

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

December 4, 2025

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Input: Andy Espedal expressed his concerns about the 14 miles of road where a bunch gravel was thrown in the ditch and gouges left in the road by a blade operator. The road was like this all the way from Hwy 16 up to Storla, said Espedal. Andy said he called Hwy Superintendent Vissia about this and asked who the blade operator was. Espedal also had Commissioner Niles drive around with him to look at the condition of the road and the amount of gravel that is lost in the ditches. Espedal said he is not upset with the blade operator because he is new, but the Commissioners need to have words with the person who trained him and should address the situation with whoever needs to be addressed. Photos of the road and ditches were given to the Commission. The Board agreed with his concerns and will address it with the highway department. Andy asked the Commission if the Storla blade was going to be based out of the Storla shop or the Plankinton shop this winter. The Commission did not know but stated the Storla shop is not heated and there have been mice problems up there. It was noted that the weed truck is being stored up there, so the highway department better have the mice problem under control. Andy said he is asking because the county has a blade based out of Aurora Center, so there should also be one based out of Storla. It was stated the Aurora Center shop is not heated either. Due to the weed truck, tractors and other items being stored in the Storla shed, Skyler Kehn said the grader would not fit. Commissioner Clark then turned the discussion to mowing which also affects snow removal. He said he has had complaints with the mower only cutting 5 ft of the grass in the ditches. They are leaving grass standing in the ditches which cause drifts to form on the roads. With just the little amount of snow that we recently received, said Clark, there were finger drifts forming already. We need to look at a different mower, stated Clark. Commissioner Dethlefsen said the county needs a mower that can get everything with one pass. Commissioner Hanten said board member Niles was appointed to go with Vissia to pick out a mower and he should

have gone with Doug to make sure it was what we wanted. Commissioner Niles said there are a lot of roads in the North and West parts of the County that were not mowed, which will cause more snow to drift on the roads. It was also noted by Commissioner Hanten that the windrows along the road will need to be gone before we mow again.

The agenda was amended by adding payout for salaried employees. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to approve the minutes from the November 20th meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

Fuel quotes were received as follows:

	MONTHLY QUOTE (12-4-25 to 1-8-26)			4 MONTH QUOTE (12-4-25 to 4-2-26)		
	#1 Diesel	#2 Diesel	Propane	#1 Diesel	#2 Diesel	Propane
Brooks Oil:	2.82	2.45	1.25	2.83	2.46	1.25
Total Oil:	3.19	2.38	-----	3.25	2.46	-----

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten, to approve the 4-month quotes from Brooks Oil @ 2.83/gal for #1 Diesel, 2.46/gal for #2 Diesel, and propane at 1.25. Motion carried all voting aye.

Emergency Manager Skyler Kehn informed the Commission that the grant application to update the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan has been awarded. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to authorize Chairman Dethlefsen to sign the Sub-Recipient Agreement and the Environmental Report to complete our acceptance of the grant. Motion carried all voting aye.

Emergency Manager Kehn informed the Commission that there will be a Red Cross training for sheltering on December 17th at 6:00 PM at the Aurora County Community/4-H Building. 4-H Program Assistant Brandi Shroyer requested extra hours to attend the training as recommended by the Emergency Manager since she is an alternate contact person for the Community/4-H Building. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to approve extra hours for Brandi to attend the training on December 17th. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to authorize the Chairman to sign the SDSU Extension

4-H Programs Memorandum of Understanding with Aurora County. Motion carried all voting aye. The MOU allows 4-H to take place in Aurora County, lets the county have a local 4-H Program Assistant, and allows the county to use the name and logo of 4-H.

States Attorney Rachel Mairose drafted a policy that is specific to non-statutory salaried employees regarding payout for leave time. After reviewing the draft and much discussion, the Commission asked States Attorney Mairose to make a few changes to the policy and they can discuss it further at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to accept a resignation from Dan Beckmann as custodian with thanks and appreciation for his time working for the County. Motion carried all voting aye. The resignation is effective December 1, 2025.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to authorize the Chairman to sign the James Valley Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force Joint Powers Agreement for 2026. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to approve the Davison County jail contract for 2026 at \$105 per prisoner day. Motion carried all voting aye.

Due to New Years Day falling on the first regular commission meeting date, the Board set the dates for their January 2026 meetings to Thursday, January 8th and Thursday, January 22nd.

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

Reports: November Payroll: Social Security 6,531.85; Medicare 1,527.62; Wellmark 27,913.20, Retirement 6,523.15; Kansas City Life 89.24; Commissioners 4,438.20; Auditor 8,119.63; Treasurer 7,162.71; States Attorney 5,539.14; Courthouse 2,786.84; Director of Equalization 6,404.29; Register of Deeds 4,374.37; Veteran's Service Officer 948.34; Sheriff 20,083.57; Welfare 843.40; Extension 2,785.90; Weed 1,466.89; Zoning 798.39; Hwy 39,767.45; EM&D 2,155.53; Payroll Direct Deposit Cost 8.45. Auditor's Account with Treasurer: Cash on Hand 1,595.43; MMDA 2,467,777.79; CD's 942,140.00. Register of Deeds Fees: Marriage Lic/Certs 0.00; Birth/Death Certs 25.00; Preservation Fund 102.00; Driver's License 336.00; Copies 83.00; Other 0.00; Recording Fees 910.00; Transfer Fees 611.00.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	NOVEMBER PUBLISHING	532.11

		532.11 *
ELECTIONS		
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	SERVICE CONTRACT	1377.45

		1377.45 *
JUDICIAL SYSTEM		
THERESA MAULE ROSSOW	CAA	1325.70
MELISSA ODENS	TRANSCRIPTS	68.60
AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE HEALTH	BA (3)	411.00

		1805.30 *
AUDITOR		
POSTMASTER	YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	40.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	125.78

		165.78 *
TREASURER		
POSTMASTER	YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	40.00
STAPLES	BATTERIES	10.53
STAPLES	DRUM & TONER	276.62
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	194.67
WHITE LAKE CITY	TAX DEED PROPERTY MOWING	425.00

		946.82 *
STATE'S ATTORNEY		
MAIROSE AND STEELE	2026 1/2 STATE BAR DUES	245.00
MAIROSE AND STEELE	POSTAGE	10.87
MAIROSE AND STEELE	PHONE CALL	0.27
MAIROSE AND STEELE	OVERHEAD - NOV & DEC	1300.00
MAIROSE AND STEELE	LAW BOOKS	821.18

		2377.32 *
COURTHOUSE		
KONECHNE HEATING AND COOLING	FILTERS FOR THE COURTHOUSE	388.52
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY - COURTHOUSE	1729.80
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY - HISTORIAL SOC	213.68
POSTMASTER	YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	40.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	125.78

		2497.78 *

DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
POSTMASTER	YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	40.00
PERSONALIZED STAMPED ENVELOPE	STAMPED ENVELOPES	1443.25
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	125.78

		1609.03 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
POSTMASTER	YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	40.00

		40.00 *
VA OFFICE		
POSTMASTER	YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	40.00
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	NOVEMBER PUBLSIHING	136.50
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	62.89

		239.39 *
SHERIFF		
POSTMASTER	YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	106.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	503.48
VERIZON	NOVEMBER VERIZON FLEET	63.80

		673.28 *
PUBLIC WELFARE		
POSTMASTER	YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	20.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	5.25

		25.25 *
NURSES OFFICE		
POSTMASTER	YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	20.00

		20.00 *
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED		
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE	MONTHLY SUPPORT	60.00
LUCY LEWNO	MI - JUVENILE	198.74
MARK KATTERHAGEN	MI - JUVENILE	20.00
TYLER S LOHR	MI ATTY - JUVENILE	157.53
VAL LARSON	MI - JUVENILE	20.00
YANKTON COUNTY SHERIFF	MI - JUVENILE	50.00

		506.27 *
AG BUILDING		
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	609.71

		609.71 *

COUNTY EXTENSION		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	123.53

		123.53 *
WEED		
VERIZON	NOVEMBER VERIZON FLEET	25.90

		25.90 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
BROOKS OIL COMPANY	PROPANE	246.00
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	ELECTRICITY - AUR CTR & STORLA	77.84
COMMERCIAL ASPHALT	PATCH MIX	1972.00
DWIGHT JOHNSON	LAND RENT FOR STORLA SHOP	10.00
GREAT PLAINS LUMBER	FENCE POST FOR BRIDGE	100.00
HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT INC	MASTIC GAP	145024.60
MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM	WATER BILL - STORLA SHOP	33.00
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	ELECTRIC - WL & STICKNEY	81.96
OVERWEG AUTO	PICKUP TIRES	1440.84
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	378.45
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	PICKUP TOGGLE SWITCH	5.99
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	DOOR HANDLE, TAPE, WIRE	192.88
POSTMASTER	YEARLY POST OFFICE BOX RENT	162.00
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	NOVEMBER PUBLSIHING	216.00
STICKNEY WATER	WATER BILL	98.75
TRANSOURCE	TRUCK REPAIRS	195.94
TRANSOURCE	LOADER LEASE	3200.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	131.78
VERIZON	NOVEMBER VERIZON FLEET	65.88
VESTIS	SERVICES - MATS & RAGS	17.01

		153650.92 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT INC	MASTIC GAP	53000.00

		53000.00 *
E 911 SERVICE		
GOLDEN WEST	E-911 SERVICES 12-1 TO 12-31	200.00
MID-STATE TELEPHONE CO.	E-911 SERVICES 12-1 TO 12-31	357.44

		557.44 *
EM&D		
OVERWEG AUTO	BATTERY FOR EM & D TRUCK	267.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	65.89
VERIZON	NOVEMBER VERIZON FLEET	15.95

		348.84 *

REGISTER OF DEEDS		
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS	MONTHLY EQUIPMENT RENTAL	395.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	191.67

		586.67 *

Total Checks: 222,354.41 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman
Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

(Published once at the total approximate cost of _____)