign the contract once it gets drawn up. The Board gave her permission to go ahead and utilize the office space in the meantime.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to pay vouchers as listed below. Motion carried all voting aye. Studeny abstained from the vote.

Reports: October Payroll: Social Security 5,997.11; Medicare 1,402.56; Wellmark 27,914.12, Retirement 6,072.29; Kansas City Life 89.24; Commissioners 4,438.20; Auditor 7,942.05; Treasurer 6,589.17; States Attorney 5,464.69; Courthouse 2,636.20; Director of Equalization 6,328.53; Register of Deeds 4,819.23; Veteran's Service Officer 640.63; Sheriff 19,804.96; Welfare 806.73; Extension 2,935.38; Weed 1,385.41; Zoning 809.85; Hwy 36,020.37; EM&D 2,077.93; Payroll Direct Deposit Cost 8.40. Auditor's Account with Treasurer: Cash on Hand 1,104.41; MMDA 2,065,888.71; CD's 942,140.00. Register of Deeds Fees: Marriage Lic/Certs 180.00; Birth/Death Certs 135.00; Preservation Fund 171.00; Driver's License 390.00; Copies 86.00; Other 0.00; Recording Fees 1,455.00; Transfer Fees 1,339.00.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS		
SDML WORK COMP FUND	2026 WORK COMP RENEWAL	21492.00

		21492.00 *
JUDICIAL SYSTEM		
GRAND JURY	GRAND JURY FEES & MILEAGE	455.00
DEVY ALVIZURES	INTERPRETING SERIVCES	112.50
FORTE	COURTROOM AV UPGRADE	477.04
REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY	BA (1)	46.00
STEVE MEYER	CAA	705.00

		1795.54 *
AUDITOR		
P M B 0112	SEPTEMBER MANAGEMENT FEES	64.25
QUILL CORPORATION	ENVELOPES, FOLDERS & CHAIRS	96.40

		160.65 *
TREASURER		
STAPLES	PENS, CANDY, PAPER & TONER	239.69
STAPLES	PENS, CANDY, PAPER	97.06

		336.75 *
COURTHOUSE		
APRIL JOHNSON	SUPPLIES - GLADE PLUGINS	42.80
CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICES	REPLACE CH GENERATOR BATTERY	279.06

PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY	227.20	
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY COURTHOUSE	1508.12	
RON'S MARKET INC	BATTERIES	61.82	
VESTIS	SERVICES - MATS	11.18	

		2130.18	*
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION			
JESSICA DURRIN	LABELS & COPY STAMPER	20.97	
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	HARD DRIVE UPGRADE	50.00	

		70.97	*
SHERIFF			
HILLMANS REPAIR	OIL CHANGE IN LEWIS & BRIGGS V	101.84	
KYLE NESS	CLOTHING ALLOW - PANTS & SHIRT	250.00	
OVERWEG AUTO	TIRES & MOUNTING - MALCOLM	1042.56	
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	BATTERIES & SCREWS	19.53	
PORTABLE COMPUTERS	LAPTOP KEYBOARDS	1872.00	
ROADSIDE C - STORE	BATTERIES	4.99	
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	3778.97	
TWO WAY SOLUTIONS INC	REPAIR RADIO SPEAKER	177.96	
V I S A	TONER, SHARPIES, BINDERS	396.69	
V I S A	TOOL BOX & STRAPS	432.73	
VERIZON	SEPTEMBER VERIZON FLEET	63.80	
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	318.96	

		8460.03	*
JAIL			
DAVISON COUNTY SHERIFF	OCTOBER JAIL HOUSING	2730.00	
LEWIS FAMILY DRUG LLC	INMATE MEDS (2)	853.17	

		3583.17	*
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED			
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE	MONTHLY SUPPORT	60.00	

		60.00	*
AG BUILDING			
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	162.54	

		162.54	*
COUNTY EXTENSION			
NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL-SUPPLY	4-H RECOGNITION PINS	46.48	

		46.48	*
WEED			
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	PARTS FOR SPRAYER	19.09	

RUNNINGS	ANITFREEZE	44.82
VERIZON	SEPTEMBER VERIZON FLEET	25.90

		89.81 *
PLANNING & ZONING		
JESSICA DURRIN	LABELS & COPY STAMPER	20.96

		20.96 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	GRADER REPAIR	59151.97
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	FILTERS	341.93
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	ELECTRIC - AUR CTR & STORLA	157.43
DOUG VISSIA	ROAD CONFERENCE ROOM	248.06
FASTENAL COMPANY	BOLTS, NUTS & WASHERS	497.87
GREG KROUPA	4592.08 TON - GRAVEL	22960.40
NAPA CENTRAL	CLEANERS & FILTERS	338.66
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	ELECTRIC - WL & STK	80.11
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	306.41
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	SOCKET ADAPTER	2.59
QUILL CORPORATION	PAPER & FOLDERS	97.52
RON'S MARKET INC	MOUSE TRAPS	8.78
RUNNINGS	MOUSE POISON	47.98
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	1254.04
STEVEN NUSSBAUM	SAFETY CLOTHING	19.91
STICKNEY WATER	WATER BILL - STICKNEY	98.75
TOTAL OIL	FUEL & DEF	2559.08
TRANSOURCE	TRUCK REPAIRS	337.96
TRANSOURCE	LOADER LEASE	3200.00
VERIZON	SEPTEMBER VERIZON FLEET	65.88
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	20.02
VESTIS	SERVICES - RAGS & MATS	17.01

		91812.36 *
E 911 SERVICE		
GOLDEN WEST	E-911 SERVICES 11-1 TO 11-30	200.00
MID-STATE TELEPHONE CO.	E-911 SERVICES 11-1 TO 11-30	357.44
SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS	E-911 SERVICES 11-1 TO 11-30	30.00

		587.44 *
EM&D		
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	166.70
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	60.03

		226.73 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	RECEIPT BOOKS	359.90
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS	MONTHLY EQUIPMENT RENTAL	395.00

WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	TONER FOR COPY MACHINE	94.00

		848.90 *

Total Checks: \$131,884.51 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman
Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

(Published once at the total approximate cost of _____)