

# AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

**February 19, 2026**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Newly appointed Commissioner, Dan Bosworth took his oath of office.

There was no public input.

The agenda was amended by adding Central Electric Overweight Permit and Burn Ban to the agenda. 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 of the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

Auditor Urban informed the Commission that the State of SD was audited and during the audit it was noted the State made an error on how the fees were calculated for truck licenses. Due to the error, some individuals overpaid for their truck licenses over the past few years. The State of SD sent letters to individuals notifying them of the error and the possibility of a refund. The individuals were responsible for submitting their information to see if they qualified. The State then contacted all County Treasurers about the error and informed the counties that the State would pay the refund if the individual qualified. In turn, the County now has to reimburse the State for the refunds that were paid out. Urban said the amount owed to the State is \$2,655.48 and since the 742 Motor Vehicle Fund is always cleared out at the end of the month and remitted to the State, there is nothing in the Fund to cover this extra cost. Urban requested the Commission to authorize her to make an operating transfer from the General Fund into the 742 Fund so the amount can be paid back to the State of SD. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to make an operating transfer of \$2,655.48 from the General Fund into the 742 State Motor Vehicle Fund. Motion carried all voting aye.

Auditor Urban informed the Commission that the City of Plankinton has recently changed the County electric rate to a commercial rate for the courthouse. She stated that Plankinton City Electrical Superintendent Chance Boyd noted the county courthouse will see a savings by being classified as commercial.

The Commission reviewed the agreement for weed spraying services before it is sent to the contracted sprayer, Austin Shroyer. The Commission all agreed it looked good and did not find any issues with it and the contract will be sent to Shroyer for his signature.

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

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve a payment application in the amount of \$65,616.84 from Nolz Dragline & Construction for work done on the Jackrabbit Bridge (Structure # 02-097-056) for Project BRF 6119(00)25-2, PCN 0A6Y. Motion carried all voting aye.

Superintendent Vissia presented the Commission with quotes for extended warranty on the 2019 CAT motor grader. Butler Machinery gave two quotes for the warranty. The first quote was for \$10,340.00 for warranty on the powertrain & hydraulics, the second quote was for \$10,820.00 for warranty on the powertrain, hydraulics, and technology. Both quotes were for 12 months/1500 hours. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to approve the warranty that includes the technology for \$10,820.00. Motion carried all voting aye.

Discussion was held on weight limits. It was noted that the 80,000 lb. gross weight signs are posted year-round. A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Clark to post 6-ton per axle at 40mph in addition to the 80,000 lbs. effective immediately. Motion carried all voting aye.

Highway Secretary Beckman presented the Commission with three Rural Access Infrastructure Fund (RAIF) applications for approval.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to approve the RAIF application from Firesteel Township to replace a culvert and install fabric and riprap to secure the area around the culvert. The total project will cost \$20,211.00 with 80% of the cost (\$16,169.00) paid out of the RAIF Fund and the Township paying the balance of \$4,042.00. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to approve the RAIF application from Firesteel Township to regrade around two culverts, lay fabric, and install riprap. The total project will cost \$6,268 with 80% of the cost (\$5,014.00) paid out of the RAIF Fund and the Township paying the balance of \$1,254.00. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Studeny to approve the RAIF application from Firesteel Township to regrade, lay fabric and riprap by existing culvert. The total project will cost \$3,758.00 with 80% of the cost (\$3,006.00) paid out of the RAIF Fund and the Township paying the balance of \$752.00. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Studeny to authorize the Auditor to transfer \$124,628.34 out of the BIG reserves for expenses on the Jackrabbit Bridge project into the highway cash. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to approve an overweight permit for Central Electric to be used in emergency situations only. Motion carried all voting aye.

It noted by Chairman Dethlefsen that the highway department has all the gravel hauled out of the Markhardt Pit due to the pit agreement ending on March 1, 2026. All of the Markhardt gravel was hauled to the landfill. The Chairman stated the county no longer will have any gravel up in the northern part of the county. Superintendent Vissia stated that we can purchase gravel from Kroupa if we need to. Vissia told the Commission we do have a pit agreement with Shefner. Sanborn is already mining in the Shefner Pit, so he is not sure about being able to mine, but we can purchase gravel from him. Commissioner Hanten told Vissia that we should have asked Dick Markhardt if he would extend the agreement again so we had some gravel in the northern part of the county. Now that it's at the landfill, we are going to have some long hauls for gravel, said Hanten. Superintendent Vissia said it will probably be used in the southern part of the county to help add some binder.

It was noted that there were other individuals hauling gravel out of the Markhardt pit during the same time the County was and deep ruts were left in the road that were a safety concern. Vissia said he was going to have someone blade it today. Commissioner Bosworth told Superintendent Vissia that we shouldn't be waiting to blade it when we are done hauling, especially when big ruts are in it. We need to blade that road often when there are a lot of loads coming out of that pit for safety reasons, said Bosworth. Chairman Dethlefsen suggested to stay in touch with Doug to make sure the road is in good shape.

Treasurer Andrea Pryor presented six tax deed properties that are up for auction and need to be sold. The Commission set the tax deed auction date for March 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. Discussion was held on hiring an auctioneer for

the sale due to the number of parcels and the interest in them. The Commission directed the Treasurer to see if Clyde Olsen would be available, if not, then check with Wayne Haines.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the 2025 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant agreement with the State of SD. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the 2026 Health Services Contract with the State of SD. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Commission reviewed information that was prepared by Emergency Manager Kehn on hosted phones by Golden West. This would replace the current phone system the county is using. Concerns were brought up at a previous meeting about the new phone system being through the internet and losing the ability to use the phones if the internet drops or goes down. The Commission asked to have Kehn and someone from Golden West come to a meeting to discuss it further before making a decision.

Chairman Dethlefsen reminded the Board of the workday out at the ag building on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM to install the acoustic panels.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to authorize Director of Equalization Sam Simkins to take some time off in the near future for personal reasons, and allow her to attend a USPAP class in Pierre on May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> and the assessor's school in Pierre on September 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>; and approve permission for Deputy Assessor Casey Schmidt to attend a basics course on September 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> in Pierre, and for both Sam and Casey to attend the SDAAO Conference in Sioux Falls on June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Bosworth to enact a burn ban effective immediately and approve the following resolution. Roll Call Vote: Clark, aye; Studeny, aye; Hanten, aye; Bosworth, aye; Dethlefsen, aye. Motion carried.

## **RESOLUTION BANNING OUTDOOR BURNING AND DECLARING A FIRE EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS Aurora County has been experiencing unseasonal warm, dry, windy weather conditions; and

WHEREAS these weather conditions have contributed to a very high fire danger by drying out of fields, grass lands, and shelter belts; and

WHEREAS the rural areas of Aurora County are protected by volunteer firefighters who must take leave from their employment to fight fire; and

WHEREAS South Dakota Law imposes liability for damages upon persons who negligently allow a fire to spread, or who willfully maintain a public nuisance, or who burn off land without giving due consideration to prevailing weather conditions; and

WHEREAS South Dakota Law also imposes criminal liability including fines of up to \$1,000.00 and jail sentences of up to one year in the county jail, or lesser penalties for persons who commit the acts described above; and

WHEREAS the Board of County Commissioners has consulted with local fire officials and law enforcement officials as to the fire hazard conditions prevailing in the County; and

WHEREAS Aurora County has the authority under South Dakota State Law to declare, abate and prevent public nuisances; and

WHEREAS Aurora County has adopted Ordinance No. 2015-3, An Ordinance to Exercise the County's Statutory Authority to Prohibit or Restrict Open Burning and to Provide for a Penalty, which provides, among other things a procedure for imposing a burn ban;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Aurora County, as follows:

1. It is the determination of the Board that adverse conditions exist as defined in Ordinance No. 2015-3.
2. All outdoor burning in the unincorporated areas of Aurora County is hereby determined and declared to be forbidden as a public nuisance until adequate precipitation has significantly reduced the hazard of outdoor burning. The only exception to this shall be the following: cooking fires; attended campfires; and fires in properly constructed burning barrels equipped with screens to prevent flying brands or sparks.
3. This Resolution is declared to be necessary for the immediate preservation of the public safety as defined by SDCL 7-18A-8, and shall, therefore, become effective immediately, and shall continue in full force and effect until rescinded by the Board of County Commissioners of Aurora County.

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

s/s Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman  
Aurora County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: Susan Urban, Auditor

The Commission will address the need to continue the burn ban at their upcoming meetings.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to authorize Sheriff Secretary Trisha VanDrongelen to attend the SOR conference in Deadwood on April 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried all voting aye.

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

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	49.51
STANDARD PUBLISHING	OCT, NOV & DEC PUBLISHING	2552.94
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	OCT, NOV & DEC PUBLISHING	2514.61
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		5117.06 *
AUDITOR		
AURORA COUNTY TREASURER	POSTAGE REIMBURSMENT	52.70
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	58.39
		-----
		111.09 *
TREASURER		
AURORA COUNTY TREASURER	POSTAGE REIMBURSMENT	2.44
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	METER MAINT FEES	81.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	72.79
STANDARD PUBLISHING	OCT & DEC PUBLISHING	157.29
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	OCT & DECEMBER PUBLISHING	157.29
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		470.81 *
STATE'S ATTORNEY		
BEADLE COUNTY AUDITOR	VICTIM SERVICES FOR 2026	2200.00
		-----
		2200.00 *
COURTHOUSE		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	44.42
MIDWEST ALARM	2 NEW PANIC BUTTONS	183.04
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL	90.00
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	2660.30
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	425.45
SCOTT CONSTRUCTION	REPAIR WATER LEAK IN HIST BLDG	1683.68
VESTIS	SERVICES - MATS	11.18
		-----
		5098.07 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	65.26
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	102.63
		-----
		167.89 *
VA OFFICE		
AURORA COUNTY TREASURER	POSTAGE REIMBURSMENT	61.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	65.64
STANDARD PUBLISHING	OCT, NOV & DEC PUBLISHING	188.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	OCT & NOV PUBLISHING	188.00
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		502.64 *

SHERIFF		
AURORA COUNTY TREASURER	POSTAGE REIMBURSMENT	3.80
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	101.44
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	53.48
OVERWEG AUTO	TIRE REPAIR - LEWIS	31.80
SD DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	TELETYPE RENTAL 1-1 TO 6-30-26	2340.00
V I S A	POSTAGE	7.45
		-----
		2601.77 *
JAIL		
DAVISON COUNTY SHERIFF	INMATE HOUSING (4)	6615.00
		-----
		6615.00 *
PUBLIC WELFARE		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	SET COMPUTER	112.90
		-----
		112.90 *
NURSES OFFICE		
LACEY WIECZOREK	TOOTHBRUSHES - DENTAL ED	12.64
		-----
		12.64 *
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED		
DEAN SCHAEFER COURT REPORTING	MI TRANSCRIPTS	66.00
DOUGLAS N PAPENDICK	MI ATTY - JUVENILE	122.00
		-----
		188.00 *
AG BUILDING		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	106.77
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL	70.00
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	1104.58
		-----
		1281.35 *
COUNTY EXTENSION		
CHERYL DETHLEFSEN	PINS & AWARDS	254.63
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	64.18
		-----
		318.81 *
WEED		
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL SERVI	WEED LICENSE RENEWAL	35.00
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	4.94
SKYLER KEHN	CELL PHONE STIPEND	20.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING	DEC PUBLISHING	176.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	DECEMBER PUBLISHING	176.00
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		437.84 *
PLANNING & ZONING		

STANDARD PUBLISHING	OCT PUBLISHING	46.67
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	OCT PUBLISHING	46.67
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		93.34 *

R&B CONSTRUCTION		
BROOKS OIL COMPANY	FUEL & PROPANE	4119.78
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC	CONST ENGINEERING - JACK RABBI	34125.00
DOUG VISSIA	CELL PHONE STIPHEND	50.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	123.09
MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM	WATER BILL - STORLA SHOP	33.00
NOLZ DRAGLINE & CONSTRUCTION	JACK RABBIT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	65616.84
OVERWEG AUTO	TRUCK WINDOW REPAIR	74.20
RON'S MARKET INC	MSHA TRAINING - ROLLS & SUP	52.92
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	BRIDGE INSPECTIONS	821.25
STANDARD PUBLISHING	NOV PUBLISHING	100.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	NOV PUBLISHING	100.00
STICKNEY REPAIR & SERVICE	OIL	4611.40
TRANSOURCE	LOADER LEASE	3200.00
		-----
		113093.36 *

E 911 SERVICE		
DAWN NIEHOFF - COMM SUPERVISOR	JANUARY SURCHARGE	3969.32
DAWN NIEHOFF - COMM SUPERVISOR	FEBRUARY SURCHARGE	4007.22
		-----
		7976.54 *

EM&D		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	62.86
SKYLER KEHN	CELL PHONE STIPEND	30.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING	DEC PUBLISHING	80.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	DECEMBER PUBLISHING	80.00
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		252.86 *

Total Checks: 146,496.39 \*

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

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Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman  
Aurora County Commission

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Urban, Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost \_\_\_\_\_.