

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

August 20, 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 Bosworth, seconded by Hanten to approve the minutes of the August 3rd meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to set the first meeting in September at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, September 1st as per SDCL 7-21-8 for the provisional budget hearing. Motion carried all voting aye.

Scott Moeller representing the White Lake Fire Department presented the Commission with financial reports from 2025 and 2026 for the fire department. It was noted that without financial support from the County, they would not be able to make ends meet. It was noted by the Chairman that the County are happy to support the fire departments as long as they meet with the commission every year during budget time to request the support and provide financial review of their department. Chairman Dethlefsen thanked Scott for meeting with the County.

Emergency Manager Lawron Bohr updated the Commission on what he has been working on. He also spoke to the Commission about searching for grant money to purchase a drone. Bohr stated that in just the short time he has been Emergency Manager, a thermal imaging drone could have been used to locate an individual. Bohr noted that Aurora Plains Academy has donated money toward the purchase of a drone. Certification is needed to fly a drone and Bohr said he and Sheriff Deputy Kyle Ness are willing to do the certification. The drone can be used for many things, said Bohr, so if I can find a grant or a funding source to purchase one I think it would be a good investment for the county.

Bohr told the Commission that the 3 quarter ton pickup that was purchased for the EM is a bit much for what he would need it for. Chairman Dethlefsen told Bohr half of it was paid out of the emergency manager budget and the other half out of the weed budget so it could be used to haul water during the spraying season. The plan is to have Blake Peters haul water with it when the time comes for the contracted spraying this fall. Bohr said the pickup would be great hauling water to fires, but there is chemical on the truck and that would not be a good thing to take near a fire. Bohr told the Commission he has plans to use the trailer as a command trailer rather than for storage. He would like to be able to uplink computers inside the trailer if and when the need should arise in case of an emergency.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to authorize the Chairman to sign the Region 6 Mutual Aid Agreement that includes a total of 12 counties. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize the Auditor to make an operating transfer of \$10,000 from the General Fund into the Emergency Manager Fund. Motion carried all voting aye.

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

The following bids were received for a new maintainer off the Sourcewell Contract:

	Butler Machinery	John Deere
Selling Price:	\$541,490.41	\$409,952.00 (includes a 41% discount)
Warranty:	Included in Price	\$78,480.00
Wing:	Included in Price	\$20,000.00
Plow:	Included in Price	\$14,000.00
Trade Allowance:	(\$ 150,000.00)	(\$ 115,000.00)
Net Cost:	\$391,490.41	\$407,000.00

A motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Clark to approve the bid from Butler Machinery and authorize the highway department to place the order to purchase the motor grader from Butler. Motion carried all voting aye.

Commissioner Hanten suggested the County purchase a loader rather than leasing one. He said there are some months that it is not used very often and the county is still paying the lease on it. We would be better off in the long run to own one rather than lease it, said Hanten.

Sheriff Briggs reported that the City of Mitchell recently had server issues that affected Aurora County's ability to utilize the Zuercher software program in his office since we share it with other entities. There are three other entities that use the program together and we were all down for about 2 weeks until the problem was resolved. Roman said we have shared the program for approximately 11 years and this is the first time this has happened. Mitchell is looking into a cloud based system for the Zuercher program to allow segregation of the system so that if there was a problem in one county, the others would not be affected and would be able to continue to use the software. The cloud would make the system more secure as well. Briggs told the Commission he does not have the exact cost for Aurora County, but he has an old quote for \$2,500 when they discussed doing it last year. He said the fees are based off the current users and Mitchell is looking into adding 3 additional users so that could reduce our cost. Sheriff Briggs does not have all the details but should know more next week. He is concerned about having enough in the budget for 2027 since we recently finished putting our provisional budget for next year together. Auditor Urban noted that since it is not a huge amount and there is a budget line for contingencies to help supplement those budgets that have shortfalls. If the cost happens to be a lot more, there is always the option for a supplemental budget hearing.

Sheriff Briggs reported that the county had applied for Homeland Security grant back in 2024 and they just received word the funds have been awarded. The grant was for patrol car printers, barcode scanners, and labels for evidence. The county would be required to pay a match of \$2,500 for the grant.

Briggs informed the Commission he finally received information back on the trade-in values for the 2021 Tahoe and for Roman's pickup. The estimated trade-in for the pickup is \$12,000 and \$11,000 for the 2021 Tahoe. The 2013 Tahoe's trade-in value was \$500. The Commission will need to determine which vehicles they want to trade and surplus them at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Bosworth to allow Veterans Service Officer Audrey Chapman to attend the annual VSO benefits school on September 15-18th in Sioux Falls. Motion carried all voting aye.

VSO Chapman informed the Commission she will be holding two outreach events before the end of the year. Audrey told the Board she will be having a booth during Safety Days on October 9th and will also be holding a veteran appreciation lunch the week after Veterans Day.

VSO Audrey Chapman reported that she will be taking maternity leave, but it will be an intermittent 6-weeks off.

Director of Equalization Sam Simkins informed the Commission that Deputy Director Casey Schmidt had reached the end of her 6-month probationary period and requested the Board to remove her off the probationary status. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Bosworth to take Casey Schmidt off her probationary status and increase her wage by .50/hour from \$18.70/hr. to \$19.20/hr. effective July 26th which was the end of her 6-month probationary period. Motion carried all voting aye.

The burn ban was discussed and due to the recent rainfall, a motion was made by Bosworth, seconded by Clark to remove the burn ban effective immediately. Motion carried all voting aye.

A hearing for a temporary liquor license for Modern Woodmen Chapter 2747 of White Lake will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, September 17th.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to authorize the Chairman to sign the 2027 Charles Mix County prisoner housing contract for \$100/prisoner day. Motion carried all voting aye.

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

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	64.83
S D A C C	CONVENTION REGISTRATION	250.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING	JUNE PUBLISHING	1026.13
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	JUNE PUBLISHING	1026.13

		2367.09 *

ELECTIONS		
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	THERMAL ROLLS	48.99
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	BALLOT STYLES & PROGRAMMING	657.74
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	RUNOFF BALLOTS	367.47

		1074.20 *

JUDICIAL SYSTEM		
AVERA PATIENT FINANCIAL SERVIC	BA - (1)	150.00
DERIC DENNING	CAA	305.00
MICAYLA BAMBERG	CAA	526.20
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT OF HEALTH	BA (3)	315.00

		1296.20 *
AUDITOR		
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	POST IT NOTES & ENVELOP	51.92
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, FAXES & INTERNET	72.47
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	124.28
V I S A	CONNECT TEAMS - PAYROLL	238.00

		486.67 *
TREASURER		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, FAXES & INTERNET	90.54
QUILL CORPORATION	PINK PAPER & KLEENEX	18.98
QUILL CORPORATION	PINK PAPER	10.00
STAPLES	DESK CALENDAR & TONER	159.62
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	187.92

		467.06 *
COURTHOUSE		
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	CLEANER & TOLIET PAPER	159.83
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	43.88
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL	90.00
PLANKINTON CITY	COURTHOUSE ELECTRICITY	1547.37
PLANKINTON CITY	HISTORICAL SOCIETY ELECTRICITY	227.91
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	GARDEN HOSES (2)	119.98
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	BITS & SCREWS	4.56
TK ELEVATOR CORP	FUEL SUPPLEMENT	100.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	61.00
VESTIS	SERVICES - MATS	22.36

		2376.89 *
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	OFFICE SUPPLIES	112.28
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	66.99
STANDARD PUBLISHING	JUNE PUBLISHING	18.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	JUNE PUBLISHING	18.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	127.28

		342.55 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, FAXES & INTERNET	63.31
STAPLES	STAPLES & PAPER CLIPS	7.36

		70.67 *
VA OFFICE		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	40.44
S D V S O A	VSO REGISTRATION FOR CONF	100.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	63.64

		204.08 *
SHERIFF		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, INTERNET	142.86
HILLMANS REPAIR	OIL CHANGE - NESS	113.37
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	4144.66
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	560.76
V I S A	VERIZON REVEAL - 2 MONTHS	127.60
VERIZON BUSINESS	CELL PHONE, HOTSPOTS, TABLET	318.96

		5408.21 *
JAIL		
DAVISON COUNTY AUDITOR	INMATE HOUSING - JULY	1155.00

		1155.00 *
PUBLIC WELFARE		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	3.00

		3.00 *
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED		
DAKOTA COUNSELING INSTITUTE	3RD QTR 2026 - JUL, AUG & SEPT	762.50
DOUGLAS N PAPENDICK	MI - JUVENILE	122.00

		884.50 *
AG BUILDING		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, INTERNET	105.33
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL	70.00
PLANKINTON CITY	AG BLDG ELECTRICITY	713.94

		889.27 *
COUNTY EXTENSION		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, INTERNET	59.97
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	124.28

		184.25 *
WEED		
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	ELECTRICITY - LANDFILL	70.00
OVERWEG AUTO	SIDE BY SIDE FLAT TIRE	31.80
ROADSIDE C - STORE	FUEL FOR THE SIDE BY SIDE	56.02
RUNNINGS	TANK NEUTRALIZER	31.98
V I S A	VERIZON REVEAL - 2 MONTHS	51.80

		241.60 *
PLANNING & ZONING		
LYLE SIGNS	ZONING SIGNS	292.20
STANDARD PUBLISHING	JUNE PUBLISHING	98.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	JUNE PUBLISHING	98.00

		-----	488.20 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION			
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	ELECTRICITY - AURORA CTR & STO	145.77	
DOUG VISSIA	LASER BATTERY	7.53	
DOUG VISSIA	CELL PHONE STIPEND	50.00	
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	118.01	
LARRY FALK	STEEL TOED BOOTS	116.77	
LYLE SIGNS	SIGNS	1891.59	
MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM	WATER BILL - STORLA SHOP	34.00	
MIDWEST OIL	TRANSMISSION OIL	724.99	
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	ELECTRIC - WL & STK	65.36	
PLANKINTON CITY	HIGHWAY ELECTRICITY	340.80	
S D P A A	COVERAGE ON TRACK SKID LOADER	161.08	
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	2216.87	
STEVE'S WELDING REPAIR	REFILL CYLINDERS	170.00	
TOTAL OIL	FUEL	3606.77	
TRANSOURCE	TRUCK REPAIRS	619.02	
TRANSOURCE	LOADER LEASE	3200.00	
TRUENORTH STEEL INC	CULVERTS	76110.08	
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	127.28	
V I S A	VERIZON REVEAL - 2 MONTHS	131.76	
VERIZON BUSINESS	TABLET	20.02	
WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	PRINTER CARTIDGES	260.00	
		-----	90117.70 *
E 911 SERVICE			
GOLDEN WEST	E-911 SERVICES 8-1 TO 8-31-26	203.00	
MID-STATE TELEPHONE CO.	E-911 SERVICES 8-1 TO 8-31-26	357.44	
SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS	E-911 SERVICES 8-1 TO 8-31-26	30.00	
		-----	590.44 *
EM&D			
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	40.39	
LAWRON BOHR	CELL PHONE STIPEND	50.00	
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	157.68	
STANDARD PUBLISHING	JUNE PUBLISHING	148.00	
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	JUNE PUBLISHING	148.00	
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	63.64	
V I S A	VERIZON REVEAL - 2 MONTHS	31.90	
VERIZON BUSINESS	HOTSPOT & TABLET	60.03	
		-----	699.64 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS			
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	SATISFACTION BOOK	563.80	
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	CONNECT CARE	184.92	
		-----	748.72 *
DRUG & ALCOHOL			

DAKOTA COUNSELING INSTITUTE	3RD QTR 2026 - JUL, AUG & SEPT	300.00

		300.00 *

Total Checks: 110,395.94 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman
Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost _____.