

# **AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS**

**March 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.

There was no public input.

The agenda was amended by adding senior meals. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to approve the minutes of the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Commissioners all agreed to leave the current burn ban in place.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to approve a permit for Dakota Air Spray authorizing them to land aircraft on Aurora County highways contingent upon giving the highway superintendent ample notification of which road will be used and that a flag person is present on both ends of the roadway. Motion carried all voting aye.

Auditor Urban said she was notified by Health Nurse Lacey Wiczorek and Melissa Berg from the State WIC office that Secretary Carrie Lewis has resigned and will no longer be serving the Plankinton WIC office. Melissa said the State will be doing remote services to cover the clients in Plankinton that cannot travel to Mitchell for services. The State will keep the county posted and will update us when they get someone to come to Plankinton for in-person services.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to approve the following resolution in support of the United States of America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Roll Call Vote: Clark, aye; Studeny, aye; Hanten, aye; Bosworth, aye; Dethlefsen, aye. Motion carried.

## **Aurora County Resolution in Support of the United States of America's Semi-quincentennial Anniversary**

WHEREAS, in the year 2026, the United States of America will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a historic event which marked the birth of our country as a free nation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Semi-quincentennial Commission (America250) was established by Congress in 2016 to plan and orchestrate the celebration of this historic anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Kristi Noem, former Governor of South Dakota, created the America's 250<sup>th</sup> South Dakota Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission") to plan, encourage, develop, coordinate, and promote observances and activities to be held in South Dakota in commemoration of this anniversary; and

WHEREAS, America's 250<sup>th</sup> South Dakota Commission has adopted a mission to engage, educate, and unite South Dakotans to deepen their understanding of American history, South Dakota history, and the democratic process through education, and increase engagement in our communities and civic affairs by coordinating a statewide celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United States of America;

WHEREAS, Aurora County shares the mission of the Commission and also wishes to encourage the citizens of Aurora County to participate in the celebration of this historic event.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Aurora County hereby endorses the America's 250<sup>th</sup> South Dakota Commission and its mission in all respects; and

IT IS ALSO RESOLVED that Aurora County encourages citizens to plan local events to commemorate this historic event, and if citizens need assistance with the planning process, they are encouraged to reach out to the Commission for assistance; and

IT IS ALSO RESOLVED that Aurora County encourages citizens to participate in events designed to commemorate this historic anniversary, whether those events are local or statewide, and citizens may find more information about specific events by reaching out to the Commission and the South Dakota State Historical Society; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the America's 250<sup>th</sup> South Dakota Commission.

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

Aurora County Commission

s/s Clyde Dethefsen, Chairman

ATTEST: Susan Urban  
Aurora County Auditor

Chairman Dethlefsen told the Board that he was informed that ROCS Director of Dining Services, Kaylene Goehring, will be meeting with the Stickney senior citizens at the Stickney Senior Center on March 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss dining services. Dethlefsen said he will be going and asked if anyone else would be available to attend. Commissioner Clark said he would go as well.

Secretary Nancy Bekcman was present for the highway report.

Auditor Urban stated she had been given a letter of resignation from the highway department on March 13<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Clark to accept the resignation from highway employee Randy Stoddard effective immediately. Motion carried all voting aye,

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Bosworth to accept the contractor's application for payment from Nolz Dragline & Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$182,060.06 for the Jackrabbit Bridge (Structure # 02-097-056) for Project BRF 6119(00)25-2, PCN 0A6Y. project. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to transfer \$213,105.06 from the BIG reserve into the highway cash to cover expenses for the Jackrabbit Bridge project. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Studeny to approve abatement #1061 in the amount of \$661.44 due to an incorrect value. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to approve abatement #1062 in the amount of \$275.12 due to an incorrect value. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Bosworth to authorize the Auditor, Treasurer, and Register of Deeds to attend the SDAAO spring workshop in Pierre on May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> with an overnight stay on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Commission and Director of Equalization Sam Simkins spoke to Steve Garry via phone regarding the value on his property for 2024 and 2025. He said he has no problem with the 2026 valuation but felt the previous values increased dramatically. Garry said he knows that he neglected to make the appropriate appeal during the appropriate year but just wanted to know why a property value would increase 84% in one year. He said he added a garage and made other improvements to his property so he knew there would be an increase, but not that much. It was noted that small acreages went up county-wide straight across the board and statewide as well due to the update in the

Vanguard program that is used for valuations. Simkins stated it was not just one property or a few, it was everyone that owns a small acreage. Chairman Dethlefsen said this is going back in history and the time has passed to protest the values from 2024 and 2025. Mr. Garry noted again that he missed the deadline to appeal for those years but struggles with the dramatic change in that single year. The Commission told Garry that if the county considered lowering those values from past years, we would be setting a precedence and everyone would be asking for their values to be lowered. Sam told the Commission that 2020 was the last time the small acreages were re-assessed. She told Garry that if he wanted her to take another look at the property she would be happy to. Mr. Garry said that was not necessary but he appreciates and understands where the county is coming from. I just want to go on record about my concerns and how much it went up, said Garry. Commissioner Studeny said it sounds like it is a perfect storm and it's all about timing. There were many things that happened at the same time that caused the increase, said Studeny. The instances that took place do not happen every year and it may never happen again, said Studeny, it's just not typical for this to happen. Too much time has passed, stated Studeny, if an appeal was done at the correct time there may have been a chance that it could have been lowered. Mr. Garry said he fully understands the county's position and appreciates the opportunity to speak with the Commission and to bring this to their attention. Chairman Dethlefsen said to keep an eye on the values when the assessment notices come out each year and then if something doesn't look right you can appeal it at the appropriate time.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to allow Director of Equalization Sam Simkins and Deputy Casey Schmidt to attend the Cup O Joe monthly meeting in Pierre on May 6<sup>th</sup> with no overnight stay. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny seconded by Clark to approve a Plat of Tract 1 of Haines Wetland Easement as located in the SW ¼ NW ¼ and Government Lots 3 & 4 of Section 2, Township 104, N Range 66, West of the 5<sup>th</sup> PM, Aurora County, South Dakota. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Zoning Board and Weed Board per diem rates were discussed. It was noted by Auditor Urban that they should be set at the beginning of each year. There was discussion on raising the per diem from \$25 to \$50 per meeting. A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Bosworth to set the Zoning & Weed Board per diem rates to \$50 per meeting plus mileage, this includes special meetings as well. Commission members that are on these Boards

are allowed to submit a voucher for mileage but will not get paid the per diem. The rates will be retroactive to January 1, 2026 when the fees should have been set. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to purchase a grill guard from Overweg Automotive for his EM pickup for \$1,564.75 which includes installation. Motion carried all voting aye.

Courthouse Maintenance Kehn discussion was held on putting extra seed and fertilizer on the lawn around the courthouse.

Skyler Kehn presented the Commission with a quote for an aluminum truck box for the emergency management pickup from Runnings for \$1,109.99. The Commission directed him to look into other options for something that costs less.

A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Studeny to purchase a 1,610-gallon tank and hoop set for the weed trailer from C&R Supply for \$3,480.00. Motion carried all voting aye.

Skyler Kehn requested to allow the Plankinton Fire Department to do an elevator training in the courthouse. He noted that he will be instructing the training and said it would be a good idea to have the Department trained on how to access it and how to get someone out if they are trapped inside and hoist them out. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to allow the Plankinton Fire Department to do the training in the Courthouse. Motion carried all voting aye.

Emergency Manager Kehn updated the Commission on the Homeland Security Grant that he was planning to submit for the Stickney and Plankinton Fire Departments. Kehn told the Board that Stickney will not be getting a radio as they found one and Plankinton will be withdrawing their request because the enclosed trailers are no longer available through the Homeland Security Grant Program.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement for weed spraying services with Austin Shroyer. Motion carried all voting aye.

Deputy Auditor April Johnson asked the Commission to consider changing to a different system for the employees to use to punch in and out of work rather than using the time clocks we currently have. She said the time clock cards are smudgy and getting harder to read. Johnson also stated she has to reset the clocks every so often

because for some reason they do not keep time. April said she has checked into a system called Connectteams which allows employees to clock in and out by using an app on their phone. Perimeters would be set around each area where a county employee would clock in/out. Johnson told the Commission this would eliminate timecards and the data would be automatically sent to the program and it would not have to be done manually like it is now. April said she had sent out an email to the employees to get their feedback on it. Johnson reported that the employees had some questions about it. But once she set up a Zoom meeting to get more information, the questions were answered. April noted this program will save a lot of time for her because she will not have to wait for timecards to be turned in and she will no longer have to re-key the hours into a spreadsheet. She told the Commission the cost for using the system is \$238/month or if paid annually the cost is \$2,030 which is a savings of \$826. April asked if she could try Connectteam for a couple of months to see how it goes and if all went well the county can decide if we want to continue with it. It was noted that there is no contract and the county can discontinue the services at any time. A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Studeny to try the Connectteam program for a couple of months to see how it goes. 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.

**CLAIMS:**

COMMISSIONERS

GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	48.67
S D P A A	2026 LIABILITY COVERAGE	69651.44
STANDARD PUBLISHING	JANURY & FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	1757.69
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	JANAURY & FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	1837.69
		-----
		73295.49 *

ELECTIONS

STANDARD PUBLISHING	JANURY & FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	90.66
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	JANAURY & FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	90.66
		-----
		181.32 *

JUDICIAL SYSTEM

DAVA WERMERS	CAA	682.00
AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE HEALTH	B/A (1)	141.00
AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE HEALTH	B/A (1)	137.00
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT OF HEALTH	B/A (2)	100.00
STEVE MEYER	CAA	278.30
		-----
		1338.30 *

AUDITOR		
APRIL JOHNSON	TIMECLOCK SYSTEM	238.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	62.99
P M B 0112	JANUARY ACCESS FEES	66.25
QUILL CORPORATION	TABS, ADDING MACHINE ROLLS, CO	154.65
PERSONALIZED STAMPED ENVELOPE	2 BOXES OF STAMPED ENVELOPES	917.85
		-----
		1439.74 *
TREASURER		
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	FILE CABINET	98.99
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	METER MAINTENCE FEES	84.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	75.40
		-----
		258.39 *
COURTHOUSE		
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	AIR FRESHNER DISPENSER & SPRAY	48.64
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PAPER DISPENSER (COURTHOUSE)	36.99
GREAT PLAINS LUMBER & SUPPLY	CUT KEY FOR TREAS & ROD	6.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	43.74
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL	90.00
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	KEY, BOARDS, OIL	56.35
VESTIS	SERVICES - MATS	11.18
		-----
		292.90 *
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	BLUE BINDER ASSESSOR BOOK	48.75
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	90.96
S D A A O	S D A A O CONFERENCE	600.00
S D A A O	SDAAO SCHOOL - USPAP	375.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING	JANURY & FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	95.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	JANAURY & FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	95.00
WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	OFFICE PRINTER - SAM	624.50
		-----
		1929.21 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, FAXES & INTERNET	72.06
		-----
		72.06 *
VA OFFICE		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	67.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING	JANURY & FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	90.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	JANAURY & FEBRUARY PUBLISHING	90.00
		-----
		247.00 *
SHERIFF		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	100.06
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	52.69

S D P A A	2026 LIABILITY COVERAGE	8034.92
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	881.71
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	1031.09
STREICHERS INC	NESS SHERIFF VEST & PLATES	1689.99
VERIZON	FEBRUARY FLEET	63.80
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	318.96
		-----
		12173.22 *
JAIL		
DAVISON COUNTY SHERIFF	FEBRUARY JAIL HOUSING	7455.00
PENNINGTON COUNTY JAIL	TRANSPORT (1)	192.50
		-----
		7647.50 *
FIRE PROTECTION		
PLANKINTON FIRE DEPARTMENT	2026 SUPPORT	20500.00
		-----
		20500.00 *
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED		
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE	MONTHLY SUPPORT	120.00
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		120.00 *
AG BUILDING		
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	HAND SOAP, BATHROOM DISPENSERS	67.42
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PAPER TOWELS (AG BLD KITCHEN)	33.81
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	105.19
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL	70.00
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	PADLOCK, SUPPLIES FOR CEILING	48.90
		-----
		325.32 *
SENIOR CITIZENS		
PLANKINTON SENIOR CITIZENS	2026 SUPPORT	850.00
STICKNEY SENIOR CITIZENS	2026 SUPPORT	850.00
WHITE LAKE SENIOR CITIZENS	2026 SUPPORT	850.00
		-----
		2550.00 *
COUNTY EXTENSION		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	61.78
		-----
		61.78 *
WEED		
AVERA OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE SF	DRUG & ALCOHOL - SCREENING FEE	9.15
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	LANDFILL ELECTRICITY	70.00
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	4.94
S D P A A	2026 LIABILITY COVERAGE	1350.86
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	122.57
SKYLER KEHN	CELL PHONE STIPEND	20.00
VERIZON	FEBRUARY FLEET	25.90

		-----	1603.42 *
PLANNING & ZONING			
STANDARD PUBLISHING	JANURY & FEBRUARY PUBLISHING		69.67
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	JANAURY & FEBRUARY PUBLISHING		69.67
WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	OFFICE PRINTER - SAM		624.50
		-----	763.84 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION			
AVERA OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE SF	DRUG & ALCOHOL - SCREENING FEE		100.65
BROOKS OIL COMPANY	FUEL		134.00
BROOKS OIL COMPANY	FUEL		10076.16
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC	JACK RABBIT #18 BRIDGE RPLMT		32127.50
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	EXTENDED WARRANTY 2019 GRADER		10820.00
DOUG VISSIA	CELL PHONE STIPHEND		50.00
DOUG VISSIA	PICKUP GAS		15.05
FASTENAL COMPANY	WASHER & NUTS		44.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET		115.85
GRAHAM TIRE - SIOUX FALLS	TRAILER TIRES & VALVE STEMS		1922.90
MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM	WATER BILL - STORLA		34.00
NOLZ DRAGLINE & CONSTRUCTION	JACK RABBIT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT		182060.06
OVERWEG AUTO	PICKUP TIRES & BATTERY		1733.96
S D P A A	2026 LIABILITY COVERAGE		12439.50
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES		505.50
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES		507.42
STANDARD PUBLISHING	JANURY & FEBRUARY PUBLISHING		363.20
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	JANAURY & FEBRUARY PUBLISHING		363.20
VERIZON	FEBRUARY FLEET		65.88
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE		20.02
		-----	253498.85 *
E 911 SERVICE			
MITCHELL REGIONAL 911	MARCH SURCHARGE		3993.99
		-----	3993.99 *
EM&D			
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET		59.90
S D P A A	2026 LIABILITY COVERAGE		1035.58
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES		55.80
SKYLER KEHN	CELL PHONE STIPEND		30.00
VERIZON	FEBRUARY FLEET		15.95
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE USAGE		60.03
		-----	1257.26 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS			
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	MORTGAGE BOOK		794.19
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS	MONTHLY EQUIPMENT RENTAL		395.00
		-----	1189.19 *

Total Checks: 384,738.78 \*

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 \_\_\_\_\_.