

January 20, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 20, 2026, 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 flag pledge was recited. Motion by Faber, second by Neises and carried to approve the agenda, with the addition of discussion items for the First District At Large Representative and the members of the weed board. The minutes of the January 6th meeting were approved, with the following corrections:

- In Resolution 26-3, the first occurrence of "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that longevity pay based on \$25.00 per year of employment be paid in November for 2026." should have read "BE IT RESOLVED that the following wage scale for Miner County employees be in effect for fiscal year 2026 (annual salary unless otherwise specified.)"
- A hyphen should be added in "high-visibility" as it related to the clothing allowance for highway workers.

No report of meetings attended. Kari Jo Carlson and Tim Neises, along with Cora Schwader, will attend the Lake County Communications 911 meeting on the 21st.

Todd Kays, Executive Director of First District of Local Governments, gave an overview of their work as it relates to county government, and Miner County's return on investment over the years. Larry Gauger has been the longtime at-large member of the First District Board for Miner County, but he has indicated that he may be ready to give the position up. Greg Vavra has an interest in serving, but there may be others interested as well. Commissioners will speak to Gauger before reappointing the position. Kays also notified Commissioners of upcoming bills going through this year's legislative session. Data centers are currently not allowed under Miner County's zoning ordinances; Kays said if there is interest to add that as a permissible use, First District can help with that. Airport regulations were discussed as well; First District will come back to talk with the Commissioners further about it.

Highway Superintendent Ron Krempges reported that the new skid steer was delivered. The old machine has 3,360 hours on it. Motion by Carlson, seconded by Faber and carried, to declare the 2015 Gehl 260 skid steer surplus and authorize its sale by auction. Motion by Faber, second by Neises and carried to pass the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 26-4

MINER COUNTY WEIGHT LIMIT ENFORCEMENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, excessive loads can be detrimental to our highways, and

WHEREAS, the Miner County Board of Commissioners desires to protect existing Miner County highways, ultimately saving tax dollars, and

WHEREAS, the Miner County Board of Commissioners desires the enforcement of weight limitations on Miner County roads, as set forth and posted by the Miner County Highway Superintendent,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, the limits on Miner County highways shall be set with South Dakota weight limitations, with the exception of 425th Avenue (County Road #17) between 220th Street and 233rd Street (S.D. Hwy #34) will be set at 100,000 pounds gross weight for any vehicle or combination of vehicles.

421st Avenue (County Road #21) between 233rd Street (S.D. Hwy #34) and 244th Street will be set as 80,000 pounds gross weight for any vehicle or combination of vehicles.

Seasonal spring thaw weight limitations will preside over such weight limitations when signs are in place and displayed.

That the South Dakota Highway Patrol be and hereby is authorized and requested to enforce weight limitations on Miner County roads.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the penalty for the violation of the load restrictions shall be set forth in SDCL 32-22-55.

Vote of Miner County Commission: Aye: 5 Nay: 0

Dated this 20th day of January, 2026 at Howard, South Dakota.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts
Miner County Auditor

Motion by Carlson, second by Clary and carried to pass the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 26-5

MINER COUNTY WEIGHT LIMIT ENFORCEMENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, seasonal climatic changes can be detrimental to our highways, and

WHEREAS, the Miner County Board of Commissioners desires to protect existing Miner County highways, ultimately saving tax dollars, and

WHEREAS, the Miner County Board of County Commissioners desire the enforcement of weight limitations on Miner County roads, as set forth and posted by the Miner County Highway Superintendent,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, the limits on Miner County highways shall be set at 7 ton per axle/40 ton gross vehicle weight, with the exception of County Road 17 (425th Ave.) from Carthage south to SD Hwy #34 and County Road 22 (242 St.) from Canova east to US Hwy #81 shall be 40 ton gross vehicle weight during spring thaw period and when weight limit signs are in place.

That the South Dakota Highway Patrol be and hereby is authorized and requested to enforce weight limitations on Miner County roads.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the penalty for the violation of the load restrictions shall be set forth in SDCL 32-22-55.

Voting of Miner County Commission: Aye: 5 Nay: 0

Dated this 20th day of January, 2026 at Howard, South Dakota.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Commission

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts
Miner County Auditor

Motion by Neises, second by Clary and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the request for assistance-weight limit enforcement letter to the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

The highway department will do flagger training through LTAP on the 21st at the 4-H Grounds. The Mack truck is back. The white tandem truck is having the automatic transmission repaired in Sioux Falls. Commissioners approved a quote by Subsurface for \$32,220 for lining an 18" by 70' culvert on the east side of Epiphany and a 42" by 40' culvert south of Fedora. Gravel projects are complete, and the crew will begin hauling chips. Depending on the weather, they may start crack sealing after that. The crack sealer is having its pump and a hydraulic motor replaced.

Motion by Clary, second by Neises and carried to pay the following claims: ICAP \$1,507.75 **COMMUNITY ACTION**; Ulteig \$2,660.00 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Lammers, Kleibacker, Dawson & Miller \$5,508.20 **COURT APPT ATTY**; MidStates Organized Crime Info Center \$100.00, SDACHS \$600.00 **DUES**; Lamb Motor \$52,310.00, Puthoff Repair \$64,500.00 **EQUIPMENT**; HFCA \$1,649.51 **FUEL**; Community Counseling Service \$14,000.00, Glacial Lakes & Prairies \$300.00, Miner County Conservation District \$7,000.00 **GRANT**; CLIA Laboratory Program \$248.00 **LICENSE FEES**; Miner Co Treasurer \$198.00 **POSTAGE**; Lake Co Sheriff \$90.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Office Ally \$44.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; Barry Callies \$1,492.06 **RENT**; First District Assn of Local Govts \$12,000, Interstate Power Systems \$389.48, James Valley Landscape \$65.00, Office Peeps \$78.65, Safe N Secure \$305.51, Two Trees Tech \$446.90 **REPAIRS**; Butler Machinery \$1,076.21, County Wide Directory \$624.00, Dakota Fluid Power \$47.39, Dakota Riggers \$95.39, Elan Financial \$305.97, Fleetpride \$52.77, Gassman CSC \$67.97, Home Service Water \$40.60, Interstate Power Systems \$102.63, Kimball Midwest \$139.00, Mac's Hardware \$239.96, Mighty Auto Parts \$394.38, Office Peeps \$63.88, Rusty's \$13.94, Safety Kleen Systems \$289.72, Shane's Hardware \$81.33, Kent Terwilliger \$40.83, Acuity Specialty Products \$123.49 **SUPPLIES**; Joe Bechen \$35.00, Elan Financial \$403.50, Kathy Faber \$58.80, SDSU-SDLTAP \$125.00, SDACHS \$200.00, Wyatt Walter \$21.00 **TRAVEL**; First District Assn of Local Govts \$10,282.56 **URBAN/RURAL DEVELOPMENT**.

Weed Manager Kent Terwilliger met with the Commissioners to discuss weed board issues. Neises reported on phone calls with Dan Page, Wyatt Walter and Kim Lewis of the weed board; the board feels it is a waste of their time if there are no complaints, and complaints don't happen regularly anymore. They feel it might be a better use of county resources for weed issues to be addressed directly by the Commissioners. Additionally, there had been a miscommunication, and Dan Page and Kim Lewis did renew their terms on the weed board for a period of 1-year at the annual meeting on December 30th. Terwilliger gave an overview of the annual requirements to qualify for the weed grant each year. The Commissioners decided to leave the weed board as is for 2026.

Commissioners discussed the 911 transition. Cora Schwader will be meeting with Sanborn County today at 11:15 along with Jason Husby regarding the surcharge monies that have not been paid to Miner County for 911 services. The contract with Lake County Communications was discussed. State's Attorney Kristian Ellendorf had no issues with the contract. Motion by Faber, second by Carlson and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the contract with Lake County for 911 services.

Correspondence Received: December 2025 Sheriff Report, and December 2025 VSO Report.

The abatement request will be tabled until the February 3rd meeting to check on the proper procedure. The LEMPG Quarterly Report Signature Sheet was signed for the First Quarter of 2026.

Motion by Neises, second by Clary, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the 2026 contracts with the First District of Local Governments for Maintenance of the Parcel Database and GIS

Website Hosting Needs; a contract will be sent to the City of Howard for their contribution toward the GIS website.

A review of open meeting laws, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-13, was completed by all those in attendance.

Motion to move to executive session for personnel issues per SDCL 1-25-2 (1) by Faber, second by Carlson and carried at 11:08am. Returned to regular session at 11:49am. Commissioners would like the Auditor to add updating the personnel policy onto the next agenda and add an executive session on the next agenda for personnel issues.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until February 3rd. Dated this 20th day of January, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor