

# AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

May 2, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 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.

The agenda was amended by adding load limits. 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 Clark, seconded by Hanten to approve the minutes from the April 18th meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Commissioners met with the county employees in three separate groups for the purpose of opening the lines of communication and to get their input/suggestions. Chairman Dethlefsen said the only time an employee hears from the Commission is when there is something wrong. He suggested having an employee meeting once or twice a year to keep communication lines open. If there is a problem do not wait until the employee meeting, said Dethlefsen, come to a regular meeting so we can talk about it. It was agreed to have the meetings twice a year to see how things are going and head off any problems before they become bigger issues.

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

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve an approach permit for Gerrit Overweg to widen an approach on 62 Oil in the SE ¼ SW ¼ 23-101-65 at the landowner's expense. Motion carried all voting aye.

Highway Superintendent Vissia informed the Commission that he had received information on Mastic, which is an aggregated crack sealer. Vissia said he is considering testing the product on 2 miles of oil road on #60. The cost is approximately \$50,000 for the two miles. The highway did not budget for this, said Vissia, but there is budget to pay for it because the county paid for the wetland mitigation at the end of last year and it was budgeted to be paid this year. Vissia also said he is not going to stock pile gravel this year, which he budgeted for as well, so there is budget

that is not going to be spent this year. He noted that the machine could also be rented and the county could do it themselves making the cost cheaper, but he will need to check into it further.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to remove the 6-ton load limits, but leave the roads posted for 80,000 lbs. and 40 mph. Motion carried all voting aye.

Jamie VanZee from Brosz Engineering presented an application for the first payment for a bridge replacement on structure 02-21-260 (Breukelman Bridge). The costs are associated with removing the bridge, mobilization, traffic control signs, etc. The County will need to pay 100% of the cost and then 80% will be reimbursed to the County through the BIG grant. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve the first payment application in the amount of \$55,644.75 to BX Civil for Structure 02-021-260 Contract #BRO 8002(00)22-4, PCN 08WT. Motion carried all voting aye.

VanZee informed the Commission that structure 02-097-056 (Jack Rabbit Rd Bridge) had been submitted for replacement through the BIG grant, but was not awarded any funding. He noted the structure had a rating of 43.771 and the lowest rated structure that was awarded through the BIG grant this year was 50.6. He said there are a couple of options to increase the rating by 10 points to help it qualify for funding. One option is to have the project “bid review ready” which is basically being shovel ready. The County would have to pay 100% of the design construction costs, which would be approximately \$150,000. This amount would not be reimbursed to the county. If the application is approved after it is submitted again, the County would receive 80% of the replacement cost. VanZee stated there is not guarantee that it would be approved because the ratings could go higher and it would still not qualify. The second option would be for the County to increase our share from 20% to 30% and it would basically be a 50/50 split with 75% of the costs being reimbursed to the County. VanZee did not recommend this option because it is very costly to the county. VanZee will get the paperwork ready for the next meeting for the Commission to consider for the bid review ready option. He told the Commission the last possible date to get this paperwork in is early June.

VanZee also talked to the Commission about structure # 02-170-068 (Rake Bridge). He said this structure had preliminary engineering work done on it a long time ago and has been closed since 2014. The work order on this structure has been canceled and it is no longer being inspected or on the bridge inventory. VanZee told the Commission this structure would be eligible for federal funds that would pay 100% to remove this bridge. Discussion

was held on installing culverts once the bridge is out so that the road could be re-opened. The culverts would need to be spaced far enough apart so it would not be considered a bridge structure, and would then become the responsibility of the township. If the culverts are spaced close together, it would be considered a bridge structure under the regulations and the County would need to take care of any washouts, etc. It was suggested to have Superintendent Vissia discuss this with Firesteel Township before anything is done.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve two right-of-way occupancy applications from Bryce Gillen for a drain tile crossing on NE ¼ 27-103-66 to NW ¼ 26-103-66 and a drain tile crossing on NW ¼ 27-103-99 to SW ¼ 22-103-66. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles enter into executive session with Director of Equalization Tina Gerlach as per SDCL 1-25-2(1) at 10:46 AM. Motion carried all voting aye. The Chairman declared the Board out of executive session at 11:02 AM. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to accept a letter of intent from Director of Assessments Tina Gerlach to move from full time status to part time status at 20 hours per week effective May 2, 2024. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to authorize the auditor to advertise for a full time Director of Equalization. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve the department heads that wish to attend the Southeast Central District meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> in Douglas County to do so. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Commission discussed contract law with Sheriff Roman Briggs. The Commission considered capping the contract amounts to the cities at 5%, 4%, 3%, or the CPI. After much discussion, a motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to set the cap at 3% for 2025. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Commission set a date of Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM in the community room to meet with the city officials to discuss contract law and the cap approved by the County. This will be a public meeting, so the public will be invited to attend.

The hearing date for a temporary liquor license will be set for June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Custodian Dan Beckmann and Auditor Urban updated the Commission on the pillars in front of the courthouse. Brent Jones met with Beckmann and Urban about having the VFW help with the repairs. Jones

recommended removing the plaques and replacing the both pillars rather than fixing or repairing them. The Commission said they would like to see the rock used in the new pillars if possible. Beckman will talk to Jones about the wishes of the Commission.

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

**Reports:** April Payroll: Social Security 5,597.33, Medicare 1,309.06; Wellmark 27,831.49, Retirement 5,953.45; Kansas City Life 96.05; Commissioners 4,269.45; Auditor 7,504.63; Treasurer 6,623.20; States Attorney 5,197.63; Courthouse 2,546.19; Director of Equalization 6,127.57; Register of Deeds 4,470.83; Veteran’s Service Officer 821.64; Sheriff 21,254.17; Welfare 741.79; Extension 1,932.60; Weed 1,294.30; Zoning 775.85; Hwy 32,266.15; EM&D 2,039.26; Payroll Direct Deposit Cost 8.40. Auditor’s Account with Treasurer: Cash on Hand 2,766.41; MMDA 3,761,345.60; CD’s 942,140.00. Register of Deeds Fees: marriage license/certs 70.00; birth/death 65.00; preservation fund 162.00; driver’s license 252.00; copies 58.00; recording fees 1,430.00; transfer fees 2,701.50.

**CLAIMS:**

COMMISSIONERS		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	APRIL PUBLISHING	684.96
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		684.96 *
ELECTIONS		
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	BALLOT PRIVACY SLEEVES	35.14
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		35.14 *
JUDICIAL SYSTEM		
ALVINE LAW FIRM	CAA	778.60
ALVINE LAW FIRM	CAA	752.70
DIANA SPINAR	INTERPRETING SERVICES	25.00
		-----
		1556.30 *
AUDITOR		
P M B 0112	MARCH ACCESS FEES	69.25
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	TECH PROBLEMS WITH SONIC WALL	44.84
		-----
		114.09 *
TREASURER		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	APRIL PUBLISHING	189.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	TECH PROBLEMS WITH SONIC WALL	67.26

		-----	256.26 *
STATE'S ATTORNEY			
MAIROSE AND STEELE	REIMB - POSTAGE		16.71
MAIROSE AND STEELE	FLASH DRIVES		5.00
MAIROSE AND STEELE	OVERHEAD CHARGES - JAN & FEB		1200.00
MAIROSE AND STEELE	OVERHEAD CHARGES		1138.95
		-----	2360.66 *
COURTHOUSE			
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL FOR AG BLDG & CH		225.00
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY		1859.49
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	SUPPORT FOR HPE SERVER		96.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	TECH PROBLEMS WITH SONIC WALL		22.42
		-----	2202.91 *
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION			
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	TECH PROBLEMS WITH SONIC WALL		44.84
		-----	44.84 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS			
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	TECH PROBLEMS WITH SONIC WALL		67.26
		-----	67.26 *
VA OFFICE			
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	TECH PROBLEMS WITH SONIC WALL		22.42
		-----	22.42 *
SHERIFF			
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	TECH PROBLEMS WITH SONIC WALL		179.30
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE USAGE		424.78
		-----	604.08 *
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED			
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE	MONTHLY SUPPORT		60.00
		-----	60.00 *
AG BUILDING			
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL FOR AG BLDG & CH		150.00
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY		511.27
		-----	661.27 *
COUNTY EXTENSION			
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	TECH PROBLEMS WITH SONIC WALL		44.84
		-----	

		44.84 *
WEED		
FLEETPRIDE	BALANCING SAND	27.34
GRAHAM TIRE - SIOUX FALLS	TRUCK TIRES	2216.00
NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS INC	CHEMICAL	63417.00
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	VALVE STEM	26.97
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	APRIL PUBLISHING	282.00
		-----
		65969.31 *

PLANNING & ZONING		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	APRIL PUBLISHING	75.00
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		75.00 *

R&B CONSTRUCTION		
A-OX WELDING	WIRE, ELECTRODES & TIPS	369.55
AUCA CHICAGO MC LOCKBOX	SERVICES - RAGS & MATS	12.18
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	GRADER REPAIRS	4099.93
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	FILTER	34.21
BX CIVIL & CONSTRUCTION INC	REPLACE BREUKELMAN BRIDGE PMT	55644.75
FLEETPRIDE	STROBE LIGHT	72.47
GRAHAM TIRE - SIOUX FALLS	TRAILER TIRES	1631.00
NAPA CENTRAL	PICKUP REPAIRS, OIL, FILTERS	25.69
NAPA CENTRAL	OIL, FILTERS	187.02
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	ELECTRIC - WL & STICKNEY SHOP	172.15
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	MOWER HOSES	241.58
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	392.28
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	MOWER PAINT	31.96
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	BROOMS	93.98
RUNNINGS	GRINDING WHEELS	19.98
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	APRIL PUBLISHING	336.00
STEVE'S WELDING REPAIR	GRADER REPAIRS & CYLINDER RENT	19.74
STEVE'S WELDING REPAIR	CYLINDER RENT	120.00
STICKNEY WATER	WATER - STICKNEY SHOP	92.50
PRODUCTIVITY PLUS ACCOUNT	MOWER REPAIRS	1117.40
TOTAL OIL	FUEL & DEF	4689.61
TRANSOURCE	TRUCK REPAIRS	8.16
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	88.68
		-----
		69500.82 *

EM&D		
AURORA COUNTY TREAS	LICENSE PLATE - TRAILER PLATE	16.70
I M E G	MITIGATION PROJECT GRANT	3987.33
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	APRIL PUBLISHING	492.25
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	TECH PROBLEMS WITH SONIC WALL	22.42
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	95.81
		-----
		4614.51 *

REGISTER OF DEEDS		
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS	MONTHLY EQUIPMENT RENTAL	330.00

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330.00 \*

Total Checks: 149,204.67 \*

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 \_\_\_\_\_)