

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

August 1, 2024

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.

Public Input: Andy Espedal and Commissioner Studeny

Andy Espedal informed the Commission that he had spoken with Hopper Township board member Rocky Von Eye about roads not being bladed in the township. She had said that the township roads and some of the county roads have not been bladed since the flooding in June. Andy asked if they were waiting on FEMA. She told Espedal that all that work has been done. Espedal said that Von Eye told him that she had contacted Highway Superintendent Vissia a couple of weeks ago, but nothing has been bladed yet.

Espedal also informed the Commission that there is a large pot hole on Hwy 16 near the Aurora – Davison County line needs to be filled in. Chairman Dethlefsen told Espedal that he would make sure Doug is aware of both issues he has brought forth.

Commissioner Studeny told the board members he has heard some concerns from citizens about the Firesteel watershed project that was presented at the last meeting. They were wanting to know what was in it for Aurora County and how it would affect us. It was noted that Aurora County could potentially have opportunities to do more projects if we agree to participate, but it will mostly benefit Davison County. Before anything is decided, Commissioner Studeny suggested to have a public meeting so we can have input from the citizens of the county. It was a consensus of the Board to hold a public meeting before a decision is made. Joe Schroeder will be meeting with the Commission at the next meeting to discuss this further.

The agenda was amended by adding a resignation. 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 Niles to approve the minutes from the July 18th meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

A thank you was received from Brent Jones, Commander of VFW Post 6554, thanking the county for our continued support.

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

Chairman Dethlefsen asked Vissia about the roads not being bladed in Hopper Township since the June flooding. Vissia said Rocky Von Eye called yesterday about blading them. He will be putting two blades in that area to get it done.

Chairman Dethlefsen informed Superintendent Vissia that there was a pot hole on the county line on Hwy 16 that needs to be filled.

Dethlefsen asked if the flood spots are all getting fixed. Vissia said they are getting them done as soon as they are able to.

Commissioner Hanten requested getting the bumps cut down on Hwy 16. It's getting rough again, said Hanten.

Hanten also asked why the west side of the oil road south of White Lake was mowed, but not the east side. Superintendent Vissia said he is probably still making his round down south and has not come up to mow the other side yet.

Commissioner Clark reported that he has had some complaints about how the new mower is cutting. Clark told Vissia that it does not seem to be cutting very well and looks like it is chewing or tearing the grass up. Clark asked if we needed to speed up the RPM and slow down a bit so it is not so jagged. Superintendent Vissia said that would probably help, but it also could be because the grass is wet. Vissia also noted that the grass is thick and it is holding water. Commissioner Hanten asked if they had lowered the blades like he suggested at the last meeting and Vissia replied, yes.

Fuel quotes were received as follows:

	MONTHLY QUOTE (August 1 – Sept 3)		4 MONTH QUOTE (August 1 thru December 5)	
	#2 Diesel	Propane	#2 Diesel	Propane
Brooks Oil:	2.798	1.34	2.808	1.35
Total Oil:	2.76	-----	2.80	-----

Agtegra:	2.79	-----	-----	-----
Vollan Oil:	2.90	-----	2.9074	1.52

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to accept the 4-month #2 diesel quote from Total Oil @ 2.80/gal and the 4-month propane quote from Brooks Oil @ 1.35/gal. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Commission reviewed the report of the core samples that were taken of the Breukelman Bridge. The engineers were satisfied with the results. The results of the strength test were as follows: Lot 2, 5540 psi; Lot 3, 4720 psi; and Lot 4, 5180 psi. The remainder of the top slab met and exceeded design strength of 4500 psi; the concrete will be allowed to stay in place. The Contractor will remove and replace the concrete represented by the first set of cores, which amounts to ¼ of the top slab, this was Lot 1 that had a design strength of 3855 psi.

The Commission would like to thank the highway department for donating their time and help with the out building at the 4-H grounds to get it ready for achievement days. Commissioner Studeny also thanked Commissioners Dethlefsen and Clark for their help as well.

Commissioner Hanten asked Superintendent Vissia to have the blade guys smooth some of the rough intersections out. Chairman Dethlefsen also noted there are areas that will need to have some back sloping done this fall.

The proposed 2025 preliminary budget was reviewed and will be considered at the September 3rd meeting before it is adopted later in September.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize Auditor Urban and Deputy Auditor Johnson to attend a Tabletop exercise for elections in Sioux Falls on August 26th. The Auditors office will be closed for the day so both can attend this exercise. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to authorize any county official who wishes to attend the Southeast Central District meeting in Hanson County on August 14th. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to set the county reimbursement rates the same as the new state rates that became effective July 1, 2024. Motion carried all voting aye.

New County Reimbursement Rates as per State of SD:

Mileage .655/mile for personal vehicle (permission to be granted before use of personal vehicle)

Lodging \$107.00/plus tax /night (if lodging rate is more, prior approval is needed)

Meals: Breakfast \$6.00 (Leave Before 5:31 AM; Arrive After 7:59 AM)

Lunch \$14.00 (Leave Before 11:31 AM; Arrive After 12:59 PM)

Dinner \$20.00 (Leave Before 5:31 PM; Arrive After 7:59 PM)

States Attorney Rachel Mairose informed the Commission she has hired Susan (Susie) Hanson for her office assistant as well as the welfare director. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to approve the hiring of Susan Hanson for 30 hours per week at \$17.78/hour with .50 less during her 6-month probationary period. Motion carried all voting aye. She will begin her duties on August 19th. Brandi Shroyer will help Tina Kieffer out at achievement days, etc., before she starts her new position in the extension office in September.

States Attorney Mairose asked the Commission to consider joining with 10 other counties to have a Victim Witness Coordinator. The individual would come to court in Aurora County and help victims with different things. The cost for Aurora County would be \$2,200 per year. The position would be administered out of Beadle County and the coordinator would travel to all the counties that are involved. Rachel indicated she will set up time for the Beadle County States Attorney and the Victim Witness Coordinator come to a Commission meeting to go over what this would all entail.

Emergency Manager Skyler Kehn requested to attend a credential system training in Pierre on August 29th as it is a requirement for the LEMPG. He also requested permission to attend an EM 102 continuing education training for LEMPG in Chamberlain on September 10th as well as the SD EM association conference on September 11th & 12th in Chamberlain. On October 1st Skyler would also like to attend a grant workshop in Mitchell. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize Emergency Manager Kehn to attend all the workshops/trainings he has requested. Motion carried all voting aye.

Kehn informed the Commission he has been hired to help coach football again this year along with coaching junior high basketball. He requested permission to leave work early at approximately 3:30 pm for football practices and will also have a few junior varsity games on Mondays. Football practices will begin the middle of August. He will start his basketball coaching duties in November and would like to leave at 3:30 PM when that starts as well. A

motion was made by Niles, seconded by Studeny to approve Skyler leaving early to help with coaching with no flexing of hours as it will be time without pay unless he takes vacation leave. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to accept the resignation of Liz Maine as Deputy Director of Equalization effective August 16th. Motion carried all voting aye. The Commission would like to thank Liz for her service to the county for almost 5 years. A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Hanten to authorize the Auditor to advertise for the position of Director of Equalization Assistant. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to enter into executive session as per SDCL 1-25-2(1) at 10:50 AM. Motion carried all voting aye. The Chairman declared the Board out of executive session at 11:28 AM. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to offer Jessica Durrin the Director of Equalization position at \$22.01/hour with .50 less during her 6-month probationary period. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles 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: July Payroll: Social Security 5464.44, Medicare 1,277.90; Wellmark 27,709.15, Retirement 5,787.45; Kansas City Life 98.03; Commissioners 4,269.45; Auditor 7,346.47; Treasurer 6,159.26; States Attorney 5,125.92; Courthouse 2,670.60; Director of Equalization 4,006.99; Register of Deeds 4,536.08; Veteran’s Service Officer 270.69; Sheriff 19,504.02; Welfare 706.46; Extension 2,055.40; Weed 1,183.53; Zoning 282.15; Hwy 35,016.72; EM&D 2,334.15; Payroll Direct Deposit Cost 8.50. Auditor’s Account with Treasurer: Cash on Hand 1,080.07; MMDA 1,905,413.10; CD’s 942,140.00. Register of Deeds Fees: marriage license/certs 55.00; birth/death 45.00; preservation fund 156.00; driver’s license 384.00; copies 214.00; other 20.00; recording fees 1,290.00; transfer fees 6,739.50.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	JULY PUBLISHING	524.99

		524.99 *
JUDICIAL SYSTEM		
GRAND JURY		369.43
DAILEY LAW OFFICE	CAA	316.50
HEIN LAW OFFICE	CAA	677.50

MAYA BRIDGE LLC	INTERPRETING SERVICES	280.00
THE SHARP FIRM	CAA	1616.74

		3260.17 *
AUDITOR		
P M B 0112	JUNE NETWORK SERVICES	71.25
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	JUNE CONNECT CARE	125.90

		197.15 *
TREASURER		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	JUNE CONNECT CARE	188.70

		188.70 *
COURTHOUSE		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	JUNE CONNECT CARE	62.90
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	JUNE CONNECT CARE	125.80

		188.70 *
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	INK PEN REFILLS	5.17
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	JULY PUBLISHING	217.50
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	JUNE CONNECT CARE	125.80

		348.47 *
VA OFFICE		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	JULY PUBLISHING	72.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	JUNE CONNECT CARE	62.90

		134.90 *
SHERIFF		
AURORA COUNTY TREAS	2024 INTERCEPTOR TITLE & LICEN	23.20
COAST TO COAST SOLUTIONS	GLOVES	221.33
GALLS	EVIDENCE BAGS	48.92
ROBERT T HENNRICH	NEW PATROL CAR EQUIPMENT	4514.81
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	OIL CHANGE, BRAKE PADS, WINDSH	2517.02
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	JUNE CONNECT CARE	503.20
V I S A	POSTAGE	146.20
V I S A	TONER FOR PRINTERS	788.72
V I S A	MEAL	26.03
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	425.42

		9214.85 *
JAIL		
DAVISON COUNTY SHERIFF	JUNE JAIL HOUSING	1890.00
MITCHELL CLINIC LTD	INMATES MEDICAL (2)	316.00

		2206.00 *

POOR		
V I S A	MOTEL ROOM - INDIGENT	78.29

		78.29 *

PUBLIC WELFARE		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	JUNE CONNECT CARE	62.90

		62.90 *

PLANNING & ZONING		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	JULY PUBLISHING	289.50

		289.50 *

R&B CONSTRUCTION		
AVERA OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE	DRUG TESTING - (4)	463.00
FASTENAL COMPANY	BOLTS	37.20
TITAN MACHINERY	TRACTOR & MOWER REPAIRS	1897.42
TOTAL OIL	DEF & FUEL	4832.21
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	JUNE CONNECT CARE	125.80
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	88.70
VESTIS	SERVICES - MATS & RAGS	12.18

		7456.51 *

E 911 SERVICE		
MITCHELL REGIONAL 911	TRAFFIC STOPS 7-1 TO 9-30-24	2248.83
MITCHELL REGIONAL 911	E-911 SERVICES 7-1 TO 9-30-24	9992.21

		12241.04 *

EM&D		
SD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOC	2024 DUES	30.00
SD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOC	SDEMA CONFERENCE	125.00
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	JULY PUBLISHING	199.25
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	JUNE CONNECT CARE	62.90
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE USAGE	96.01

		513.16 *

REGISTER OF DEEDS		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	JUNE CONNECT CARE	188.70

		188.70 *

Total Checks: 37,094.03 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman
Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

(Published once at the total approximate cost of _____)