

November 18, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on November 18, 2025, in the Miner County Courthouse Commission Room. Members present: Joe Bechen, Kathy Faber, Kari Jo Carlson and Mike Clary. Absent: Tim Neises.

Chairman Bechen called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Faber, seconded by Carlson and carried to approve the agenda. The minutes from November 4th and 6th were approved. No one appeared for public comment.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: October Sheriff Report, October VSO Report, NACo at 90, Revised Nutrient Management Plan for Redstone Dairy from DANR, Notice of Proposed Reissuance of General Water Pollution Control Permits for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations from DANR, and LEMPG Matrix Report.

Mommaerts was given approval to continue with Twotrees Technologies on obtaining .gov secure email solutions and Microsoft licensing through the SecureSD grant program.

There was some discussion on the Butler Machinery claim, which Krempges researched and received a \$1,076.21 credit for a core charge per telephone conversation with Butler. Motion by Clary, seconded by Faber, and carried to pay the following claims: Clearwater Country Cousins \$1,122.30, Henden Future Farmers \$878.28 **4-H AWARDS**; SDSU Extension \$10,805.00 **4-H PMT TO STATE**; Alliance \$150.00 **911 CHARGES**; Madison Regional Health System \$104.00 **BLOOD DRAW**; ICAP \$796.09 **COMMUNITY ACTION PMT**; Ulteig \$35,473.80 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Elan Financial \$50.00 **DUES**; HFCA \$19,936.13, IState Truck Center \$630.16 **FUEL**; Co Employee \$2,000.00 **INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT**; Office Ally \$44.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; Lake Co Sheriff \$270.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Miner County Pioneer \$450.09 **PUBLISHING**; Dust-Tex \$180.48 **RENT**; Butler Machinery \$1,015.00, Cummins Sales & Service \$843.99, Elan Financial \$25.36, HFCA \$221.98, IState Truck Center \$1,265.81, John Deere Financial \$861.02, Office Peeps \$78.65, S&S Contracting \$145.00, Twotrees Technologies \$149.00 **REPAIRS**; Amazon \$13.68, Butler Machinery \$3,657.40, Elan Financial \$674.81, Fleetpride \$260.68, Home Service Water \$29.40, HFCA \$9,687.10, IState Truck Center \$725.18, John Deere Financial \$2,000.31, Kimball Midwest \$136.84, Office Peeps \$1,584.35, Runnings \$22.49, Rusty's \$90.00, Sanitation Products \$136.64, Shane's Hardware \$85.16, SD Federal Property Agency \$135.00, SDSU Animal Sciences \$40.00, Transource \$440.65 **SUPPLIES**; Joe Bechen \$70.00, Kathy Faber \$117.60, HFCA \$59.74, Ron Krempges \$28.00, Rebecca Mommaerts \$28.00, Ramkota Pierre \$244.00, Tami Severson \$44.73 **TRAVEL**; Central Electric \$168.93 **UTILITIES**.

Sealed bids were opened at 9:30am, as advertised, for a new 2025 or newer gravel end dump pup trailer. Bids received were from Northern Truck & Equipment for \$71,980 and Sanitation Products for \$72,500. Motion by Clary, second by Carlson, to award the bid for the pup trailer to Northern Truck & Equipment for \$71,980.

Highway Superintendent Ron Krempges gave an update on the Carthage bridge. Kingsbury County was sent the bill for the difference on the oiling; Kingsbury owes Miner County \$25,359.99. Krempges talked to Greg Vavra with LTAP to show him the Hord Family Farm hog confinement road situation. Krempges will be installing a "Hill Blocks View" signs

and some signs to indicate upcoming curves. Mowing is done. Bales east of Carthage are gone. The highway department needs a new flagpole. Prices he's found so far range from \$3,000-\$5,000 for a 25-foot flagpole; Krempges will continue looking for a cheaper alternative. Krempges received a complaint on the south 4-way stops by Carthage. The stop signs are already flashing, but Krempges is considering replacing the rumble strips that used to be there. The "end detour" sign will be coming out of that area soon. Other highway matters include culvert repairs and replacing gravel on the approaches to the bridge.

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, to declare the HP MFP477F LaserJet Pro printer from the Sheriff's office surplus and authorize its disposal.

Motion by Clary, second by Faber, to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the Law Enforcement Policies & Procedures Agreement with SDPAA.

Motion by Faber, second by Carlson, to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the contract with Lake County Sheriff's Office for Inmate Housing for 2026.

Nick Antrobus of Colonial Life gave a presentation on the benefits offered to all county employees. Present for the presentation were Amie Kidd, Justin Brandsma, Amy Lovett, Gibi Page, Lori Kiehl, and Cora Schwader. Antrobus answered questions for the employees.

Ambulance Manager Cora Schwader asked Wendell Steeneck for a plumbing estimate for the potential replacement ambulance building; he will need to look at the building to provide an accurate estimate.

Director of 911 & Dispatch Services Cora Schwader reported on dispatch matters. Schwader spoke to Sanborn County's auditor after the final 2025 quarterly payment was not received. She was advised Sanborn County was planning to pay by the month as they believed their transfer to Mitchell would take place within a month or two. After inquiry, it is believed there has been miscommunication and misunderstanding of the length of time the process will take. The State 911 Coordinator believes it will likely be in the Spring of 2026. Schwader will continue communicating with Sanborn County to resolve this budget issue.

Lake County 911 Board meets the third Wednesdays of the month on a quarterly basis, beginning in January; special meetings may be called for the Miner County project, as needed. Lake County 911 Director, April Denholm, will send notifications of these meetings. There will be two seats on the board for Miner County. Commissioners questioned if these seats were just for Commissioners or if others could be appointed; Denholm will need to provide clarification. The estimated timeline for changeover is one year out.

Ambulance billing manager, Justin Brandsma, explained a situation that resulted in a Miner County lien being placed on an individual due to billing information not being received in a timely manner. Motion by Carlson, seconded by Faber, and carried to pass the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-22

WHEREAS, the Miner County Ambulance Director requests that the County Commissioners of Miner County, South Dakota, release the lien in favor of Miner County for providing ambulance services to a Miner County resident;

AND WHEREAS, Miner County has a poor lien against the resident in the sum of \$1,033.40 for the said services provided;

AND WHEREAS, the resident was covered by Medicaid at the time the services were provided and Medicaid has since paid \$503.62;

AND WHEREAS, the Miner County Ambulance Board is obligated by both state and federal laws to write-off the remained \$529.78;

AND WHEREAS, it is to the advantage and best interest of Miner County to grant the release of said lien;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Miner County Board of Commissioners that the lien be released against the resident which Miner County, South Dakota, now has; and that upon this Resolution becoming effective the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of said Miner County and the County Auditor of said County, are hereby authorized to execute a full release and satisfaction of said poor lien on behalf of said County, and that a record thereof be made as provided by law.

Dated at the City of Howard, Miner County, South Dakota this 18th day of November, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman

Miner County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

Custodian Lori Kiehl met with the board on custodial matters. Kiehl charges \$30 per week to wash rags, which is what she agreed to when she started. She doesn't mind doing the extra work, and she knows the job is being done well by doing it herself. To have Dust-Tex wash the County's rags, additional rags would need to be purchased, as they would only wash them biweekly. Commissioners made no changes to the situation. Kiehl asked if the Commissioners had spoken to the mowing contractor for the 4-H grounds; Commissioners did not, as the mowing season had completed. The mowing contract and bid specifications will be reviewed for the next season. Trees may also need to be trimmed to allow for easier grass mowing/trimming.

State Holidays were discussed. No changes to the county work schedule were made.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until December 2nd, 2025. Dated this 18th day of November, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman

Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor