

November 4, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on November 4, 2025, in the Miner County Courthouse Commission Room. Members present: Joe Bechen, Kathy Faber, Tim Neises, Kari Jo Carlson and Mike Clary.

Chairman Bechen called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Faber, seconded by Neises and carried to approve the agenda, as presented. The minutes of the October 27th meeting were approved. Mommaerts reported on the Secretary of State Election Training put on at the end of October. No one appeared for public comment.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Faber, and carried to pay the following claims: Road & Bridge \$46,467.89, MERP Fund \$58,207.39, Reliance Standard \$1,405.44, Delta Dental \$500.64, Retirement \$7,865.52, OASI \$10,866.95, Commissioners \$4,795.75, Auditor \$7,829.00, Treasurer \$8,001.75, States Attorney \$6,238.00, Govt Building \$4,342.00, Director of Equalization \$9,649.30, Register of Deeds \$7,454.71, Vet Service \$610.00, Sheriff \$12,522.25, Contract Law \$4,324.00, Welfare \$16.05, Ambulance \$11,306.84, Extension \$1,647.80, Weed \$1,427.50, Dispatch \$18,247.09, Emergency Mgt \$2,651.00 **OCTOBER PAYROLL**. Barb Esser \$14.00, Tami Severson \$14.00 **PAYROLL TRAVEL**. Santel \$30.00, Triotel \$169.53 **911 CHARGES**; Graves Construction \$477,182.71 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Law Office of Jennifer R. Nelson \$576.00 **COURT APPT ATTY**; Rob Eggert \$30.00, Josh Esser \$30.00 **EVOC DRIVER**; Miner Co Treasurer \$.50 **FILING FEE**; Auto Value \$26.61 **FUEL**; Northwestern Energy \$12.00 **GAS**; SDML \$32,286.00 **INSURANCE**; Miner Co Treasurer \$35.10 **POSTAGE**; TwoTrees Technologies \$1,781.65 **REPAIRS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Relx, Inc. \$188.00 **SUBSCRIPTION**; Amazon \$391.82, Bound Tree Medical \$287.68, Dust-Tex \$251.40, Homestead Building Supply \$106.49, John Deere Financial \$12.33, K&M Tire \$2,356.14, Krug Products \$182.95, Lecal Equipment \$502.92, Menards \$10.24, Miner Co Treasurer \$36.60, Tim Reisch \$433.33, Rhomar Industries \$612.36, Tami Severson \$20.00, Auto Value \$304.33, TwoTrees Technologies \$197.20 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance \$494.49, AT&T \$423.34, Jessica Charles \$30.00, Erin Feldhaus \$30.00, Lori Kiehl \$30.00, Becki Mommaerts \$30.00, Molly Steeneck \$30.00, Verizon \$127.79, Danielle Werkmeister \$30.00, Tami Severson \$30.00 **TELEPHONE**; Justin Brandsma \$68.00, Governors Inn \$448.00, Becki Mommaerts \$93.69, Sheraton \$248.00 **TRAVEL**; City of Howard \$3,065.19, Xcel Energy \$12.97 **UTILITIES**.

Auditor's account with the County Treasurer was \$8,833,769.22 for October 31, 2025 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: DANR Proposed Expansion Manure Management System Plans and Specifications Review for Magnum 43, LLC.

Motion by Clary, second by Faber, to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the Charles Mix County Law Enforcement Center Prisoner Housing Agreement for 2026.

Commissioners authorized Auditor Mommaerts to close the Auditor's office from late morning November 19th through November 20th for Auditor/Election training in Pierre.

Highway Superintendent Ron Kremppges spoke on highway matters. The steering box inspection was done on the damaged freightliner, and no mechanical issues were noted. Specifications have been sent out for bidding for a new pup trailer; bids will be opened at the next meeting at 9:30. Kremppges gave an update on the Carthage bridge progress. Faber reported that Carthage citizens have reported that the large machinery has been clipping corners due to the narrow roads, and it's crushing the culverts; she will get a listing to Kremppges for him to check on them. Kremppges needs documents signed for the bridge project east of Carthage. Motion by Faber, second by Clary, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the Letting Authorization, Utilities Certificate, and Right-of-Way Certificate for Project No. BRF-B6136(01).

Rural Access Infrastructure Fund (RAIF) applications received from four townships: Canova \$39,837.52, Vermillion \$16,000, Howard \$39,234.24, and Adams \$2,000 for a total estimate of \$97,071.76 for estimates, of which \$77,657.42 (80%) would be paid out of the RAIF. Clary made a motion to award the four projects to the townships from the RAIF funding, seconded by Carlson and passed unanimously. There was a preconstruction meeting on October 16th for the Hord Family Farm Hog facility; construction began shortly thereafter. Kremppges discussed signage around the new facility for public safety. The Mack truck was taken to Sioux Falls for repairs three weeks ago. With all the issues that were discovered and parts and labor needed, it resulted in a \$16,099 total repair cost.

Kremppges is working on the billing split for Kingsbury County for mutual assistance oiling roads in each respective county. He has been making calls regarding the removal of hay bales from the ditches; he is hopeful they're gone by this weekend so the county doesn't have to move them. Mowing in the northeast corner should be done next week; Bechen complimented the highway department's mowing work. The sanding policy will be published next week. Kremppges and Mommaerts will attend the Safety Conference next week in Pierre. Other upcoming highway work includes blading, hauling gravel, removing temporary fence by the bridge north of Howard, cleaning ditches and resurfacing the Carthage bridge.

Motion by Carlson, second by Neises and passed unanimously to approve the liquor license for Hunter's Den, provided the legal description is filled in and the appropriate box is checked regarding felony convictions.

The county's property and liability insurance was discussed. Lynn Bren from SDPAA, Curt Neises from Miner Insurance and Sheriff Rob Eggert were in attendance for questions. Carlson reported on her call with Lynn Bren from SDPAA regarding the disparity between property values and explained the procedure for adjusting the values of the property. There is the possibility that the premium would be adjusted according to the appraisal that would occur after the 1st of the year, resulting in additional premium due. Carlson considered this concerning due to the \$1.3 million difference in valuation between SDPAA and Miner Insurance. She acknowledged the additional resources provided by SDPAA, specifically the hotline for employment practices and election issues and the use of LLRMI for law enforcement policy, which Sheriff Eggert spoke highly of. However, the valuations could result in a \$4,000-\$7,000 difference in premiums from the quote from SDPAA.

Motion by Faber to contract with SDPAA for property & liability insurance at the \$5 million package, including coverage for the Miner County Ambulance, seconded by Clary. Voting was done by rollcall: Clary-aye, Faber-aye, Carlson-nay, Neises-abstained, Bechen-aye. Motion passed.

Sonje Nordbye from Risty Benefits presented information for the upcoming employee benefits renewal. Nordbye apologized on behalf of Reliance Standard for the billing issues the Auditor's office has dealt with. Nordbye reviewed potential health insurance options. Present for this portion of the meeting were Sheriff Rob Eggert, DOE Tami Severson, Deputy Auditor Justin Brandsma, Treasurer Jessica Charles, Deputy Treasurer Brittany Yanish, ROD Gibi Page, Deputy DOE Barb Esser, and Custodian Lori Kiehl. Neises made a motion to postpone the decision on health insurance renewal until a special meeting on November 6th at 5:30pm, seconded by Carlson. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Clary, seconded by Faber and carried to table auxiliary insurance discussion until the end of the meeting.

A teleconference was held with Luke Muller & Todd Kays from the First District of Local Governments and Director of Equalization Tami Severson to discuss zoning regulations for airports that are needed to prevent loss of funding. A letter went out without First District's involvement. More conversations with the Department of Transportation will need to happen. The county does not own the airport, but First District will help Severson write her response letter and will continue to work on finding a simpler solution after the first of the year. They may have to come back to Commissioners regarding use restrictions, if that ends up being required.

Motion by Faber, second by Clary to take the discussion on auxiliary insurances from the table. Nordbye reviewed auxiliary insurance, including the possibility of adding MASA Access, which provides added coverage for emergency medical transport, as an employee benefit.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until November 6th, 2025. Dated this 4th of November 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor