

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

November 21, 2024

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Input: Commissioner Hanten addressed his issues about the recent interview that was held for the highway maintenance position on Tuesday, November 19th. He stated not all Commissioners knew about the interview. Only two Commissioners were present, said Hanten, and noted he was not even considered or asked to be at the interview. Hanten said he had no clue about it until Commissioner Niles called him afterwards. Commissioner Clark said he was told about it on Saturday evening and noted that nobody was hired on Tuesday, it was just an interview. The two Board members present will report to the rest of the Commission today before a decision is made to hire someone, said Clark. Hanten stated there are 5 commissioners and we are 1 body, so we all need to be included. Hanten asked who was all present and wanted to know why the Highway Secretary needed to be there. Auditor Urban noted Superintendent Vissia asked Secretary Beckman to be present because he didn't know if the Auditor would be available since she had another meeting to attend around the same time. Commissioner Studeny noted that a special meeting would have needed to be called if more than two Commissioner were present. Sometimes an applicant cannot come the day of the regular meeting and therefore done at a different time. We would need to send out the proper notices if a special meeting is held, said Studeny. Clark suggested it would be a good practice to invite all members of the Commission to an interview if it cannot be held on a day of a regular commission meeting. If you can make it, that's great said Clark, if not then at least everyone was notified and aware of what is going on. If we have more than 2 commissioners able to make it, then we have a special meeting, said Clark. Hanten told the Board that he has never been asked to sit in on a highway interview or anything dealing with the highway department. I have experience from working in the highway department for several years and I would be able to ask questions that pertain to the position, said Hanten. Commissioner Hanten noted that he was voted in by the public and he is just as much of a commissioner as anybody else sitting here. If I cannot ask questions about roads, etc., said Hanten, then how can I

represent my area if I am not allowed to question things. Commissioner Clark stated we need to all work together and put our differences aside.

Commissioner Niles reported that he had a complaint from a tax payer in Firesteel Township about a maintainer not paying attention while driving down the road and was told he deadheaded for about 2 miles as well. Niles said he also received a complaint in Patten Township about a road not being smoothed out all summer long. Niles noted there are areas where windrows are on both sides of a road where the county dumped gravel, they need to be taken care of, said Niles. Vice Chairman Clark said he will address these issues with the Highway Superintendent.

The Commission congratulated Malcolm LaFortune on his law enforcement certification and welcomed him back after being gone for several weeks for his training.

The agenda was amended by adding health insurance renewal, burn ban, and nurse contract. 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 Niles, seconded by Hanten to approve the minutes from the November 7th meeting. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to surplus the 2013 Chevy Tahoe and authorize the Sheriff to trade it in when purchasing the new sheriff vehicle. Motion carried all voting aye.

The Commission reviewed the application for the highway position and Commissioner Studeny reported on the interview that was held on Tuesday. Commissioner Hanten asked where the individual would be stationed if hired. Studeny said it is uncertain for now; the Highway Superintendent may switch people around. Commissioner Hanten said he would agree to hire the applicant, but only if all the Commissioners will be notified and will be in on the interview process from now on. Even if it has to be a special meeting, said Hanten. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to offer the highway position to Nathan Wolbrink and from now on all Commissioners will be involved in the interview process. Motion carried all voting aye.

Insurance agent Clint Bultsma and insurance committee members Arlene Koch and Sue Faulhaber were present to discuss the county's health insurance renewal. Bultsma informed the Commission there is a 10% increase in the rates and stated the insurance committee wants to keep the current coverage. A motion was made by Studeny,

seconded by Niles to renew our Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance plan. Motion carried all voting aye.

Treasurer Andrea Pryor and States Attorney Mairose discussed property in Stickney that will be up for tax deed next year. Pryor informed the Board that she has spoken to a family member about the property and they wish to do a Quit Claim Deed and give it to the county. Pryor stated that there are thousands of dollars of IRS tax liens against the property and asked States Attorney Mairose to give her input. If the county agreed to the Quit Claim Deed, Mairose recommended doing a Quiet Title Action so that the property would be free and clear of the IRS liens. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to approve accepting the Quit Claim Deed for the property and then proceed with a Quiet Title Action. Motion carried all voting aye.

Treasurer Pryor asked the Commission to consider having one meeting with all the employees at one time rather than having it done in three different sessions. She said that different questions are asked in each session and by having only one session everyone will be able to hear the same thing when questions are asked. The Commission thought it was a good idea to have one employee meeting for everyone to attend. It was the consensus of the Commission to set the time of the meeting at 7:30 AM on December 5th and have all employees attend at the same time. All hourly employees will need to clock in before the meeting.

Discussion was held on the bill from Dakota Pro Striping for the road south of White Lake. The county's liability was discussed and States Attorney Mairose recommended fixing it but said the Highway Superintendent was going to check with LTAP about it. After more discussion, a motion was made by Niles, second by Hanten to withhold payment for Dakota Pro Striping until it was fixed properly. Motion carried all voting aye.

MVPCS varsity head wrestling coach Shay Johnson met with the Commission and 4-H Program Assistant Brandi Shroyer to seek approval to rent the community/4-H building for wrestling practices. Vice Chairman Clark told Johnson that a contract should be signed between the school and county stating that no duplication of keys will be done and there will not be multiple keys out to several people. There also needs to be adult supervision when the kids are out there. Brandi also asked that they use the rollup door on the west when moving mats in and out so they don't wreck the doors on the south side of the building. States Attorney Mairose was asked to draw up 2 contracts, one for

the varsity and one for the youth club. A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Studeny to set the rental fee at \$500 per month and approve the rental request, contingent upon the contract being signed. Motion carried all voting aye,

Joe Larsen addressed the acoustical issues at the community/4-H building. In October, he had prepared a report with options for the county to consider. Larsen stated the areas to focus on are the walls and ceiling. He noted the wall panels might not be a good option because they can easily be bumped, stained, or damaged when renting the building out. The better option may be to drop baffles or clouds from the ceiling to help with noise reduction, said Larsen. He also noted that we want to make sure we do not minimize the flow of ductwork or diminish the lighting if you choose something for the ceiling. Larsen said he goes through Acoustical Systems to purchase the baffles, but you can get them anywhere. It was noted that the area of focus was on the east side of the room, but it could be done in phases, said Larsen. If you find out it works well and you want to do the entire ceiling, you can do the area by the kitchen later, stated Larsen. Commissioner Studeny stated that once we get the acoustics figured out, we will need to look at a sound system for the building as well. The Commission thanked Joe for volunteering his time to prepare the information he provided and for his valuable input.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SDSU for the 4-H Program Assistant, Brandi Shroyer. Motion carried all voting aye.

Weed Supervisor Kehn informed the Commission of the weed chemicals that he will be needing for next year. The notice of bids for weed chemical will be published soon and the opening of bids will be held on December 19th.

Emergency Manager Skyler Kehn requested permission to proceed with ordering a new pickup for the weed and emergency management departments. He has it in the 2025 budget with half being paid out of the weed budget and half out of the emergency manager budget. Kehn said it will take about 4 months for the vehicle to get here. He is looking at purchasing an F250 pickup off the state bid through Lamb Motors with the base price of \$46,935 and \$2,286 for additional options. He will have other expenses such as radio installation, decals, etc., but said he budgeted enough for all of that as well. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to authorize the purchase of the new vehicle from Lamb Motors off the state bid. Motion carried all voting aye.

Discussion was held on the current burn ban in place. Commissioner Clark said he has had several phone calls asking if it was going to be removed. It was noted that the county is still in a Stage-3 drought according to the drought monitor. After further discussion it was the consensus of the Board to leave the burn ban in place.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to make a donation as per SDCL 7-26-1 to the Plankinton VFW Post 6554 in the amount of \$1,000 for the work done on refurbishing the memorials in front of the courthouse. Motion carried all voting aye. The Commission expressed their gratitude for the VFW for taking the initiative to get this done and to David Dixon on the wonderful job he did.

Auditor Urban went over the new FLSA overtime requirement that was to take effect on January 2025. It would have enforced the salary increase requirement for workers to remain exempt from overtime pay. Urban noted that there was a court decision that blocked the January increase and stops the US Department of Labor's intention to automatically increase the salary level. Urban informed the Commission that there is only one employee that this would have affected. The consensus of the Commission was to leave things as they are for now and see if the increase will be reinstated later on.

Auditor Urban presented the results of the Post Election Audit for the November 5, 2024 General Election. Constitutional Amendment H and SD House District 21 were the two contests audited for Precinct 5. After manually counting the contests, the results of the ES&S DS200 tabulator were substantiated by the manual count of the audit board.

A motion was made by Hanten, seconded by Niles to authorize Chairman Dethlefsen to sign the Community Health Services contract with the State of SD. Motion carried all voting aye. Aurora County will pay a total of \$7,523.63 in four installments for public health services rendered.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to enter into executive session with Emergency Manager Skyler Kehn at 11:40 AM as per SDCL 1-25-2 (6 d). Motion carried all voting aye. The Vice Chairman declared the Board out of executive session at 11:51 AM with no action taken.

A motion was made by Niles, seconded by Hanten to file reports and pay the bills as listed below. Motion carried all voting aye.

Reports: Wheel Tax Paid: Cities \$658.54, Townships \$447.35; Predatory Animal \$2,180.96.

CLAIMS:

COMMISSIONERS

GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	48.48
STANDARD PUBLISHING	OCTOBER PUBLISHING	829.51
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	OCTOBER PUBLISHING	829.51

		1707.50 *

ELECTIONS

STANDARD PUBLISHING	OCTOBER PUBLISHING	1913.37
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	OCTOBER PUBLISHING	1913.37

		3826.74 *

JUDICIAL SYSTEM

DAILEY LAW OFFICE	CAA	431.50
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT OF HEALTH	B/A (2)	140.00

		571.50 *

AUDITOR

GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	62.17
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	CALENDAR & REFILL	25.74
POSTMASTER	AUDITOR POSTAGE REIMB	292.00

		379.91 *

TREASURER

GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, FAXES & INTERNET	64.77
STANDARD PUBLISHING	OCTOBER PUBLISHING	104.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	OCTOBER PUBLISHING	104.00

		272.77 *

COURTHOUSE

CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICES	MAINT ON COURTHOUSE GENERATOR	1008.23
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	43.52
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	5.03
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL FOR COURTHOUSE	90.00
PLANKINTON VFW POST 6554	MEMORIAL MONUMENT REPAIR	1000.00

		2146.78 *

DIR. OF EQUALIZATION

GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	77.57
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	STAPLER	62.85
WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	REPLACE FUSER IN PRINTER	211.00

		351.42 *

REGISTER OF DEEDS

GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, FAXES & INTERNET	71.32
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	CALENDAR	6.29

POSTMASTER	REG OF DEEDS POSTAGE REIMB	146.00

		223.61 *
VA OFFICE		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	61.43
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	CALENDAR	6.29
QUILL CORPORATION	INK FOR PRINTER	49.99

		117.71 *
SHERIFF		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	115.22
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	52.47
KYLE NESS	HOLSTER, DUTY TOOLS & PANTS	234.38

		417.69 *
JAIL		
DAVISON COUNTY SHERIFF	OCTOBER JAIL HOUSING	6510.00
MITCHELL CLINIC LTD	INMATE MEDICAL	1024.00

		7534.00 *
PUBLIC WELFARE		
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	6.89

		6.89 *
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED		
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE	MONTHLY SUPPORT	60.00

		60.00 *
AG BUILDING		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	104.97
OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS	PEST CONTROL FOR AG BLDG	70.00

		174.97 *
COUNTY EXTENSION		
BRANDI NIEDERT	FUEL FOR FLEX	36.28
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	66.10

		102.38 *
WEED		
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	6.89
POSTMASTER	WEED POSTAGE REIMB	29.20
ROADSIDE C - STORE	FUEL FOR WEED TRUCK	31.67

		67.76 *
PLANNING & ZONING		

MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	STAPLER	62.86
STANDARD PUBLISHING	OCTOBER PUBLISHING	39.50
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	OCTOBER PUBLISHING	39.50
WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	REPLACE FUSER IN PRINTER	211.00

		352.86 *

R&B CONSTRUCTION		
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC	BRIDGE RPLMT - ERICK & BREUKEL	23822.00
DWIGHT JOHNSON	STORLA SHOP LAND RENT	10.00
GOLDEN WEST	TOLLS & INTERNET	123.43
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	WEED PICKUP REPAIRS	3154.36
TOTAL OIL	FUEL	4568.20
TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES	BACKUP SOFTWARE RENEWAL	145.00
VESTIS	SERVICES - RAGS & MATS	12.18

		31835.17 *

WHEEL TAX		
D & D UNDERGROUND	WHEEL TAX	20.00

		20.00 *

E 911 SERVICE		
GOLDEN WEST	E-911 SERVICES 11-1 TO 11-30	200.00
MITCHELL REGIONAL 911	E-911 SERVICES 10-1 TO 12-31	9992.21
MITCHELL REGIONAL 911	TRAFFIC STOPS 10-1 TO 12-31	2248.83
SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS	E-911 SERVICES 11-1 TO 11-30	30.00

		12471.04 *

EM&D		
CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICES	MAINT ON AG BUILDING GENERATOR	888.58
GOLDEN WEST	TOLLS & INTERNET	58.82
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	CALENDAR	6.29
RUNNINGS	TOOL BOX CONTAINER - TIMS	17.79

		971.48 *

REGISTER OF DEEDS		
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	MORTGAGE RECORD BOOK	542.18
MCLEOD PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPL	ENVELOPES	50.00

		592.18 *

Total Checks: 64,188.84 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Travis Clark, Vice Chairman
Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost _____.