

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

March 5, 2026

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no public input.

The agenda was amended by adding SD & USA 250th celebration flags, AFLAC dental & vision, Homeland Security grant for Fire Departments, Emergency Management training, and burn ban. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Bosworth 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 regular meeting on February 19th and the special meeting on February 26th. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve an operating transfer of \$6,000 from the General Fund into the E-911 Fund. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to give the county employees Friday, April 3rd off as a paid holiday in observance of Good Friday. Motion carried all voting aye.

It was the consensus of the Board to leave the burn ban on due to the lack of moisture.

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

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Studeny to authorize the Chairman to sign the following resolution. Roll Call Vote: Clark, aye; Studeny, aye; Hanten, aye; Bosworth, aye; Dethlefsen, aye. Motion carried

BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM RESOLUTION FOR USE WITH SDDOT RETAINER CONTRACTS

WHEREAS, 23 CFR 650 Subpart C, requires initial inspection of all bridges and reinspection at intervals not to exceed two years with the exception of reinforced concrete box culverts that meet specific criteria. These culverts are reinspected at intervals not to exceed four years.

THEREFORE, Aurora County is desirous of participating in the Bridge Inspection Program.

The County requests SDDOT to hire Brosz Engineering (consulting engineers) for the inspection work. SDDOT will secure federal approvals, make payments to the consulting engineer for inspection services rendered, and bill the County for 20% of the cost. The County will be responsible for the required 20% matching funds.

Dated this 5th day of March, 2026, at Plankinton, SD.

Board of County Commissioners of Aurora County.

Attest: Susan Urban, County Auditor

s/s Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman of the Board

Highway Superintendent went over quotes for a new mower that he received from Titan Machinery and Puthoff Sales & Service. Titan Machinery submitted a quote for a New Holland 3-point 109M disc mower for \$21,000. Puthoff Sales submitted a quote for a Vermeer M7050 disc mower for \$15,000. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Bosworth to purchase the Vermeer mower for \$15,000 from Puthoff Sales. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to accept a bid for culverts off the bid from Beadle County. Motion carried all voting aye.

Discussion was held on the speed limit signs by the White Lake School. Currently the speed limit is reduced to 40 mph east of the school on Highway 16, which is well before the driveway to the school, and then drops to 20 mph near the school property. It was suggested to change the speed limit to 45 mph east of the school and then down to 30 mph by the school as this speed limit would be similar to what is by the Plankinton School on Highway 16. Superintendent Vissia will check with SD LTAP to make sure everything is done properly.

BID LETTING: Pursuant to notice of bids the following bids were opened:

ONE YEAR SUPPLY OF PATCH MIX AND HOT MIX: Bids were received from the following: Commercial Asphalt: Patch Mix @ \$120.00/ton; Hot Mix @ \$73.00/ton and Omega Mix @ \$170.00/ton; A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to accept the bids from Commercial Asphalt. Motion carried all voting aye.

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE: Bids were received from the following: Matlock Construction - Komatsu 290 Excavator @ \$295/hr; CAT 320 @ \$285/hr; Dozer @ 250/hr; Track Skid Loader @ \$200/hr; Loader @ 250/hr. Hollaway Construction – Komatsu 238 Excavator & Hydraulic breaker @ 370/hr; CAT 299D2 Skid Steer Loader @ 220/hr; 12 Takeuchi Skid Loader @ \$230/hr; 324K Front End Loader @ \$230/hr. TJ Scott Construction – Excavator @ \$250/hr; Dozer @ \$250/hr; Track Skid Loader @ \$200/hr; Dozer @ \$250/hr. A motion was made by

Bosworth, seconded by Clark to accept the bid from Matlock Construction. Motion carried all voting aye.

STOCKPILED GRAVEL: Bids were received from the following: Greg Kroupa @ \$6/ton (for 10,000 ton), \$5.50/ton (for 10,000 - 20,000 ton), and \$5/ton (20,000 plus ton); David Bogenhagen @ \$6.50/ton. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Bosworth to accept all bids received for the stockpiled gravel. Motion carried all voting aye.

MASTIC GAP REPAIR BID: Bids were received from the following: Asphalt Surfacing Co. @ \$4.39/ft; Highway Improvement, Inc. @ 4.81/ft; Black-Top Paving @ \$4.50/ft. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to accept the bid from Asphalt Surfacing Co. Motion carried all voting aye.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL RATE WITH OPERATOR: Bids were received from the following: Matlock Construction – Komatsu 290 Excavator @ \$295.00/hr.; CAT 320 Excavator @ 285/hr; Payloader @ \$250/hr; Track Skid Loader @ \$200/hr; Dozer @ \$250/hr; Belly Dump @ \$.34/ton mile; Side Dump @ \$.34/ton mile; Doubles @ \$.29/ton mile. David Bogenhagen – 821G Case Payloader @ \$.50/ton (loading in Bogenhagen Pit only); Belly Dump @ \$.25/ton mile (in Washington Twp only) and \$.35/ton mile (anything else). TJ Scott Construction – Excavator @ \$250/hr; Payloader @ \$250/hr; Track Skid Loader @ \$200/hr; Dozer @ \$250/hr; Belly Dump @ \$.30/ton mile; Side Dump @ \$.30/ton mile. Gerrit Overweg – Payloader @ \$175/hr; Dozer @ \$150.00/hr; Belly Dump @ \$.28/ ton mile. A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Studeny to accept all bids based on availability. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Bosworth to approve an approach permit for Curt Plamp to widen an approach for a feed lot on Rd #64 in the NE ¼ NW ¼ of 35-101-63. Motion carried all voting aye. The cost will be at the landowner's expense.

Discussion was held on disking roads and whether it would be a good time to do it now.

Emergency Manager Skyler Kehn and Travis Terkildsen from Golden West discussed the option of switching to hosted phones. It was noted that our phone system is getting old and obsolete due to not being able to get parts or phone replacements. Under the hosted phone system, the county would not be charged for new phones and it would be internet based. Earlier there were concerns about the internet going down or troubles with the firewall or sonic wall. Terkildsen said there are a couple of ways to deal with these issues. He told the Commission there is the option of going to a business grade product called BizWorks and they are currently running a deal for \$99/month for 6 months and then the charge goes up to \$200/month. The county would have the ability to tether cell phones to this system.

Another option would be to install a free app on the employees' mobile phone that would tether calls to cell phones if there were problems. Another possibility is to have a separate internet connection for just the phone service. This would eliminate troubles with the firewall and sonic wall and it would be easier to detect any problems. At the very least, I would recommend the separate internet option, said Terkildsen. Commissioner Studeny asked how long will it be before our phone system is obsolete and we cannot find any parts. The Commission agreed that the upgrade needs to happen sooner rather than later. Kehn indicated that most, but not all, employees were ok with the switch and their concern was about the internet going down and the phone system along with it. Terkildsen stated that if the system is on its own internet that should take care of trouble shooting any problems and hopefully ease their concerns. It was also noted that this system can be used remotely and help with the continuity of operations. For example, it will help the sheriff's department with their operations remotely and if there is a disaster, the EM would be able to use it remotely in his EM trailer. After discussing it further, a motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Studeny to proceed with the upgrade of the hosted phones through Golden West and get a second internet connection for the phone system. Auditor Urban will be the authorized person to sign the contract. Motion carried all voting aye.

Lori Cowman Planning & Development District III Director met with the Commission to give the annual 2025 Performance Report.

Weed Supervisor Skyler Kehn presented the Board with two quotes for a water trailer for the weed truck. H&W Trailer Manufacturing submitted a quote for an 18ft gooseneck trailer for \$17,520 and an 18ft bumper pull trailer for \$17,085. Towro submitted a quote for a 20ft gooseneck trailer for \$21,000. A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Clark to purchase the 18ft gooseneck trailer for \$17,520 from H&W Trailer Manufacturing. Motion carried all voting aye.

Courthouse Maintenance personnel Skyler Kehn informed the Commission there are issues with the lights in the courthouse. The ones in the basement need to be replaced and the extension office has been waiting for 4 months to have them replaced. He said Morris Electric is the company the county went through when the county decided to slowly replace all light fixtures with LED. Kehn said he spoke to Morris Electric and was told they ordered the light fixtures several months ago but the product is very hard to get. Morris Electric told Kehn he talked to their supplier

and they suggested getting different light fixtures that are more readily available. Kehn told the Board that Morris Electric gave him a couple of options to consider. One option was new 4ft LED wrap lights at \$168.50/light fixture and \$40 in labor to swap the fixture out. The second option is light bulb replacement with LED tubes at \$18/tube and \$20 a light for labor. After discussing it further, a motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Studeny to go with the first option and switch the entire fixture out. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to apply for a Homeland Security Grant for the Plankinton Fire Department for an enclosed trailer and the Stickney Fire Department for a radio. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Bosworth to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to attend a Region 6 EOC exercise in Mitchell on March 23rd. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion as made by Bosworth, seconded by Clark to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to attend a Rapid Tag System Workshop in Pierre on March 31st. Motion carried all voting aye.

Paul Matzner from the Stickney Fire & Ambulance Department presented the Commission with their annual financial report for 2025. He also requested that when the County starts to work on budgets for 2027 to continue with their support to the local fire departments. The Board thanked Paul for coming in and expressed their appreciation for the report given to them.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to purchase the SD and USA 250th Anniversary celebratory flags to celebrate America's 250th birthday. Motion carried all voting aye. Commissioner Studeny said he will talk with States Attorney Mairose about drafting a resolution to show the County's support of the celebration.

Auditor Urban informed the Commission that AFLAC is interested in providing a group dental and vision plan to the employees. Currently the employees go through Principal for their dental and vision coverage and the premiums are paid by the employees. If the employees wish to change companies, they will continue to pay for their coverage.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to authorize Director of Equalization Sam Simkins and Deputy Casey Schmidt to attend the Vanguard Software user meeting on September 9th & 10th in Oacoma. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Studeny to authorize the Director of Equalization's office to purchase a new printer from Williams Office Equipment for \$1,249.00 and trade the old printer in for \$100. Motion carried all voting aye.

Zoning Administrator Sam Simkins addressed setting a fee for those who request a special zoning meeting outside a regular meeting. Commissioner Studeny asked if it had been done in the past. It was noted that when Leah Vissia was the Zoning Administrator she had charged extra and it was thought only to be for the cost of the zoning members mileage and their meeting per diem. Chairman Dethlefsen said it should be a flat fee. Zoning Director Simkins stated that she wanted something that was set by the Board of County Commissioners and talked to States Attorney Mairose about what the extra costs were. States Attorney Mairose and Sam came up with a flat rate of \$750 per meeting to cover everything. A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Hanten to set a flat fee of \$750 for a special zoning meeting that is requested by an individual. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to allow extra hours for 4-H Program Assistant Brandi Shroyer for a deer jerky & stick workshop on March 21st, a painting workshop on April 18th, and a swine youth livestock literacy event on April 25th. Motion carried all voting aye.

Notice was given to the Auditor that the State 4-H Regional Youth Educator will no longer be needing the office space that the State is renting from the county in the extension office. Auditor Urban noted the State Regional Youth Educator has resigned and taken a different job offer. The state will pay the rental fee for the entire month of March. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to accept the termination from the State on the rental agreement. Motion carried all voting aye.

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

Reports: February Payroll: Social Security 5,981.45; Medicare 1,398.89; Wellmark 29,378.75, Retirement 6,255.34; Kansas City Life 93.07; Commissioners 3,683.44; Auditor 8,203.47; Treasurer 6,954.10; States Attorney 5,509.60; Courthouse 1,119.24; Director of Equalization 5,026.15; Register of Deeds 4,621.84; Veteran's Service Officer 991.53; Sheriff 20,695.75; Welfare 770.25; Extension 2,805.64; Weed 690.54; Zoning 846.09; Hwy 37,975.47;

EM&D 2,071.63; Payroll Direct Deposit Cost 8.40. Auditor's Account with Treasurer: Cash on Hand 1,500.80;
MMDA 1,744,854.75; CD's 942,140.00. Register of Deeds Fees: Marriage Lic/Certs 15.00; Birth/Death Certs 15.00;
Preservation Fund 159.00; Driver's License 426.00; Copies 104.00; Other 0.00; Recording Fees 1,385.00; Transfer
Fees 2,686.50.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	642.98
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	DATE STAMPER	59.63

		702.61 *
ELECTIONS		
RAMKOTA HOTEL - PIERRE	MOTEL ROOM - ELECTION MEETING	112.00

		112.00 *
JUDICIAL SYSTEM		
FORTE	COURTROOM UPGRADE	5096.43
S D A C C	1ST QTR ASSESSMENT	2044.00
STEPHANIE MOEN & ASSOC	TRANSCRIPTS	38.25

		7178.68 *
AUDITOR		
RAMKOTA HOTEL - PIERRE	MOTEL ROOM - CONVENTION	112.00
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	PAID STAMPER	98.65
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	124.28
WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	PRINTER CART - APRIL & SUSAN	255.00

		589.93 *
TREASURER		
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	ENVELOPES	69.63
RAMKOTA HOTEL - PIERRE	MOTEL ROOM - CONVENTION	224.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	187.92

		481.55 *
COURTHOUSE		
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	TOLIET PAPER & PAPER TOWELS	93.91
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	GLVES, LYSOL, TOLIET CLEANER	63.64
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PLUG INS, LYSOL, BAGS	41.79
BROOKS OIL COMPANY	FUEL	372.00
OVERWEG AUTO	BATTERY FOR FLOOR CLEANER	102.94
PLANKINTON CITY	COURTHOUSE ELECTRICITY	2092.83
PLANKINTON CITY	HISTORICAL SOCIETY ELECTRICITY	374.51
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	61.00

TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	3YR SONIC WALL PROTECTIVE SER	1372.67

		4575.29 *
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	PAPER (2)	97.98
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	120.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	127.28

		345.26 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES	14.67
RAMKOTA HOTEL - PIERRE	MOTEL ROOM - CONVENTION	112.00

		126.67 *
VA OFFICE		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	108.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	63.64

		171.64 *
SHERIFF		
AXON	TASER BATTERY	87.20
FEDEX	POSTAGE FOR EVIDENCE	20.51
HILLMANS REPAIR	OIL CHANGE & TRANSFER CASE FLU	187.42
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	560.76
VERIZON	JANUARY FLEET	63.80

		919.69 *
JAIL		
LEWIS FAMILY DRUG LLC	INMATE MEDS - (2)	24.09

		24.09 *
FIRE PROTECTION		
STICKNEY FIRE DEPARTMENT	2026 SUPPORT	20500.00

		20500.00 *
PUBLIC WELFARE		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	3.00

		3.00 *
AG BUILDING		
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	BROOMS & URINAL SCREENS	67.95
OVERWEG AUTO	BATTERY FOR FLOOR CLEANER	102.95
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	956.15

		1127.05 *
COUNTY EXTENSION		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION	52.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	124.28

		176.28 *
WEED		
BRANDI SHROYER	WEED CONFERENCE - MEAL	63.67
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	LANDFILL ELECTRICITY	70.00
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL SERVI	LICENSE RENEWAL FEE - KEHN	35.00
OVERWEG AUTO	OIL CHANGE	82.48
SDSU EXTENSION	RECERTIFICATION - KEHN	47.79
SKYLER KEHN	WEED CONFERENCE - MEALS	46.21
THE LODGE AT DEADWOOD	HOTEL ROOMS FOR CONFERENCE	420.00
VERIZON	JANUARY FLEET	25.90

		791.05 *
PLANNING & ZONING		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	90.00

		90.00 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
BROOKS OIL COMPANY	FUEL	1889.05
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	ELECTRIC - AUR CTR & STORLA	191.15
FASTENAL COMPANY	WASHERS	7.50
INDEPENDENT VIKING GLASS INC	WINDOWS - TRUCK & EXCAVATOR	458.50
LYLE SIGNS	SIGNS	362.10
NANCY BECKMAN	PAPER TOWELS	39.30
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	ELECTRIC - WL & STK	151.44
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	486.57
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	TRUCK REPAIRS	7.27
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	WELDING HELMET BATTERY	7.29
RAMKOTA HOTEL - PIERRE	MOTEL ROOM - CONVENTION	224.00
RAMKOTA HOTEL - PIERRE	MOTEL ROOM - SAFETY MEETING	112.00
RUNNINGS	STORAGE BINS, CABLES & GRINDER	366.96
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	248.40
STICKNEY WATER	WATER - STICKNEY SHOP	98.75
TIM MATLOCK CONTRUCTION	HAULING GRAVEL	8957.52
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE & EMAIL	127.28
VERIZON	JANUARY FLEET	65.88
VESTIS	SERVICES - MATS & RAGS	17.01

		13817.97 *
E 911 SERVICE		
GOLDEN WEST	E-911 SERVICES 3-1 TO 3-31-26	200.00
MID-STATE TELEPHONE CO.	E-911 SERVICES 3-1 TO 3-31-26	357.44
SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS	E-911 SERVICES 3-1 TO 3-31-26	30.00

