

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

August 3, 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 burn ban. 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 Hanten, seconded by Clark to approve the minutes of the regular meeting that was held on July 16, 2026. Motion carried all voting aye.

Discussion was held on whether to enact a burn ban due to the hot and dry conditions. After much consideration and discussion, a motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize the Chairman to sign the resolution to enact a burn ban effective Monday, August 10, 2026. Roll call vote: Dethlefsen, aye; Bosworth, aye; Hanten, aye; Studeny, aye; Clark, 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 on Monday, August 10, 2026 and shall continue in full force and effect until rescinded by the Board of County Commissioners of Aurora County.

Dated this 3rd day of August, 2026.

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

ATTEST: Susan Urban, Auditor

Discussion was held on an accepting an addendum to our existing agreement with TK Elevator Corporation.

No action was taken at this time.

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

The Commission reviewed the proposed highway budget for 2027 with superintendent Vissia and secretary Beckman. The preliminary figures show that there is not enough revenue to cover all the expenditures that are requested for 2027. Discussion was held extending the warranty for the grader that is housed in White Lake rather than purchasing a new one in 2027. Other cuts considered were gravel crushing and the Ries Bridge replacement. Auditor Urban, superintendent Vissia and secretary Beckman will go over the highway budget again with the proposed cuts and see where things are at.

Fuel quotes were received as follows:

	MONTHLY QUOTE (8-3-26 to 9-3-26)			4 MONTH QUOTE (8-6-26 to 12-3-26)		
	#1 Diesel	#2 Diesel	Propane	#1 Diesel	#2 Diesel	Propane
Total Oil:	-----	\$4.29	-----	-----	\$4.15	-----

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth, to approve the 4-month quote from Total Oil @ \$4.15/gal for #2 Diesel. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Bosworth to approve a work order for the 2011 John Deere Payloader. Motion carried all voting aye. Superintendent Vissia stated his main concern is getting the valve adjustment done through the work order and that some of the work can be done by the highway department.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to have a hydrology study done by Brosz Engineering for the Raeke Bridge (02-230-198) for approximately \$10,000. The study will determine the size of pipe that will be needed. Motion carried all voting aye.

At the regular commission meeting on February 19, 2026 the Commission approved RAIF funds for Firesteel Township. The estimated costs for the three projects changed from what was originally approved. A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Clark to accept the following changes for the Firesteel Township RAIF funds. Motion carried all voting aye.

Road #22: \$20,211.00 was the estimated cost; the actual cost was \$21,578.95 bringing the 80% of RAIF funds to \$17,263.16 and the Township cost share to \$4,315.79.

Road #44: \$6,268.00 was the estimated cost; the actual cost was \$8,080.16 bringing the 80% of RAIF funds to \$6,464.13 and the Township cost share to \$1616.03.

Road #56: \$3,758.00 was the estimated cost; the actual cost was \$3,184.96 bringing the 80% of RAIF funds to \$2,547.97 and the Township cost share to \$636.99.

Commissioner Studeny informed the Board that he had someone approach him that was interested in the weed superintendent position and asked what duties it would entail and what the responsibilities would be. Chairman Dethlefsen stated the Supervisor would handle weed complaints, order chemical, apply for grants, setup and attend

weed board meetings, as well as spot spraying. It was noted that someone would need to haul water for the contracted sprayer, Austin Shroyer, when he does his fall spraying. Commissioner Studeny stated that the individual, if hired, inquired about being able to do the weed duties before or after hours as he has a full-time job. The Commission felt as long as the duties were being done, it should not be a problem.

The votes from the July 28, 2026 Runoff Election were canvassed. A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Clark to approve the canvass and results of the July 28, 2026 Runoff Election. Motion carried all voting aye.

RUNOFF ELECTION JULY 28, 2026 RESULTS

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 5	Precinct 7	TOTAL
GOVERNOR						
Toby Doeden	20	14	30	16	24	104
Larry Rhoden	98	54	88	24	45	309

Commissioner Studeny excused himself and left for the remainder of the meeting.

Jan Bruinsma representing the Stickney senior citizens and Lois McCord representing the White Lake senior citizens requested support from the county for 2027. A representative for the Plankinton senior citizens was unable to attend the meeting and submitted a letter requesting support for 2027 as well. Currently the County provides support in the amount of \$850.00 annually to the local senior citizen centers. The White Lake and Stickney centers are very active in serving meals to senior citizens in their respective communities. It was noted that it can be difficult to pay the utilities, insurance on the building and other expenses that they incur, but they are grateful for the support the county gives them each year. After further discussion, a motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to increase the county support for 2027 from \$850.00 to \$1,500.00 for the White Lake and Stickney centers and continue giving the Plankinton Center \$850.00 until they get the meals going again in Plankinton. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to approve a Plat of Tract 1 and Tract 2 of GRT Addition in the East ½ of NE ¼ of Section 35, Township 105 N, Range 63 West of the 5th P.M., Aurora County, South Dakota. Motion carried all voting aye.

Zoning Director Sam Simkins requested permission to replace old signs and add a few more new zoning signs that state Aurora County is zoned. She is requesting 12 new signs for \$17.25 each. A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Clark to authorize the zoning director to replace and add new signs around the county. Motion carried all voting aye.

Doug Greenway and Dan Becker representing Mitchell Area Crime Stoppers met with the Commission to ask for support from Aurora County in 2027. Crime Stoppers currently serves four counties and is funded by the United Way. Greenway stated that United Way is asking them to find other sources of funding. Greenway noted that Crime Stoppers is formally asking each of the four counties to finance one tip payment annually. The tip payments range from a minimum of \$250.00 up to \$1,000 per tip that leads to an arrest. Becker told the Commission that anyone can report anonymously by using a mobile app or doing so online. No phone number or name can be traced back to the individual providing the tip. Every tip is given a code/number and the tip is paid in person. Mr. Greenway requested \$250.00 from Aurora County for 2027. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to appropriate \$250.00 for the Mitchell Area Crime Stoppers in the 2027 budget. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to authorize department heads to attend the Southeast Central District meeting in Mitchell on August 12th if they wish to do so. Motion carried all voting aye.

A request was made by an individual to put up dog stations. The stations would have a supply of bags available to pick up dog waste within the City of Plankinton. It would not be a disposal station, just a supply station. The Commission denied the request and felt it was up to the cities to provide the stations.

4-H Program Assistant Brandi Shroyer compiled information and quotes for a door keypad and a security camera at the ag building. The Commission reviewed a quote submitted by Midwest Alarm. The total amount was \$6,731.26 for both items (keypad \$4,495.94 and security camera \$2,235.32). The Commission felt the keypad was too high and did not feel there was a need for a security camera at this time. The decision was tabled until Brandi gets back from maternity leave.

Sheriff Roman Briggs went over his 2027 budget request with the Board.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to authorize the Chairman to sign the Statement of Extension to the Joint Cooperative Agreement with District III verifying that Aurora County will remain a member of District III and obligate financial support of \$12,278.00 for 2027. Motion carried all voting aye.

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

Reports: July Payroll: Social Security 6,025.18; Medicare 1,409.11; Wellmark 28,362.32, Retirement 6,204.51; Kansas City Life 100.73; Commissioners 4,591.80; Auditor 8,203.47; Treasurer 6,867.93; States Attorney 5,641.29; Courthouse 523.26; Director of Equalization 5,865.22; Register of Deeds 4,767.10; Veteran's Service Officer 402.26; Sheriff 20,583.20; Welfare 835.05; Extension 3,105.48; Weed 0.00 Zoning 857.24; Hwy 40,165.36; EM&D 544.81; Payroll Direct Deposit Cost 8.40. Auditor's Account with Treasurer: Cash on Hand 1,945.15; MMDA 1,614,656.38; CD's 942,140.00. Register of Deeds Fees: Marriage Lic/Certs 95.00; Birth/Death Certs 45.00; Preservation Fund 174.00; Driver's License 540.00; Copies 100.00; Other 40.00; Recording Fees 1,450.00; Transfer Fees 2,274.50.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	JULY PUBLISHING	498.96

		498.96 *
ELECTIONS		
#01 KIM GEPPERT	RUNOFF ELECTION	175.00
#01 KRISTIE CLARK	RUNOFF ELECTION	175.00
#01 ROXANN GERLACH	RUNOFF ELECTION	175.00
#01 ROXANN GERLACH	MILEAGE	15.40
#02 DAWN DONKER	RUNOFF ELECTION	175.00
#02 DAWN DONKER	MILEAGE	16.80
#02 JANICE CRAGO	RUNOFF ELECTION	175.00
#02 RUTH WOLBRINK	RUNOFF ELECTION	175.00
#03 CHANTEL KIRSCH	RUNOFF ELECTION	175.00
#03 LINDA DODDS	RUNOFF ELECTION	175.00
#03 NANCY BOGENHAGEN	RUNOFF ELECTION	175.00
#03 NANCY BOGENHAGEN	MILEAGE	15.40
#05 BECKY KOCH	RUNOFF ELECTION	175.00
#05 CINDY HOFFMAN	RUNOFF ELECTION	175.00
#05 KAMA BRUNS	RUN OFF ELECTION	175.00
#05 KAMA BRUNS	MILEAGE	1.40

#07 BONNIE JOHNSON	RUNOFF ELECTION	175.00	
#07 BONNIE JOHNSON	MILEAGE	1.40	
#07 CATHY ALBRECHT	RUNOFF ELECTION	175.00	
#07 KATHY GUINDON	RUNOFF ELECTION	175.00	
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	THERMAL PAPER FOR TABULATORS	48.99	
BETH SAMPSON	RESOLUTION BOARD - RUNOFF	40.00	
COLLEEN MILLER FOLAND	TABULATOR - RUNOFF ELECTION	40.00	
JOAN SWANSON	RESOLUTION BOARD - RUNOFF	40.00	
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	JULY PUBLISHING	651.64	

		3496.03	*
AUDITOR			
P M B 0112	JUNE ACCESS & NETWORK FEES	70.25	

		70.25	*
COURTHOUSE			
ANDREA PRYOR	JANITORIAL TRAINING	50.00	
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL	90.00	

		140.00	*
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION			
PERSONALIZED STAMPED ENVELOPE	ENVELOPES FOR ASSESSMENT NOTIC	2510.55	

		2510.55	*
VA OFFICE			
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	JULY PUBLISHING	58.50	

		58.50	*
SHERIFF			
V I S A	HARD DRIVE	126.38	
V I S A	FUEL FOR VEHICLE	86.53	

		212.91	*
CORONER			
ROMAN BRIGGS	6 CORONER CALLS	600.00	

		600.00	*
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED			
DEAN SCHAEFER COURT REPORTING	MI TRANSCRIPT	36.00	

		36.00	*
AG BUILDING			
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL	70.00	

		70.00 *
WEED		
RUNNINGS	CREEPER WHEELS	31.98

		31.98 *
PLANNING & ZONING		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	JULY PUBLISHING	66.00

		66.00 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
BROOKS OIL COMPANY	FUEL	16092.78
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	FILTERS & CAT KEYS	2451.61
FASTENAL COMPANY	BOLTS, NUTS & WASHERS	289.33
FLEETPRIDE	TRAILER REPAIRS	269.03
GRAHAM TIRE - MITCHELL	TRAILER TIRES	301.68
GREG KROUPA	25,000 T GRAVEL	125000.00
MIKE CARPENTIER	RICH'S CDL TESTING	185.00
NAPA CENTRAL	PICKUP REPAIRS	277.72
NAPA CENTRAL	FILTERS, CLEANER & TIRE PATCHE	706.62
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	LATH & BATTERIES	62.49
PUTHOFF SALES & SERVICE	MOWER SKID PLATES	340.97
RON'S MARKET INC	MOUSE TRAPS	9.78
RUNNINGS	FUEL TANK, PUMP, WRENCHES	596.21
STICKNEY WATER	WATER BILL - STICKNEY	98.75
TRANSOURCE	FILTERS	168.62
TRANSOURCE	LOADER LEASE	3200.00

		150050.59 *
EM&D		
C/O ROCHELLE FINK	SHIRT, JACKET, HAT & CAP STITC	127.00
LAWRON BOHR	CELL PHONE STIPEND	50.00
SD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOC	S D E M A CONFERENCE REGISTRAT	125.00
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	JULY PUBLISHING	109.20

		411.20 *
WHEEL TAX		
FIRESTEEL TOWNSHIP	RAIF FUNDING	4357.81

		4357.81 *

Total Checks: 162,610.78 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman

Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

(Published once at the total approximate cost of _____)