

# AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

August 3, 2023

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no public input.

Commissioner Niles reported that he had a complaint on the clumps of weeds that were left on the side of the road after it was bladed. It was noted the Townships are in charge of their roads and how often they are bladed. It was recommended to have the townships blade more often so there would be less clumps.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve the agenda as presented.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to approve the minutes from the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

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

Commissioner Dethlefsen asked Highway Superintendent Vissia when the chip seal would be done on the road out to the fairgrounds. Vissia stated it will get done when the City of Plankinton does theirs. Commissioner Studeny said this was brought up at one of the past city council meetings and thought it was going to be delayed because Plankinton City is going to be digging in new water lines and they wanted to wait until that was done before they do the chip seal. Vissia was directed to check with Darin Cranny to make sure.

Fuel quotes were received as follows:

	MONTHLY QUOTE		4 MONTH QUOTE (August 3 till December 7)		
	<u>#2 Diesel</u>	<u>Propane</u>	<u>#1 Diesel</u>	<u>#2 Diesel</u>	<u>Propane</u>
Brooks Oil:	\$3.465	-----	\$4.07	\$3.455	\$1.195
Total Oil:	\$3.35	-----	\$3.95	\$3.39	-----
Agtegra:	-----	\$1.44	-----	-----	\$1.44
Vollan Oil	-----	-----	-----	\$3.63	-----

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to accept the 4-month diesel quote from Total Oil for #1 Diesel @ \$3.95 and #2 diesel @ \$3.39 and accept the 4-month quote from Brooks Oil for propane @ \$1.195. Motion carried all voting aye.

Highway Superintendent Vissa reported the Gjesdal Bridge is now closed because it is not structurally sound. It was noted the concrete on top is weak and the walls are not reinforced very well. Don Hammond from Brosz Engineering told the Commission the bridge is missing a large amount of aggregate and he is not sure how it is still standing. Vissia told the Board there are a couple of options to consider in fixing this structure. One way is to replace it with a 9x12 concrete cast and the second way is to install three 8 ft. culverts. The culverts would be much cheaper, stated Vissia, and we could install them ourselves. No action was taken at this time.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize Highway Superintendent to attend a certification training in Pierre on August 9, 2023. Motion carried all voting aye.

Discussion was held on information about H.R. 471, the Safer Highway and Increased Performance for Interstate Trucking (SHIP IT) Act. This national legislation includes a number of initiatives that would help relieve the supply chain problems in our nation. The Act promotes 91,000-pound trucks, a 14% weight increase over the current limit of 80,000 pounds, provides tax credits to eligible drivers, would help increase the number of drivers which would increase the overall supply chain fluidity. The Commission raised concerns on what this weight increase would do to our state and local roads. Commissioner Studeny said he would like to hear input from local haulers and how they would be impacted before making a decision on whether or not to support it.

Don Hammond and Jamie Van Zee from Brosz Engineering presented a resolution for a federal grant and a design exception form for the Commission to consider on two bridges in the county. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to sign the following resolution for a federal bridge grant for structure # 02-210-082. Roll Call Vote: Clark, aye; Studeny, aye; Hanten, aye; Niles, aye, Dethlefsen, aye. Motion carried.

**BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT GRANT / LOCAL FEDERAL BRIDGE PROGRAMS  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS**

WHEREAS, Aurora County wishes to submit an application for consideration of award for the Bridge Improvement and/or Local Federal Bridge Programs:

Structure Number and Location:

Structure No. 02-210-082

Location: 5.0 miles E and 6.8 miles N of Plankinton, SD over West Firesteel Creek

and WHEREAS, Aurora County agrees to pay the 0% match on the Local Federal Bridge funds;

and WHEREAS, Aurora County hereby authorizes the Bridge Improvement Grant and Local Federal Grant application and any required funding commitments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the South Dakota Department of Transportation be and hereby is requested to accept the attached Bridge Improvement Grant and/or Local Federal Bridge applications.

Vote of Commissioners: Yes 5 No 0

Dated at Plankinton, SD this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2023.

ATTEST: Susan Urban, County Auditor

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to sign a request for design exception to reduce the speed from 55 mph to 35 mph for Project No. BRO 8002(00)23-2, PCN 0980 for the replacement of Structure # 02-130-056. Motion carried all voting aye.

Isaac Johnson expressed his concerns about the public walk in hunting ground next to his property. He told the Commission he is not sure who this would fall under or what level it goes too, but he is very concerned about this being too close to his property. There is a 660 ft. allowance but that is only for roads and ditches, said Johnson, but once they are on the walk in ground there is nothing. Johnson said just because it's legal does not mean it's right. The Commission told Johnson the county has no control over public hunting grounds and the GF&P would be the likely place to start. Johnson said he has been speaking with them for a while now and is making a little progress. If there is anything the County can do, said Clark, we will do what we can.

Weed Supervisor Skyler Kehn and States Attorney Rachel Mairose addressed complaints from landowners regarding noxious weeds in the right-of way along township roads. State law places the responsibility for controlling and eradicating noxious weeds in road rights-of-way to the entity who owns or supervises the road as per SDCL 38-22-22. This statute is different than SDCL 31-31-5, which requires landowners to cut or remove tress, or brush from the right-of-way. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to authorize Weed Supervisor Kehn to send out a

letter to all township board members addressing what the townships responsibilities are for noxious weeds as well as the difference between the two statutes to clear up any confusion. Motion carried all voting aye.

The manufacturer’s warranty for the roof on the Community/4-H Building has expired June 23. It was the consensus of the Board to leave as is and not replace it at this time since there are no problems with it.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to authorize a person from the offices of the Auditor, Treasurer, Reg of Deeds, Director of Equalization, and Highway to attend the Southeast Central District meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> in Brule County if they so choose to attend. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to authorize the Auditor, Treasurer, Reg of Deeds, and Highway Superintendent to attend the county convention in Sioux Falls on September 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Auditor reviewed a few changes made to the 2024 proposed budget and will get it ready for publication.

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

**Reports:** July Payroll: Social Security 5,237.74, Medicare 1,224.95; Wellmark 28,198.96, Retirement 5,503.80, Kansas City Life 92.37; Commissioners 4,126.75; Auditor 7,416.55; Treasurer 6,505.64; States Attorney 4,987.69; Courthouse 2,965.15; Director of Equalization 6,049.46; Register of Deeds 4,709.44; Veteran’s Service Officer 375.19; Sheriff 14,681.17; Public Welfare 497.63; WIC 2,560.09; Nurse 497.63; Extension 1,761.46; Weed 1,430.41; Zoning 748.52; Hwy 31,799.01; EM&D 1,840.77; Payroll Direct Deposit Cost 8.55. Auditor’s Account with Treasurer: Cash on Hand 2,181.34; MMDA 2,104,763.11; CD’s 942,140.00.

**CLAIMS**

COMMISSIONERS		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	SURPLUS AUCTION SALE BILL	65.00
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	JULY PUBLISHING	258.48
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	JULY PUBLISHING	236.11
		-----
		559.59 *
JUDICIAL SYSTEM		
STEPHANIE MOEN & ASSOC	TRANSCRIPTS	109.60
STEPHANIE MOEN & ASSOC	TRANSCRIPTS	119.00
		-----

		228.60 *
AUDITOR		
STAPLES	ADDING MACHINE TAPE	45.84
		-----
		45.84 *
TREASURER		
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	TAX NOTICES & ENVELOPES	372.70
STAPLES	CALENDAR, PEN REFILLS	35.04
STAPLES	CANDY FOR COUNTER	17.52
		-----
		425.26 *
COURTHOUSE		
DISTRICT III	ADMIN FEES CH GENERATOR HMPG	1000.00
		-----
		1000.00 *
SHERIFF		
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	2021 TAHOE OIL CHANGE	98.87
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	2022 FORD EXPL OIL CHANGE	104.12
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	TIRE REPAIR	24.68
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	1156.71
CONNECTING POINT ULTRA INC	SET UP NEW COMPUTER	111.75
V I S A	POSTAGE	4.85
V I S A	INTEREST	1.59
V I S A	MEALS	19.01
V I S A	CAR WASH & SUPPLIES	53.91
V I S A	FUEL	18.82
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	423.25
		-----
		2017.56 *
JAIL		
DAVISON COUNTY SHERIFF	JUNE JAIL HOUSING	6900.00
		-----
		6900.00 *
POOR		
V I S A	INDIGENT LODGING	121.90
		-----
		121.90 *
WIC		
ASHLEY HOWARD	WIC MILEAGE TO SIOUX FALLS	289.17
		-----
		289.17 *
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED		
DAKOTA COUNSELING INSTITUTE	3RD QTR 2023 - JUL, AUG, SEPT	762.50
		-----
		762.50 *

DRUG & ALCOHOL		
DAKOTA COUNSELING INSTITUTE	3RD QTR 2023 - JUL, AUG, SEPT	300.00
		-----
		300.00 *

R&B CONSTRUCTION		
AUCA CHICAGO MC LOCKBOX	RAGS & MATS	143.12
AURORA COUNTY TREAS	TITLE & REG 2014 FORD FLEX	15.00
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC	BRIDGE 02-021-260	2480.00
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC	BRIDGE 02-213-070	1685.00
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	GRADER REPAIRS	96.17
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	FILTERS	187.06
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	EXTENDED GRADER WARRANTY	25540.00
C & B OPERATIONS LLC	PRESSURE WASHER WAND	21.36
GRAHAM TIRE - SIOUX FALLS	GRADER TIRES	4620.00
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	UTILITIES FOR STIKY & WL SHOPS	64.28
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	PICKUP REPAIRS	4070.70
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	JULY PUBLISHING	180.00
SCOTT SUPPLY	MOWER REPAIRS	1891.85
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	575.47
STICKNEY WATER	WATER	92.50
TOPKOTE INC.	CHIP SEAL & FOG SEAL	215392.79
TOTAL OIL	BARREL, PUMP, NOZZLE, HOSE	347.90
TOTAL OIL	FUEL & DEF	9281.99
TRANSOURCE	LOADER REPAIRS	2783.57
TRANSOURCE	FUEL FILTERS	344.16
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	88.56
WHEELCO BRAKE AND SUPPLY INC	FILTERS	43.30
		-----
		269944.78 *

R&B CONSTRUCTION		
TOPKOTE INC.	CHIP SEAL & FOG SEAL	6900.00
TOPKOTE INC.	CHIP SEAL & FOG SEAL	800.00
		-----
		7700.00 *

E 911 SERVICE		
GOLDEN WEST	911 SURCHARGE - AUGUST	203.00
MID-STATE TELEPHONE CO.	911 SURCHARGES - AUGUST	167.10
MID-STATE TELEPHONE CO.	911 SURCHARGES - AUGUST	190.34
		-----
		560.44 *

EM&D		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	JULY PUBLISHING	109.25
SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	FUEL FOR VEHICLES	135.05
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	95.38
		-----
		339.68 *

Total Checks: 291,195.32 \*

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 of \_\_\_\_\_)