

## September 2, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 2, 2025, in the Miner County Courthouse Commission Room. Members present: Joe Bechen, Kathy Faber, Tim Neises, Kari Jo Carlson and Mike Clary. Members absent: none.

Chairman Bechen called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Faber, seconded by Clary, and carried to approve the agenda. The minutes of the August 19, 2025 meeting were approved. Bechen reported on attending the Northwestern Energy Summit meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>. He also met with Chris Nelson at the South Dakota State Fair.

No one appeared for public comment.

Motion by Clary, seconded by Carlson, and carried to pay the following claims: Road & Bridge \$48,070.43, MERP Fund \$58,207.39, Reliance Standard \$1,405.44, Delta Dental \$500.64, Retirement \$7,786.13, OASI \$10,971.79, Commissioners \$4,795.75, Auditor \$7,829.00, Treasurer \$8,001.75 (includes Brittany Yanish @ \$3348.75/mo), States Attorney \$6,238.00, Govt Building \$4,342.00, Director of Equalization \$8,923.60, Register of Deeds \$7,231.91, Vet Service \$610.00, Sheriff \$13,536.37, Coroner \$150.00, Contract Law \$4,831.06, Welfare \$117.70, Ambulance \$11,011.55, Extension \$2,664.30, Weed \$1,427.50, Dispatch \$16,428.17, Emergency Mgt \$2,651.00 **AUGUST PAYROLL**. Becki Mommaerts \$28.00, Justin Brandsma \$14.00, Gibi Page \$14.00, Jessica Charles \$14.00 **PAYROLL TRAVEL**; Graves Construction \$104,955.84 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Redwood Toxicology \$146.00 **DRUG TESTING**; Josh Esser \$30.00 **EVOC DRIVER**; Northwestern Energy \$36.53 **GAS**; Brian Baldwin \$155.00 **IN SERVICE EDUCATION**; Minnehaha County \$599.33 **MENTAL ILLNESS HEARING EXPENSE**; Christy McMullen \$320.00 **MOWING**; Madison Regional Health \$104.00 **PRISONER MEDICAL**; Miner County Pioneer \$864.45 **PUBLISHING**; James Valley Landscaping \$328.96, Trane \$554.40, Twotrees Technologies \$1,841.65 **REPAIRS**; Jebro Inc. \$204,538.04 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Amazon \$223.38, Dust-Tex \$251.40, Krug Products \$161.71, Tim Reisch \$433.33, Tami Severson \$20.00, Twotrees Technologies \$197.20 **SUPPLIES**; AT&T \$428.10, Jessica Charles \$30.00, Erin Feldhaus \$30.00, Lori Kiehl \$30.00, Rebecca Mommaerts \$30.00, Tami Severson \$30.00, Molly Steeneck \$30.00, Verizon \$143.06, Danielle Werkmeister \$30.00 **TELEPHONE**; Josh Hahn \$120.00, Greg Protsch \$38.05 **TRAVEL**; City of Howard \$3,223.07, Xcel Energy \$9.65 **UTILITIES**.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: Revised Nutrient Management Plan for New Fashion Park from the SD DANR; email from Curt Neises regarding property & liability insurance; Notices of Policy Conditional Renewal from Continental Western.

Commissioners postponed the decision on the LEMPG 2026 Grant Agreement until September 16<sup>th</sup> to reach out to Tina Titze regarding the letter that accompanied the grant agreement.

Highway Superintendent Ron Krempges reported on highway matters. Paint striping will be done this week or next week. Progress continues on the bridge west of Carthage; projected completion date is now December 1<sup>st</sup>. Krempges will need to do the finish surface work and

asphalt when it's fit to do so – asphalt probably won't happen this year, but they will likely be able to do the gravel work. The County accepted the offer for the insurance claim for the truck and pup trailer; Continental Western allowed the County to keep the snow equipment and brackets. The total payment for both pieces of equipment was \$221,500. The planned date to remove the steering box is September 10<sup>th</sup>; after that, the truck can come out of the building and will hopefully be removed shortly thereafter. A replacement truck has been ordered; Krempges will look around a little more for the pup trailer replacement. The truck may be here by the end of the year, but the box may be 30 weeks out. Four townships have submitted projects for 2026 from the Rural Access Infrastructure Fund (RAIF). Krempges will go measure and see how far the ground needs to be built up for the 4-H picnic shelter project, which may start this week, if weather allows. Fall mowing will start soon, and the highway department continues gravel and blading work. Carlson informed Krempges she's received positive comments on the Carthage Oil. The road leading to the Dairy Operation north of Carthage was discussed.

The public hearing for the 2026 budget was held, as advertised.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Neises and carried to go into executive session for personnel matters at 10:02am, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Board returned to regular session at 10:27am.

4-H Youth Educator Jill Calmus gave a 4-H Update with 2025 summer events. Notably, \$45,800 was raised by the pie auction this year. Future fall events were discussed. The Fall Festival is scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup>. Calmus has her Fall Conference in Brookings September 29-October 1<sup>st</sup>. Sewer and water hookups were started last week at the 4-H campgrounds. Leaders are planning to build a 40'x70' picnic shelter, with construction beginning in September, hoping for completion before the Fall Festival. The building will run east/west with the same color scheme as the new barn and will include a 40'x10' enclosed storage on one end for chairs and tables. One of the gates into the 4-H grounds on the north side may need to be moved due to this construction. Neises stated that he and his wife, Karla, will be supplying tables to 4-H to keep at the grounds.

The 911 meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup> with first responders was well attended. Director of 911 & Dispatch Services Cora Schwader recommended that the Commissioners move to dissolve the intergovernmental agreement for Miner County Dispatch in order to move things forward in the appropriate manner. Commissioners requested Schwader obtain a ballpark contract cost estimate for 911 services and after-hours dispatch services from Lake County Dispatch. Schwader stressed that the county would get twice the level of service from Lake County Dispatch than in Mitchell. Schwader questioned what Miner County plans to do with the savings resulting from contracting out the 911 services. Bechen stressed that Jason Husby wanted "wish lists" from the area fire districts, and he would like to see forward progress there. Commissioners approved Schwader and Mommaerts working together to create a memo to terminate the intergovernmental agreement to give Miner County the sole authority for contracting out 911 services in the future. Commissioners asked that "911 Discussion" be a standing item on future agendas as the county moves through this transition.

Motion by Faber, second by Neises to recess as Commissioners and convene as the Planning & Zoning Board; motion passed. Carlson took the position of Chair. Carlson brought up concerns with the Albrecht plat, as presented. The notary acknowledgement on the plat is incorrect due to Jeff Albrecht not appearing in person. Tamara Albrecht signed as his POA, but

the signature line is also not correct. Now that Jeff Albrecht is deceased, the personal representative of his Estate will have to sign in that capacity with a proper acknowledgement for a personal representative. Severson will work with Albrechts/Hords to get the plat corrected. Motion by Faber, second by Neises and carried to approve the plat once the notary acknowledgement and signature block is corrected. Motion to adjourn as Planning & Zoning Board and reconvene as County Commissioners by Faber, second by Clary and carried. The Commissioners will postpone action on the plat until after the corrections are made.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Faber and carried to go into executive session for legal matters at 11:14am, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (3). Board returned to regular session at 11:21am.

Commissioners approved Mommaerts signing a purchase order for a new 52 port HPE Aruba 1930 48G switch from Twotrees Technologies, in the amount of \$495.53, with an additional \$200 estimated for miscellaneous parts needed for installation.

Custodian Kiehl explained Trane's recommendation to add a buffer tank for the HVAC system. Bechen questioned if a well could be used in place of a buffer tank. Kiehl is researching warranties on the equipment. She has concerns on the quote exclusions, including electrical code concerns. More research will be done before any decision on the buffer tanks is made.

Motion by Clary to increase Kiehl's salary as of January 1, 2026 to \$23.37 per hour, along with changing her title from "Custodian" to "Building & Grounds Manager" due to her more extensive duties, seconded by Carlson and carried. The 2026 budget will be adjusted accordingly before the final approval on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

The request from St. Thomas Aquinas Church to sponsor the Grand Gala was denied.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until September 16, 2025. Dated this 2nd day of September 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman  
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor