

AURORA COUNTY COMMISSIONER PROCEEDINGS

June 15, 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.

Public Input: Dave Merrill told the Commission he lives just outside the city limits on 202 E Road and stated there are several baseball and softball teams that use the portion of 1st Street going out to the ballfields. He said 1st Street is just down the road from his residence and he can see the traffic and all the people who use that road. He told the Commission the road surface on 1st Street is terrible. We have out of town guests that use that road to attend ball games as well as the players themselves and it has wash boards and pot holes in it from the stop sign by the pool all the way out to the ball fields. Merrill stated he knows the City and County have agreed to do some work to it, but hopes that the wash boards and holes can be fixed properly to make it a decent road for our out-of-town guests and our kids. It was noted this was discussed at an earlier meeting to share costs with the City of Plankinton to chip seal it sometime this summer. The Commission thanked Dave for coming in to express his concerns.

The tentative agenda was amended by adding bid letting for bridges, resignation, and purchase of county vehicle. 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 Studeny to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on June 1, 2023. Motion carried all voting aye.

Emergency Manager Skyler Kehn reported that the cable wire for the repeater in White Lake has a large chunk missing out of it and is causing interference with the radios. Kehn presented the Commission with a quote of \$4,783.50 from Vikor Telecommunication to replace the cable from the top all the way down. A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to accept the quote from Vikor and get the repairs done as needed. Motion carried all voting aye.

Weed Supervisor Skyler Kehn informed the Commission that the housing for the Amine pump on the spray truck is cracked and we are down to one pump. The sidekick is showing the other pump is spraying at the correct rate, but it is not. So, that pump is not spraying correctly either, said Kehn. Two quotes were presented to the Commission to replace the pumps and the sidekick. Heartland Ag Systems submitted a quote in the amount of \$23,113.37 for the repairs and noted that they may not be able to get some of the parts in. C&R Supply submitted a quote for \$25,008.87 and had all the parts on hand. Skyler stated that C&R could get the truck done by the first part of next week. Chairman Dethlefsen asked Skyler how the weed truck itself was holding up. Skyler said he felt it was not accelerating like it should, but was working ok. If in the future we need to purchase a different truck, we will be able to transfer all the spray equipment over to a different truck, said Kehn. Chairman Dethlefsen asked Hwy Superintendent Vissia what he thought. Vissia stated we need something that works. It was noted that for quite some time things have not been working properly. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to authorize the Weed Supervisor to have C&R do the repairs for the weed truck. Motion carried all voting aye. Chairman Dethlefsen stated that we need to make sure it is winterized properly and stored inside so the county is not having to replace things every other year.

Bids were opened pursuant to the notice for structure replacements on 264th St. and 245th St. for BRO 8002(00) 22-4, PCN 08WT and BRO 8002(00) 22-5, PCN 08WU. The bids were received from the following:

- Prahm Construction Inc.
Schedule #1 - \$912,813.00
Schedule #2 - \$947,533.00
Combined Bid Amount - \$1,860,346.00
- BX Civil & Construction Inc.
Schedule #1 - \$773,542.80
Schedule #2 - \$802,718.10
Combined Bid Amount - \$1,576,260.90
- SFC Civil Constructors
Schedule #1 - \$882,752.50
Schedule #2 - \$899,175.30
Combined Bid Amount - \$1,781,927.80

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark for the projects on 264th St Structure Replacement Project, BRO 8002 (00) 22-4, PCN 08WT and 245th St. Structure Replacement Project, BRO 8002(00) 22-5, PCN 08WU are to be

awarded to the lowest bidder, BX Civil & Construction Inc., contingent upon engineer's review and SDDOT approval. Motion carried all voting aye. These projects will be 80% paid for through the BIG grant program.

A hearing was held pursuant to the notice for a special/temporary on-sale alcohol beverage license for Stickney Community Foundation. No one appeared for or against it. A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to approve the special/temporary on-sale alcoholic beverage license for the 24th day of June at the Stickney Park (NE ¼ of SE ¼ 36-102-64) for the Stickney Community Foundation. Motion carried all voting aye.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Clark to authorize Hwy Superintendent Vissia and Hwy Secretary Beckman to attend a FEMA meeting on July 18th & 19th in Pierre. Motion carried all voting aye.

Hwy Superintendent Vissia requested to purchase a new mower. He said Scott's Supply has a mower available for approximately \$16,000 to \$17,000 and would like to keep the old mower for parts. Commissioner Clark asked if the guys are hitting stuff in the ditches since the mower is only 4 years old and we are needing to replace it already. Hwy Superintendent Vissia said yes, the areas they are mowing are rough. Clark stated the highway guys need to watch out for things in the ditches and focus on what they are doing. Commissioner Niles suggested getting a flail mower with a roller instead. He noted they are very durable and can handle almost anything. The gravel windrows need to be gone, said Commissioner Hanten, because when you hit them with a mower it chews everything up. Chairman Dethlefsen asked if the mower could be pieced back together to get by for this year. Hwy Superintendent Vissia said no. The Commission directed Vissia to check into prices for a more heavy-duty mower and a flail mower. Commissioner Hanten asked why the mower was not put into the budget. Hwy Superintendent Vissia said he didn't know it was bad until now. Hanten disagreed and stated this should have been figured out before now. Discussion was also held on farmers wanting to mow ditches due to the hay shortage. The highway dept. will put an ad in the legal newspapers for the farmers to have the ditches mowed by a certain date that will be determined by the Hwy Superintendent.

Discussion was held on a complaint about the amount of dust that is kicked up when the gravel trucks pull out of the hwy parking lot. Bonnie Kinyon told Auditor Urban she had contacted the hwy about the issue. Urban stated Mrs. Kinyon has a family member who is bothered by the dust due to medical issues and asked if there is anything the county can do to control the dust. The Commission stated they have had several requests over the years regarding dust

control and do not want to set a precedence by doing it now when they have not done it in the past. Hwy Superintendent Vissia stated that he could see if the State DOT will allow him to park the trucks out by the old state shop along Hwy 16.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to accept with regret the resignation from Klayton Miller as highway maintenance worker effective at the end of the working day on June 29, 2023. Motion carried all voting aye. Commissioner Clark commended Klayton for the great work he did and wished him the very best. The Commission authorized a notice to be put in the papers for the opening.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to authorize Veterans Service Officer Audrey Chapman to attend a VSO training on September 5th – 7th in Sioux Falls. Motion carried all voting aye.

Treasurer Andrea Pryor informed the Commission she sent Mr. Randall Brumbaugh a certified letter on May 5th regarding his delinquent property taxes and he picked up the letter on May 16th, but he has yet to either pay or respond to her letter. The Commission directed the Treasurer to serve a distress warrant. Charles Mix County will serve the warrant since that is where is last known address was.

Dick and Alex Huff asked the Commission to consider dissolving the MRC Rail Authority in which Aurora County is a member of. They stated that the Rail Authority has no more reason to exist now that it has been sold to a private company. There is an annual meeting coming up in Mitchell on the 28th of June and the Huffs would like to see this topic discussed at this meeting. Dick noted that only three of the seven counties are left in the MRC, which is Aurora, Brule, and Davison. Dick also said the MRC by-laws stated that a quorum is half the members and wondered if it was half of the remaining three members or does it mean half of the original seven members. He noted that we need to check into that. Dick said it made sense to belong to the MRC when the railroad was owned by the State of SD as it was leased by only one entity. The MRC has no function anymore, stated Dick Huff, there is no lease to oversee and it is bleeding money right now by paying for the lawyer fees, etc. The current balance in the MRC fund at the end of 2022 is \$238,280, said Huff. Aurora County really needs to dissolve the MRC and if you need to reinstate a rail authority for whatever reason, it can be easily done, said Dick Huff. Alex Huff stated that the MRC has the authority to levy a tax if they need to so you need to protect the public in Aurora County. If two of the three remaining counties want to levy a tax, the third county is stuck with the property tax, said Alex. We do not see a reason to keep the MRC,

said the Huffs. Commissioner Studeny stated the State of SD cannot loan money to a private entity, so it has to go through a Regional Rail Authority. Jack Docken from the State at one time had said it would be a disservice to those who use the railroad, stated Studeny. Commissioner Clark expressed his concerns about leaving the MRC because we are in the middle of working with the railroad and the City of Plankinton in getting a culvert replaced under the tracks east of Plankinton. The Huffs again asked the Commission if they can see any reason why the County needs to keep the MRC. Commissioner Studeny told them the County needs to look into the by-laws and see what is actually a quorum, how things would work if we would dissolve it and what the correct procedures are, and also find out what happens to the left over funds that the MRC currently has before the county can make a decision. Dick Huff said the Commission needs to know what instructions to give Stan Johnson for the meeting as he is the representative for Aurora County. Chairman Dethlefsen said I think we need to discuss all of this with the other counties at the annual meeting on the 28th. John Paul Studeny agreed to go to the annual meeting and Clyde said he will see if he can go as well.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Studeny to authorize the Auditor to attend a cyber security workshop in Sioux Falls on July 27th. Motion carried all voting aye,

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Niles to give Monday, July 3rd off as a paid holiday. Motion carried all voting aye. We need to do things like this for our employees, said Dethlefsen, because I know our wages are not up there like other counties but we just cannot afford it.

A motion was made by Studeny, seconded by Niles to purchase a 2014 Ford Flex from Vern Eide for \$13,000. Motion carried all voting aye.

Commissioner Studeny recused himself from the discussion on publication costs. It was noted there was a discrepancy between the publishing costs on the notice of bids for the replacement of structures. Auditor Urban told the Commission that Brosz Engineering took care of sending the publications to the legal newspapers. Urban said she contacted Brosz about the huge difference in cost in the Stickney Argus and Aurora County Standard, and found Brosz did not specify the size of the legal notice as they had done previously. Urban said she suggested to Brosz that they should make sure the size of the notice should be sent along with the legal notice itself to insure this does not happen again.

A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Hanten to file reports and pay vouchers as listed below.

Motion carried with Clark, Hanten, Niles, and Dethlefsen voting aye. Studeny abstained from the vote.

Reports: Wheel Tax Paid: Cities \$1,102.69; Townships \$755.34.

CLAIMS :

COMMISSIONERS

DEPT OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT	FINAL PMT ON 21-22 AUDIT	1170.00
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	46.97
LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE	CH GEN OBLIGATION CERT INS	1478.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING	MAY PUBLISHING	657.51
STANDARD PUBLISHING	MARCH & APRIL PUBLISHING	2250.46
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	MAY PUBLISHING	657.51
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	MARCH & APRIL PUBLISHING	2250.46

		8510.91 *

JUDICIAL SYSTEM

DAILEY LAW OFFICE	CAA	1424.70
AVERA QUEEN OF PEACE HEALTH	B/A - (1)	130.00
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT OF HEALTH	B/A - (2)	80.00

		1634.70 *

AUDITOR

GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	51.05
P M B 0112	APRIL ACCESS FEES	52.75
POSTMASTER	POSTAGE	126.00
CONNECTING POINT ULTRA INC	MAY CONNECT CARE	98.42

		328.22 *

TREASURER

GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	78.89
POSTMASTER	POSTAGE	2234.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING	MARCH & APRIL PUBLISHING	610.66
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	MARCH, APRIL PUBLISHING	610.66
STAPLES	PAPER, TONER, LAMINATING SHEET	235.19
STAPLES	TONER & PAPER	207.21
STAPLES	SUCKERS FOR COUNTER	21.56
STAPLES	MV CREDIT CARD PAPER	27.79
STAPLES	TAX PRINTER	199.99
CONNECTING POINT ULTRA INC	MAY CONNECT CARE	147.51

		4373.46 *

COURTHOUSE

GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	9.17
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	41.94
MENARDS - MITCHELL	LANDSCAPING - PLANTS & MULCH	108.85
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	1684.36
ROADSIDE C - STORE	WASHER FLUID & SQUEEGEE	9.48

ROADSIDE C - STORE	FUEL FOR LAWN MOWER	37.95
STANDARD PUBLISHING	MARCH & APRIL PUBLISHING	98.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	MARCH & APRIL PUBLISHING	98.00
CONNECTING POINT ULTRA INC	MAY CONNECT CARE	49.17

		2136.92 *
DIR. OF EQUALIZATION		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	71.36
POSTMASTER	POSTAGE	63.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING	MARCH & APRIL PUBLISHING	220.72
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	MARCH & APRIL PUBLISHING	220.72
CONNECTING POINT ULTRA INC	MAY CONNECT CARE	98.34
WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	TONER FOR THE PRINTERS	276.00

		950.14 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, FAXES & INTERNET	59.81
POSTMASTER	POSTAGE	63.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	REFUND FOR ROD SUBSCRIPTION	-28.66

		94.15 *
VA OFFICE		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	60.34
CONNECTING POINT ULTRA INC	MAY CONNECT CARE	49.17

		109.51 *
SHERIFF		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	109.21
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	51.24
OVERWEG AUTO, GLASS & FUEL	BATTERY & OIL CHANGE	345.83
CONNECTING POINT ULTRA INC	MAY CONNECT CARE	393.36

		899.64 *
JAIL		
BRULE COUNTY	MAY JAIL HOUSING	868.00
DAVISON COUNTY SHERIFF	MAY JAIL HOUSING	1300.00
LEWIS FAMILY DRUG LLC	INMATE MEDS - (1)	31.38

		2199.38 *
PUBLIC WELFARE		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	45.84
CONNECTING POINT ULTRA INC	MAY CONNECT CARE	49.17

		95.01 *
WIC		
ASHLEY HOWARD	MILEAGE TO SIOUX FALLS - WIC	293.76

		293.76 *
NURSES OFFICE		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	1.14
OFFICE OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVI	JANUARY - JUNE 2023 AGREEMENT	3548.88

		3550.02 *
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED		
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE	MONTHLY SUPPORT	60.00

		60.00 *
AG BUILDING		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE	43.44
PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	194.25

		237.69 *
COUNTY EXTENSION		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE, INTERNET	64.66
CONNECTING POINT ULTRA INC	MAY CONNECT CARE	98.34

		163.00 *
WEED		
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	LANDFILL ELECTRICITY	62.00
GOLDEN WEST	INTERNET	5.12
HEARTLAND AG SYSTEMS	FUEL HOSE FOR SPRAY TRUCK	19.05
POSTMASTER	POSTAGE	18.90
STANDARD PUBLISHING	MARCH & APRIL PUBLISHING	450.66
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	MARCH & APRIL PUBLISHING	450.66

		1006.39 *
PLANNING & ZONING		
POSTMASTER	POSTAGE	63.00
WILLIAMS OFFICE EQUIP REPAIR	TONER FOR THE PRINTERS	300.00

		363.00 *
R&B CONSTRUCTION		
AUCA CHICAGO MC LOCKBOX	SERVICES - RAGS & MATS	64.07
AURORA COUNTY TREAS	2024 MACK TRUCK LICENSE & REG	26.70
BROSZ ENGINEERING INC	BRIDGE RPLCE - ERICK, BREUK	4900.00
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	TRAILER & GRADER REPAIRS	575.19
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	FILTERS, OIL ADDITIVE	314.14
BUTLER MACHINERY COMPANY	2024 CAT GRADER	379421.23
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOP, INC	ELECTRIC BILL - AUR CTR, STORL	130.08
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	128.31
HILLMANS REPAIR	PICKUP TIRE REPAIR	13.99
JAKE'S	PICKUP GAS	26.31
MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM	WATER BILL - STORLA SHOP	31.00
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	ELECTRIC BILLS - WL & STK	63.43

PLANKINTON CITY	ELECTRICITY	334.63
RDO EQUIPMENT COMPANY	GRADER REPAIRS	713.42
RUNNINGS	DEF PUMP - STORLA SHOP	180.87
STANDARD PUBLISHING	MAY PUBLISHING	511.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING	MARCH & APRIL PUBLISHING	77.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	MAY PUBLISHING	511.00
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	MARCH & APRIL PUBLISHING	77.00
TOTAL OIL	DEF BARREL & HOSE	106.00
TOTAL OIL	DEF & FUEL	3647.53
TRANSOURCE	2024 MACK TRUCK FILTERS	215.16
CONNECTING POINT ULTRA INC	MAY CONNECT CARE	98.34
VERN EIDE	2014 FORD FLEX	13000.00
WHEELCO BRAKE AND SUPPLY INC	TRUCK REPAIRS	162.16

		405328.56 *
E 911 SERVICE		
GOLDEN WEST	E-911 SERVICES 6-1 TO 6-30-23	200.00
MID-STATE TELEPHONE CO.	E-911 SERVICES 6-1 TO 6-30-23	357.44
SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS	E-911 SERVICES 6-1 TO 6-30-23	53.42

		610.86 *
EM&D		
GOLDEN WEST	PHONE & INTERNET	70.88
STANDARD PUBLISHING	MAY PUBLISHING	123.90
STANDARD PUBLISHING	MARCH & APRIL PUBLISHING	188.53
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	MAY PUBLISHING	123.90
STANDARD PUBLISHING ARGUS	MARCH & APRIL PUBLISHING	188.53
CONNECTING POINT ULTRA INC	MAY CONNECT CARE	49.17

		744.91 *
REGISTER OF DEEDS		
CONNECTING POINT ULTRA INC	MAY CONNECT CARE	147.51

		147.51 *

Total Checks: 433,837.74 *

Meeting adjourned subject to call.

Clyde Dethlefsen, Chairman
Aurora County Commission

Attest: _____
Susan Urban, Auditor

Published once at the total approximate cost _____.