

# AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

**April 16, 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.

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

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and the equalization meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried all voting aye.

The burn ban was discussed and it was noted that there is still a fire threat. It was the consensus of the Commission to leave the burn ban on.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize April Johnson, Sue Faulhaber, and Nancy Beckman to attend the SDACO Deputy Workshop in Pierre on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried all voting aye.

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

A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Studeny to accept the contractor's application for payment from Nolz Dragline & Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$247,492.89 for the Jackrabbit Bridge (Structure # 02-097056) for Project BRF 6119(00)25-2, PCN 0A6Y. project. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Hanten to transfer \$37,142.83 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 Studeny, seconded by Clark to authorize Director of Assessments Sam Simkins to attend a training on assessment freezes in Pierre on May 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried all voting aye.

Emergency Manager Skyler Kehn updated the Board on the hydrology mitigation project for Campbell Street and the culvert under the railroad tracks to the east. Since the project does not qualify for funding, Kehn recommended doing it ourselves in conjunction with the City of Plankinton and the Railroad. The study has been done so we know

what work needs to be done to fix the flooding issues. Skyler said he would like to set up a meeting sometime in May with representatives from the County, City, and Railroad to discuss the future of the project.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to attend an EM101 training course in Pierre on April 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to attend a hazmat training in Yankton on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried all voting aye.

Weed Supervisor Kehn informed the Board that he has found a weed chemical that is specifically made for the horse arena. He noted the chemical is a granular called Wipe-Out and has a 3-year residual. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to authorize Kehn to purchase the chemical for the horse arena. Motion carried all voting aye. Discussion was also held on maintenance that needs to be done on the fence.

Emergency Manager Kehn requested to live outside the county for approximately 2-3 weeks so he and his wife can take care of a family member that needs care 24/7. He told the Commission it would only be in Mt Vernon, so he would drive back and forth to work and if there was an emergency or storm he would stay in Plankinton. He also noted that he would like to eventually move to Mt Vernon and asked if that was permissible. Since there is nothing stated in the handbook regarding this, the Commission gave permission as long as it does not interfere with his job performance.

Russ Ehlers informed the Commission that he has investors interested in purchasing some land (SE ¼ 15-103-66) near the White Lake CHS and they need an approach for access. Ehlers has an application for a highway access permit from the State of SD. He noted that it is a state road rather than a county road, but the application wants approval from the City of White Lake as well as the County before the State of SD can approve it. It was the consensus of the Commission to authorize the Chairman to sign the application approving the approach to be put in.

Karter Weber & Caden Faulhaber from the Plankinton FCCLA Chapter gave an informative presentation on contaminated water and how to control the run-off so it does not affect the quality of water.

Deputy Auditor April Johnson requested permission to apply for a county credit card. She noted the new time clock system (Connecteams) will not take checks and it would be nice to be able to pay for the invoices with a credit card. April said a county credit card would also be nice for those employees who have to use their own cards to reserve

a hotel room when going to meetings that require an overnight stay. The card would be kept in the Auditor's office at all times, said April. She said it would be similar to what the Sheriff's department has and receipts will be needed from the employees to verify the expenses incurred. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to authorize the Auditor's office to apply for a credit card through the local bank for county employees. Motion carried all voting aye.

Deputy Auditor April Johnson reported to the Commission that she has received good responses from county employees in regard to the Connecteams time clock system. It was the consensus of the Commission to continue with the Connecteams time clock system as well as the manual punch card for one more month to make sure all issues have been resolved before switching entirely over to Connecteams.

The next employee meeting with the Commission is set for Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 AM.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to reconvene as the county board of equalization. Motion carried all voting aye.

Steve & Donna Bucher were present via phone for the continuance on their appeal. Director of Equalization Simkins went over the findings after doing an in-person inspection of their home. Simkins said she found some errors in the data and lowered the value from \$446,931 down to \$424,782. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Bosworth to go with the Director of Equalization's recommendation and lower the valuation to \$424,782. Motion carried all voting aye.

Director of Equalization Simkins informed the Board that a building on Ron Beukelman's property was burned down before November 2025 and the value should be reduced due to the structure no longer being there. A motion was made by Clark seconded by Bosworth to decrease the total value on Ron Beukelman's property from \$188,858 to \$167,299. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Chairman declared the Commission out of the equalization board and reconvened into regular session.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Bosworth to authorize the Chairman to sign the 2026 Contract Law Agreement with the City of Plankinton. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, second by Hanten to renew the 2026 retail (on-off) malt beverage & SD Farm wine liquor license for the Coffee Cup. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to approve abatement #1060 in the amount of \$4,042.80 for the following property Lot1 & Lot 2 Blk 10, First Addition to the Town of Stickney. Motion carried all voting aye.

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

REPORTS: Wheel Tax -Townships \$945.54, Cities 1,393.24

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS

GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	48.78
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		48.78 *

ELECTIONS

MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL ENVELOPES & PRECINCT BOXES	254.50
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	254.50 *

JUDICIAL SYSTEM

AVERA PATIENT FINANCIAL SERVIC RAPE KIT	3406.85
THERESA MAULE ROSSOW CAA	988.80
THERESA MAULE ROSSOW CAA	240.00
THERESA MAULE ROSSOW CAA	899.21
AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE HEALTH B/A (1)	141.00
SIOUX FALLS MENTAL HEALTH SERV EVALUATION	2900.00
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	8575.86 *

AUDITOR

APRIL JOHNSON	CONNECTTEAM MONTHLY PAYMENT	236.82
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	67.01
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		303.83 *

TREASURER

CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	METER MAINTANCE FEES	79.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	76.95
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		155.95 *

COURTHOUSE

GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	43.66
MAXIMUM PROMOTIONS	250TH FLAGS	144.61
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL	90.00
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY & WATER	1958.96
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY & WATER	293.02
VESTIS	SERVICES - MATS	11.18
		-----
		2541.43 *

DIR. OF EQUALIZATION			
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	112.14	
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		112.14	*
REGISTER OF DEEDS			
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	73.47	
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		73.47	*
VA OFFICE			
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	63.39	
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		63.39	*
SHERIFF			
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	KIT & FIRE EXTINGUISHER	112.51	
DAVISON COUNTY AUDITOR	ZURCHER ACCESS FEE 4-1 TO 5-31	500.00	
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	111.86	
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	53.13	
MUELLER LUMBER COMPANY	PASS THROUGH WINDOW & GLASS	6779.04	
TWO WAY SOLUTIONS INC	PROGRAM OF EXTENDER FOR RADIOS	93.99	
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE, TABLET & HOTSPOT	318.96	
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		7969.49	*
JAIL			
DAVISON COUNTY AUDITOR	MARCH JAIL HOUSING	7337.00	
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		7337.00	*
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED			
DAKOTA COUNSELING INSTITUTE	2ND QTR 2026 - APR, MAY, JUNE	762.50	
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		762.50	*
AG BUILDING			
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	105.11	
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL	70.00	
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY & WATER	901.47	
		-----	
		1076.58	*
COUNTY EXTENSION			
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	66.12	
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		66.12	*
WEED			
AVERA OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE SF	RANDOM DRUG TESTING - KEHN	37.70	
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	ELECTRICITY & MAINT FEES	70.00	
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	4.94	
HOMETOWN FAMILY HEALTH	DRUG TESTING - KEHN	57.00	

SKYLER KEHN	CELL PHONE STIPEND	20.00
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		189.64 *

R&B CONSTRUCTION		
AVERA OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE SF	RANDOM DRUG TESTING - MOORE	37.70
BROOKS OIL COMPANY	FUEL	4462.64
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC	JACK RABBIT BRIDGE ENGINEERING	21745.00
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	GRADER REPAIRS	-987.15
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	GREASE, FILTERS, VISION LINK	1617.10
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	ELECTRIC - AURORA CTR & STORLA	194.29
DOUG VISSIA	CELL PHONE STIPHEND	50.00
FLEETPRIDE	ROAD GROOM REPAIRS	59.88
FLEETPRIDE	AIR TANK PARTS	25.98
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	116.82
GRAHAM TIRE - SIOUX FALLS	TRAILER TIRES	519.00
HOMETOWN FAMILY HEALTH	DRUG TESTING - MOORE	57.00
KIMBALL MIDWEST	SPRAY PAINT	160.08
MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM	WATER BILL - STORLA	34.00
NAPA CENTRAL	TRUCK LIGHT BULB	16.26
NAPA CENTRAL	FILTERS, OIL	486.33
NOLZ DRAGLINE & CONSTRUCTION	JACK RABBIT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	247492.89
OVERWEG AUTO	GRADER REPAIRS	27.10
PHEASANTLAND INDUSTRIES	SAFETY CLOTHING - STEVEN & RIC	197.75
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY & WATER	483.47
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	GRADER REPAIR	24.97
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	SHOP DOOR SUPPLIES	11.93
RON'S MARKET INC	GARBAGE BAGS	9.99
RUNNINGS	VOLTAGE METER & PLIERS	125.94
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	BRIDGE INSPECTION	436.29
SIGN SOLUTIONS USA LLC	ANCHOR BASE SPADES FOR SIGNS	328.66
THE LODGE AT DEADWOOD	SHORT COURSE LODGING	315.00
TRANSOURCE	LOADER LEASE	3200.00
VERIZON BUSINESS	TABLET USAGE	20.02
VESTIS	SERVICES - RAGE & MATS	51.03
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		281319.97 *

E 911 SERVICE		
GOLDEN WEST	E-911 SERVICES 4-1 TO 4-30-26	200.00
SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS	E-911 SERVICES 4-1 TO 4-30-26	30.00
		-----
		230.00 *

EM&D		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	57.31
SKYLER KEHN	CELL PHONE STIPEND	30.00
VERIZON BUSINESS	HOTSPOT & TABLET USAGE	60.03
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		147.34 *

REGISTER OF DEEDS		
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS	MONTHLY EQUIPMENT RENTAL	395.00
P M B 0112	MICROFILM STORAGE	61.64

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		456.64 *
DRUG & ALCOHOL		
DAKOTA COUNSELING INSTITUTE	2ND QTR 2026 - APR, MAY, JUNE	300.00
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		300.00 *

Total Checks: 311,984.63 \*

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 \_\_\_\_\_.