

January 6, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners held their reorganization meeting on January 6, 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. County Auditor Rebecca Mommaerts called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer for December 31, 2025 is \$5,736,324.05 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts.

Motion by Faber, second by Clary and carried to approve the agenda. Auditor Mommaerts called for nominations for Chair. Faber nominated Bechen, with a second by Carlson. Hearing no other nominations, Faber made a motion for nominations to cease, seconded by Clary and carried. All voted in favor of electing Bechen as Chair for 2026. Bechen took the position of Chair of the Miner County Board of Commissioners. Bechen called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Clary nominated Faber, seconded by Neises. Carlson called for nominations cease, seconded by Neises. All voted in favor of electing Faber as Vice-Chair for 2026. Motion by Faber, seconded by Neises, and carried to nominate Carlson as Chair of the Planning & Zoning Board. All voted in favor of Carlson as Chair of the Planning & Zoning Board for 2026. The minutes of the December 30th meeting were approved. Faber reported on the Weed Board meeting from December 30th. The weed board was unhappy with only receiving \$45 per meeting, rather than the \$50 they requested and may be looking at disbanding at their next meeting. Donald Eppe will be attending the Weed Conference with Terwilliger again this year.

Motion by Carlson, second by Neises and carried to pay the following claims: Alliance \$150.00, Santel \$30.00, Triotel \$169.53 **911 CHARGES**; FJM \$76.76 **COLLECTION FEES**; IAAO \$255.00, SDAAO \$150.00, SDACO \$758.26, SDACC \$1,706.00, SD Assn Weed Supervisor \$75.00, SDEMA \$50.00, SD Sheriffs Association \$568.94 **DUES**; HFCA \$82.66 **FUEL**; County Employee \$88.40 **INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT**; LeadsOnline \$2,286.00 **INVESTIGATIVE EXPENSE**; Davison Co Sheriff \$2,730.00 **PRISONER CARE**; MC Pioneer \$505.40 **PUBLISHING**; Microfilm Imaging Systems \$470.00 **RENT**; Dware, Inc. \$4,900.00, ES&S \$4,830.60, Howard Auto Clinic \$523.18, HFCA \$71.35, Twotrees Tech \$1,784.65, Vanguard Appraisals \$1,750.00 **REPAIRS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Relx, Inc. \$188.00 **SUBSCRIPTION**; Amazon \$40.86, Dakota Data Shred \$26.25, Puthoff Repair \$62.02, Tim Reisch \$433.33, Rusty's \$10.23, Tami Severson \$20.00, Twotrees Tech \$197.20 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance \$971.03, AT&T \$429.12, Jessica Charles \$30.00, Erin Feldhaus \$30.00, Lori Kiehl \$30.00, Becki Mommaerts \$30.00, Tami Severson \$30.00, Molly Steeneck \$30.00, Verizon \$107.22, Danielle Werkmeister \$30.00 **TELEPHONE**; City of Howard \$2,978.46, Xcel Energy \$71.81 **UTILITIES**.

Treasurer Jessica Charles presented, as required by SDCL 10-22-31, a list of delinquent mobile homes and buildings on leased site. She will now proceed with statute requirements for collection.

Correspondence received: America250 Information from Cecelia Wittmayer, Department of Game, Fish & Parks 2025 Annual Wildlife Damage Program Report, and Proposed Air Quality General Permit for Concrete Plants Operating in South Dakota from DANR.

Motion by Clary, second by Carlson, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the Juvenile Contract for Beadle County JDC for 2026.

Planning & Zoning Director Tami Severson gave an overview of the South Dakota Reinvestment Payment Program as it relates to Hord Family Farms of SD, LLC and Miner County. State's Attorney Ellendorf has reviewed the agreement and saw no issues. Severson is awaiting a response to one question before the agreement can be signed, but she believes it will come during the meeting.

Highway Superintendent Ron Krempges reported on the bridge west of Carthage; the wet conditions are delaying the gravel work at the moment. The bridge east of Carthage should be bid in February, with a potential fall completion date. There will also be a bridge project northeast of Argonne this year. Krempges reviewed options for the skid steer purchase. His preference would be the 275 Model from Gehl that is currently in stock for \$64,500; Commissioners approved this purchase. Krempges plans on placing the current skid steer (2015 Gehl R260) up for auction.

The Mack truck is back down in the shop in Sioux Falls. The 2022 Freightliner is also needing repairs. Krempges will be requesting a new truck in the 2027 budget, with the hopes to get it at the beginning of 2027. Other highway work discussed included graveling, getting chips stockpiled, and crack sealing.

Severson received the response she had been waiting on and recommended signing of the Reinvestment Program documents. Motion by Faber to authorize Bechen to sign the Reinvestment Payment Program Assignment of Payment and Amendment, seconded by Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

The Miner County Pioneer was designated as the official county newspaper. The Miner County Courthouse, Canova Community Hall, and Carthage Community Center were designated as mortgage sale sites. Rivers Edge Bank in Howard, American Bank & Trust in Carthage, and SD Public Funds Investment Trust (FIT) were designated as official depositories.

The following appointments were made for the Ambulance Board: Jackie Stuhr (City), Jody Becker (Medical), and Rob Eggert (Law Enforcement) to 3-year terms on the Ambulance Board.

Members and the year their term expires are as follows:

Mike Connor (NE area) 1-1-27	Gibi Page (NW area) 1-1-28
Denise Gassman (SW area) 1-1-27	Jackie Stuhr (City) 1-1-29
Jody Becker (EMT) 1-1-28	Jody Becker (Medical) 1-1-29
<i>vacant</i> (SE area)	Rob Eggert (Law Enforcement) 1-1-29

The following persons serve as Volunteer Ambulance Attendants: Jody Becker, Cathy Cavigielli and Aaron Jeffrey; and Volunteer Ambulance Drivers: Mike Clary, Rob Eggert, Josh Esser, Kevin Feldhaus, Josh Hahn, Amie Kidd, Nathan Kizer, Nick Kramer, Amber Kramer, Ron Krempges, Evan Meyer, Adam North, Nathan Ruml, Scott Stangohr, and Drew Yanish.

Members of the weed board and the year their term expires are as follows:

<i>vacant</i> (NW Area)	Brandon Jacobson (SE Area) 1-1-27
<i>vacant</i> (NE Area)	Wyatt Walter (SW Area) 1-1-27

The following persons serve as weather spotters: Matt Bornitz, Joe Calmus, Mike Clary, Kody Dawson, Nathan Dawson, Evan Donahue, Rob Eggert, Dave Esser, Reginald Faber, Kevin Feldhaus, Mike Genzlinger, Sam Gosmire, David Hattervig, Dick Henn, Mike Hvam, Aaron Jeffrey, Nathan Kizer, Nick Kramer, Ron Krempges, Randy Lager, Lee Lewis, Evan Meyer, Tim Nelson, Adam North, Gary Nutter, Dan Page, Gibi Page, Chad Podhradsky, Alex Protsch, Eric Rentschler, Ken Ruml, Nathan Ruml, Brandon Schwader, Scott Stangohr, Grant Stevens, Travis Stevens, and Drew Yanish.

The following serve as EOC Volunteers: Teresa Abrahamson, Ashley Callies, Connie Eliason, Wade Erickson, John Mengenhausen, and Rick Olson.

The following commissioners' appointments were made for 2026:

Entire board-Zoning and Emergency Management Boards

Weed Board-Carlson & Faber

Highway-Bechen & Clary

Law Enforcement-Clary

Juvenile Detention Board-Clary

Ambulance Board-Faber

4-H Promotion & Expansion-Neises & Carlson

Farm-Bechen & Neises

911 Board – Neises & Clary

First District Board-Bechen

Legislative Representative-Carlson

Courthouse-Bechen & Neises

Planning & Zoning Board Alternate-John Reisch

Motion by Neises, second by Carlson to pass the following resolution:

Resolution 26-1

WHEREAS, SDCL 7-7-25 states that the Board of County Commissioners, by resolution, may authorize county officials to attend educational conferences, meetings, and conventions held and conducted within the state of South Dakota pertaining to the betterment and advancement of county government;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the county commissioners, highway superintendent, auditor, treasurer, register of deeds, state's attorney, sheriff, assessing officer, coroner, veterans service officer, weed supervisor and emergency manager be authorized to attend conferences, meetings, and conventions (within SD) called for the purpose set forth in SDCL 7-7-25 and that the mileage and necessary expenses to attend such be allowed. This resolution shall be in force for fiscal year 2026.

Voting aye: Bechen, Faber, Neises, Carlson & Clary. Voting nay: none.

Resolution approved this 6th day of January, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman

Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber to pass the following resolution:

Resolution 26-2

WHEREAS, SDCL 12-15-11 provides that the Board of Commissioners shall by annual resolution at the first regular commission meeting establish the rate of compensation to be paid the judges and clerks of a necessary election;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the rate of compensation for judges and clerks for any county-wide election in 2026 be established at \$275.00 for a general election, \$250.00 for a primary or special election, on call election board workers \$75, election school attendants \$30 and resolution board workers \$100. Post Election Audit Board members shall be paid \$25.00 per hour for each hour required plus the county mileage rate per mile for miles necessarily traveled, any necessary meal costs and any other costs established in SD Administrative Rule 05:02:23:15.

Voting aye: Bechen, Faber, Neises, Carlson & Clary. Voting nay: none.

Resolution approved this 6th day of January, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

Motion by Clary, second by Faber to pass the following resolution:

Resolution 26-3

2026 SALARY RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the following wage scale for Miner County employees be in effect for fiscal year 2026 (annual salary unless otherwise specified).

Commissioners-Chairman	\$12,940
Vice-chairman	12,361
Commissioners	11,709
Appointed boards	45.00/ meeting
Auditor, Rebecca Mommaerts	58,629
Treasurer Jessica Charles	58,629
Register of Deeds Gibi Page	58,629
Director of Equalization Tami Severson	61,590
State's Attorney Kristian Ellendorf	55,194
Deputy State's Attorney Greg Protsch	23,406
Sheriff Robert Eggert	63,981
Chief Deputy Sheriff Josh Hahn	51,336
Deputy Sheriff Darrell O'Connor	48,798
Part-time law enforcement	22.90/hr.
Guards-	21.49/hr.
Highway Safety Grant Hours	26.30/hr.
Director of 911 & Dispatch Services Cora Schwader plus a \$1.00 per hour bonus for providing dispatcher training	53,463
Dispatchers/Permanent PT Clerical:	
Level 1-Amy Lovett	22.12/hr.
Level 2-Cheryl Moore	22.56/hr.
Level 3-Julie Lightbourn	23.00/hr.
Level 4-Amanda Austerman	23.44/hr.
Level 5-Jennifer Hahn, Shannon Hoffman	23.88/hr.
Level 6-Deborah Gibson	24.32/hr.
Level 7-	24.76/hr.
Level 8-Jennifer Bolden, Joni Jacobsen	25.20/hr.
Level 9-	25.64/hr.
Level 10- Randall Schwader	26.08/hr.

plus a \$1.00 per hour bonus for providing dispatcher training

Full-time clerical (salaried):

Level 1-	39,804 (21.87/hr)
Level 2-	40,224 (22.10/hr)
Level 3- Justin Brandsma, Barb Esser	40,695 (22.36/hr)
Level 4-	41,097 (22.58/hr)
Level 5-	41,496 (22.80/hr)
Level 6-	41,898 (23.02/hr)
Level 7- Brittany Yanish	42,297 (23.24/hr)
Level 8-	42,699 (23.46/hr)
Level 9-	43,098 (23.68/hr)
Level 10-Amie Kidd	43,500 (23.90/hr)

Temporary clerical	21.12/hr.
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Custodian-Lori Kiehl	23.37/hr.
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Emergency Management Director-Kent Terwilliger	33,408
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Veterans Service Officer-Tim Reisch	7,686
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Ambulance Manager-Cora Schwader	12,282
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Ambulance Billing Manager – Justin Brandsma	22.36/hr.
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Welfare Director-Cheryl Moore	22.56/hr.
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Ambulance EMT- Molly Steeneck, Erin Feldhaus, Danielle Werkmeister	34,047
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Ambulance Volunteers	
Weekday-12 hr shift	\$48
Weekend-12 hr shift	\$78
Holiday-24 hr shift	\$100
3 rd Attendant/Driver	\$30/run

Weed Supervisor-Kent Terwilliger	17,991
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Highway Department: Superintendent-Ron Krempges	72,162
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Level 1-	20.87/hr.
Level 2-	21.66/hr.
Level 3-	21.88/hr.
Level 4-Mike Umstead	22.10/hr.
Level 5-Terry Burger	22.33/hr.
Level 6-	22.54/hr.
Level 7-Brian Dold	22.96/hr.
Level 8-Adam Mentele, Eric Smith	23.46/hr.
Level 9-Donald Eppe, Jeremy Beyer	23.68/hr.
Level 10-Terry Carlson	23.90/hr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that longevity pay based on \$25.00 per year of employment be paid in November for 2026.

Voting aye: Bechen, Faber, Neises, Carlson & Clary. Voting nay: none.

Resolution approved this 6th day of January, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

Kari Jo Carlson left the meeting at this time.

Motion by Clary, second by Neises and carried to set the 2026 holidays as follows: All County offices (excluding 911 call center employees): New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday (afternoon only), Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Native American Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve (afternoon only), Christmas Day;

911 call center employees (all shifts unless otherwise noted): New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday (5 PM to 1 AM), Easter, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Native American Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve (5 PM-1AM shift), Christmas Day, New Year's Eve (5 PM-1 AM shift).

Motion by Clary, second by Neises and carried to approve the clothing allowance of \$250/yr/employee for law enforcement clothing and \$250/yr/employee for high-visibility clothing for highway workers. Miner County Ambulance rates for 2026 will be \$650 plus \$18.00/mile. Miner County copy rates will be \$0.25 per black copy and \$0.50 per color copy.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until January 20th. Dated this 6th day of January, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor