

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

October 3, 2024

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC INPUT: Emergency Manager Kehn wanted the Commission to keep in mind how dry it is and be thinking about implementing a burn ban if conditions do not improve. This subject will be addressed again at the next meeting.

The agenda was amended by adding office closures and workshops for extension office, budget changes, and contract law for Stickney. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Niles to approve the minutes of the September 19th meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to authorize the Auditor to make an operating transfer of \$20,000 from the General Fund into the Emergency Management Fund. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to hold an employee meeting with all employees on Thursday, November 21st beginning at 8:00 AM. Motion carried all voting aye.

Highway Superintendent Vissia and Secretary Beckman were present for the highway report. Also present was Greg Kroupa.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Niles to approve an approach permit for Bill Folan on county road #38 for field access in the NE ¼ NW ¼ of 30-103-64. Motion carried all voting aye. The county will be responsible for the cost.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Studeny to approve a right-of-way occupancy for Rustin Bruns to install a water line on county road #30 between sections 9 & 13 in 103-64. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to approve payment to Contractor BX Civil & Construction in the amount of \$243,010.89 for Structure # 02-213-070 for Project BRO 8002(00)22-5, PCN 08WU. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to approve and certify the county 5-year road plan. Motion carried all voting aye.

Greg Kroupa told the Commission that the county never should have signed off on the road agreement in 2010 after the wind farm was completed. He said the wind farm used red aggregate rock to fill in spots to fix the haul road. Greg said he has had several flat tires because of the sharp rocks and many others have too. It has never really been fixed and I cannot get anywhere with the wind farm because the township and commission signed off on it, said Kroupa. People will not drive or come in on that road because it has ruined so many tires. Kroupa told the Commission he has left messages with Superintendent Vissia telling him to put more gravel on it so it would stop ruining tires. Mr. Kroupa has talked with the manager from the wind farm about picking up the rocks that are causing the problems, but doesn't get anywhere with them. We are not going to get rid of the problem unless we get them picked up off the road or put more gravel down, said Kroupa. He told the Commission the township gravels very well and does not have any problems with those roads. The county receives quite a bit of money for the wind towers and could be using that money to help gravel that road, said Kroupa. Commissioner Clark told Kroupa that back in 2010, the road probably had a good amount of gravel on it when the commission signed off on the road agreement. Kroupa said there were culverts that were covered up by the gravel they put on, which has now been cleaned up. He offered to use his gravel at \$6/ton and his belly dump to put a good base of gravel on the road so the blade operator does not have to go too far down when blading so he doesn't dig aggregate rock up. He said he would only charge for the gravel at \$6/ton and supply his truck and labor free of charge. Doug was asked by Commissioner Clark when the last time the road was graveled. Doug replied the last time it was graveled was approximately 3-4 years ago. Doug also noted that the aggregate will work its way up because that's just its nature and there is a lot of red aggregate rock in that road that will keep working up. There is about a 7 mile stretch that will need to have a good supply of gravel on it. A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Hanten to have Greg Kroupa gravel approximately 7 miles of road with the gravel from his pit at \$6/ton with no charge for the hauling or labor. Motion carried all voting aye. A county maintainer will

need to be present when the gravel is being laid so it can be bladed evenly across the road for liability purposes.

Commissioner Studeny asked if there are more roads that have this problem and was concerned about opening up a can of worms if we did this. It noted that this is the only area that has this issue. Kroupa and Superintendent Vissia will keep in touch.

Plankinton Service Club member Lindsey Weich told the Commission that they help with many community projects and would like the county's help in making a safe route for kids. Weich said the Service Club would like to provide a safe path from the pool to the ballfield and asked for the county for their support to help make this a reality. It was unsure as to whose road it is from the intersection of East Road and 1st Street out to the ball field.

Superintendent Vissia said he can possibly find out from the State DOT. Weich said there are no specs drawn up as of yet, we just want to know if there is a good chance that this is something that could be done in a joint effort with the county. It was noted that providing a safe route is a good idea for the kids to use to keep them safe and off the road.

Commissioner Studeny said he had contacted District III about safe routes and was told there is a program called the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) with an 80/20 match. The deadline for this just passed on October 1st, so an application will need to be submitted next year. Studeny said a feasibility study will need to be done and Eric Ambrosion from District III thought the project had a good chance of getting approved for the TAP grant. The Commission agreed that this was a good project and told Lindsey that the Service Club would have their support. The County will be updated once more information is gathered.

Commissioner Hanten informed Superintendent Vissia that Marv Jira had talk to him and asked if the highway department could put up more speed limit signs on Old Hwy 16 west of Plankinton and East of White Lake. He said Jira thought some think the speed limit is 65 mph and a few more signs would be a good reminder that it is only 55 mph. Vissia said that he would get some installed.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to authorize Program Assistant Brandi Shroyer to attend a training in Brookings on November 14th and to close the extension office on October 9th and November 25th – 27th for personal reasons. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to sign the 2025 contract law agreement with the Town of Stickney. Motion carried all voting aye.

Auditor Urban informed the Commission that the 2025 provisional budget that was published had an error in the formula for the less 5% amount in the E-911 Fund as per SDCL 7-21-18. The following changes were made as follows: Increased general operating transfers by \$179 (\$379,652); general cash applied increased \$2,331 (\$524,891), general fund less 5% increase by \$125 (\$142,610); total general fund increased by \$2,379 (\$2,709,592), E-911 misc. revenue increased by \$179 (\$30,989); E-911 less 5% increased \$179 (\$3,049); total county budget increased \$2,379 (\$5,766,996). A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Hanten to accept and approve the changes to the 2025 budget. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Commission spoke with Custodian Dan Beckman about the bollard (security post) for the front sidewalk. It was noted at the last meeting that a motion was made to go with the original plan and have it put in the middle of the front sidewalk rather than along the sides. Dan said he understood the plan was changed so he could put in two bollards along the sides rather than the one in the middle. Commission Clark said that was almost a year ago and the plans are going back to the original one. Commissioner Studeny said he knows that Dan would like to have the two on the outer edges of the sidewalk to make snow removal easier, but the reasoning behind the one in the middle is to keep vehicles from driving on the sidewalk into the front door. Gregory County had that happen and we do not want that to happen here, said Studeny. We have a snow blower for the sidewalk that can be used for the walkway and to get around the security post, noted Studeny. The Commission told Dan the bollard needs to be put in the ground and cemented in. Vice Chairman Clark directed Dan to get this completed before the next meeting on October 17th and if he needs help with it, he should contact the highway department.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Clark to file reports and pay voucher as listed below. Motion carried with Studeny and Niles each abstaining from their respective vouchers they presented for payment.

Reports: September Payroll: Social Security 6,344.89, Medicare 1,483.93; Wellmark 26,884.51, Retirement 6,135.27; Kansas City Life 95.55; Commissioners 4,269.45; Auditor 7,662.79; Treasurer 6,535.43; States Attorney 7,283.94; Courthouse 2,563.02; Director of Equalization 8,078.85; Register of Deeds 4,414.13; Veteran's Service Officer 1,123.59; Sheriff 20,091.77; Welfare 794.77; Extension 7,917.50; Weed 1,275.99; Zoning 1,080.41; Hwy 34,547.81; EM&D 1,914.17; Payroll Direct Deposit Cost 8.60. Auditor's Account with Treasurer: Cash on Hand 1,145.37; MMDA 1,676,490.60; CD's 942,140.00. Register of Deeds Fees: marriage license/certs 55.00; birth/death

15.00; preservation fund 114.00; driver's license 288.00; copies 149.00; other 0.00; recording fees 1,030.00; transfer fees 5,810.00.

CLAIMS COMMISSIONERS

RANDY NILES	LODGING & MEALS REIMBURSEMENT	234.00
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	SEPTEMBER PUBLISHING	767.65

		1001.65 *

ELECTIONS

ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	ELECTION & SAMPLE BALLOTS	796.40
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	EXPRESS VOTE BALLOT	1.38
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	EXPRESS VOTE MEDIA	52.76
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	BALLOT CODING	7.25
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE	BALLOT LAYOUT	194.00
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	ENVELOPES, SLEEVES & BOXES	1139.79

		2191.58 *

JUDICIAL SYSTEM

GRAND JURY		434.42
STEPHANIE MOEN & ASSOC	TRANSCRIPT	392.00

		826.42 *

AUDITOR

SUSAN URBAN	MEAL REIMBURSEMENT - CONVENTION	31.98
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	FULL SETUP OF NEW EMAIL SYSTEM	188.03
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	EMAILS & ANNUAL EXCHANGE	88.69
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	SEPTEMBER CONNECT CARE	129.86

		438.56 *

TREASURER

QUILL CORPORATION	INK & RIBBON	197.02
QUILL CORPORATION	INK & RIBBON	284.97
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	FULL SETUP OF NEW EMAIL SYSTEM	376.06
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	EMAILS & ANNUAL EXCHANGE	177.38
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	SEPTEMBER CONNECT CARE	194.58

		1230.01 *

COURTHOUSE

KONECHNE HEATING AND COOLING	FILTERS FOR THE COURTHOUSE	185.04
MIDWEST ALARM	REPAIR ELEVATOR CAMERA	192.50
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY - COURTHOUSE	1362.81
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	SEPTEMBER CONNECT CARE	64.86
WHITE LAKE WELDING	MAKE GUARD POST FOR COURTHOUSE	66.83

		1872.04 *

DIR. OF EQUALIZATION

TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	FULL SETUP OF NEW EMAIL SYSTEM	376.06
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TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	EMAILS & ANNUAL EXCHANGE	177.38
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	SEPTEMBER CONNECT CARE	129.72

		683.16 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
ARLENE KOCH	MEALS AT CONVENTION	37.14
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	FULL SETUP OF NEW EMAIL SYSTEM	188.03
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	EMAILS & ANNUAL EXCHANGE	88.69

		313.86 *
VA OFFICE		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	FULL SETUP OF NEW EMAIL SYSTEM	188.03
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	EMAILS & ANNUAL EXCHANGE	88.69
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	SEPTEMBER CONNECT CARE	64.86

		341.58 *
SHERIFF		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	FULL SETUP OF NEW EMAIL SYSTEM	940.27
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	EMAILS & ANNUAL EXCHANGE	443.59
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	SEPTEMBER CONNECT CARE	518.88
V I S A	POSTAGE	28.40
V I S A	WASHER FLUID	6.38

		1937.52 *
PUBLIC WELFARE		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	FULL SETUP OF NEW EMAIL SYSTEM	188.03
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	EMAILS & ANNUAL EXCHANGE	88.69
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	SEPTEMBER CONNECT CARE	64.86

		341.58 *
AG BUILDING		
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY - AG BUILDING	189.89

		189.89 *
COUNTY EXTENSION		
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	SEPTEMBER CONNECT CARE	129.72

		129.72 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
AVERA OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE	DRUG TESTING	112.00
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ENGINEERING	4502.50
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	GRADER 5000 HR SERVICE	5802.36
BX CIVIL & CONSTRUCTION INC	ERICKSON BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	243010.89
C & B OPERATIONS LLC	TRACTOR REPAIRS	19.22
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	ELECTRIC BILL - AUR CTR & STOR	135.12
DOUG VISSIA	MEALS AT CONVENTION	40.00
DOUG VISSIA	FUEL FOR VEHICLE	39.47

FLEETPRIDE	WIRE COVERING - SHOP	28.00
GRAHAM TIRE - SIOUX FALLS	TIRE PATCH GLUE	17.25
GREAT PLAINS LUMBER & SUPPLY	GLUE & PIPE	7.48
LOCATORS & SUPPLIES INC	JESSE'S SAFETY COAT	3.96
NAPA CENTRAL	CASE PAPER TOWELS	112.20
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	ELECTRIC - WHITE LAKE & STICK	82.99
PLANKINTON CITY	WATER & ELECTRIC - PLANK SHOP	288.89
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	BATTERY, HOSE, PINS	100.46
PLANKINTON LUMBER COMPANY	FUSE, TAPE MEASURE, CLAMPS, PA	180.46
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	SEPTEMBER PUBLISHING	180.00
STICKNEY WATER	WATER BILL - STICKNEY SHOP	94.00
TOTAL OIL	FUEL & DEF	8059.22
TRANSOURCE	TRUCK & TRAILER REPAIRS	445.79
TRANSOURCE	LOADER LEASE	3200.00
TRUENORTH STEEL INC	CULVERT	495.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	FULL SETUP OF NEW EMAIL SYSTEM	376.06
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	EMAILS & ANNUAL EXCHANGE	177.38
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	SEPTEMBER CONNECT CARE	129.72
VESTIS	SERVICES - RAGS & MATS	24.36
WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	REPAIR COPY MACHINE	337.00
	-----	268001.78 *
EM&D		
S.D. MAIL OFFICE	SEPTEMBER PUBLISHING	109.25
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	FULL SETUP OF NEW EMAIL SYSTEM	188.03
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	EMAILS & ANNUAL EXCHANGE	88.69
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	SEPTEMBER CONNECT CARE	64.86
	-----	450.83 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS	MONTHLY EQUIPMENT RENTAL	330.00
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	SEPTEMBER CONNECT CARE	194.58
	-----	524.58 *
CLEARING		
LOCATORS & SUPPLIES INC	JESSE'S SAFETY COAT	70.70
SD STATE CAPITOL	REGISTRATION LIST - WARD 2	20.00
	-----	90.70 *

Total Checks: 280,474.76 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Travis Clark, Vice Chairman
Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

(Published once at the total approximate cost of _____)