

October 21, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 21, 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 Carlson, and carried to approve the agenda, as presented. The minutes of the October 7th meeting were approved, with corrections:

- The words “Carlson relayed that she spoke to legal counsel for Old Republic title insurance, and they confirmed that the now-presented affidavits were approved to be used as attachments to the plat that will allow the plat to be recorded” will be replaced with “Carlson relayed that she spoke with State’s Attorney, Greg Protsch, and attorney, Jake Tiede, who notarized the plat. She also contacted Trisha Protsch and asked her to run the situation past one of her underwriters. The legal counsel for Old Republic National Title gave three options to resolve the issue with the plat. It was decided to have affidavits completed that explained the situation attached to the plat”.
- Add the signature lines for Resolution 25-21

No one appeared for public comment.

Motion by Clary, seconded by Neises, and carried to pay the following claims: SD DOR \$1,498.83 **ANIMAL CONTROL**; Canova Twp \$16,305.21 **RURAL ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE**; Ulteig Engineers \$23,801.80 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Lammers, Kleibacker, Dawson & Miller \$444.00 **COURT APPT ATTY**; Elan Financial \$67.39, Wingen’s Garage \$2,862.15 **FUEL**; Christy McMullen \$320.00 **MOWING**; Lori Kiehl \$1,710.00, Marshall & Swift/Boeckh \$2,355.10, Office Peeps \$78.65, Tritech Software Systems \$1,100.17, Two Way Solutions \$49.00 **REPAIRS**; True North Steel \$14,339.20 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Amazon \$46.97, Home Service Water \$35.00, Kimball Midwest \$337.95, Light and Siren \$486.00, Michael Todd & Co. \$1,407.00 **SUPPLIES**; Joe Bechen \$51.75, Kathy Faber \$86.94 **TRAVEL**; Central Electric Coop \$161.07 **UTILITIES**.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: September VSO report, September Sheriff report and the State General Permit Application Plans & Specifications Review from DANR for Hord Family Farms.

Director of Equalization Tami Severson explained that due to prior appointments, she will not be able to ride in the county vehicle to the District meeting in Plankinton in November. Though her distance to the meeting will actually be greater due to the location of her appointment, she requested mileage reimbursement for the distance between Howard and Plankinton. Commissioners approved paying mileage at the personal vehicle rate of \$0.315/mile for the Howard to Plankinton round-trip distance.

Auditor Rebecca Mommaerts requested shutting the Auditor’s office October 29 – 30th to allow the Auditor staff to attend the Secretary of State election training in Pierre.

Commissioners granted this request, instructing Mommaerts to put a notice in the paper and on the Courthouse and office doors, notifying the public of the closure.

Dan Scott was unable to make his meeting appointment, but he relayed information to Bechen. The court date for the matter of the refuse dump near the Lake-Miner County line is scheduled for the 28th-31st in Sioux Falls. Scott requested someone from the Commission be available during the court proceedings. Former Commission Chair Alex Protsch sent out a letter around two years ago. Jameson Berreth, Madison City Administrator, attended to answer questions the board might have. Berreth stated that DANR believes that all requirements have been met. This would be a “restricted use site,” for construction materials, not a landfill – nothing protrusible would be admissible, and there would be an employee there to open it up, monitor dumping and take payments. The materials would be crushed into the ground and filled with clay and black dirt; there would be no burning. Berreth stated the property has been purchased and they are looking to get a permit to operate the site before taking further steps. Berreth assured the Commissioners that this site would never become a landfill. Commissioners thanked Berreth for his time and chose not to take any further action on the matter.

Motion by Faber, seconded by Clary, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the Security Assessment Agreement with Dakota State University (“MadLabs”) for a cybersecurity assessment through Project Boundary Fence.

Chairman Bechen reviewed and signed the quarterly LEMPG report.

A complaint from the 4-H mowing contractor was discussed. Though the mowing contract states that mowing must be done to the satisfaction of the Miner County Custodian, Commissioners will have Lori Kiehl include more specifications in the mowing bid documents for next year. Further communication with the mowing contractor will be through the Miner County Commissioners.

Miner Conservation District Manager Tami Moore presented the 2024 annual report to the board. Moore informed the board that the county contribution goes to education and community involvement activities.

Curt Neises presented his property & liability insurance renewal proposal to the board; the carriers will remain the same as before, Continental Western for property and liability and Spinnaker (Cowbell) for Cyber insurance. If not for inflation, rates would be up approximately 8%. Neises explained the blanket basis coverage, liability limits, umbrella coverage, and aggregate limit. Insurance is on an occurrence basis. Coverage for the ambulance is on its own policy. Neises stated he would need a signature on the builder’s risk agreement for the structure currently being built at the 4-H grounds.

4-H Youth Program Educator Jill Calmus gave a 4-H Department update. The new year began October 1st, 2025. There were over 1,000 in attendance at the Fall Festival fundraiser. The annual 4-H Week was celebrated October 5-11th; cookies were delivered to sponsors and donors. Cloverbuds begins this week. Due to the large number of young enrollees, it has been split into two age groups this year. The Miner County 4-H Recognition Event is scheduled for

Nov. 18th, and the Miner County Feeder Calf Show will be November 28th. Shooting Sports sign-up is in January. They are planning various project days, and construction on the picnic shelter on the 4-H grounds has begun.

Motion by Faber, seconded by Neises, and carried for Chairman Bechen to sign the AAA Service Agreement and Business Associate Agreement to partner with them for future collection attempts.

Hometown Holidays will take place on a Saturday this year (December 6th), with the theme “Dashing through the Decades.” The Festival of Trees will remain on Friday, December 5th, from 12:30-3:00pm at the courthouse. Commissioners approved use of the courthouse for the annual Festival of Trees.

Cody Oien & Dominic Antrobus, representatives from Colonial Life, reviewed the free benefits available to the county employees by allowing Colonial Life to come in and present available plan options with employees. Commissioners reviewed plan options for life and dental. A special meeting will be held on Monday, October 27 at 5:30pm to allow for more time to discuss property & liability, health, and auxiliary insurances.

Lynn Bren, Executive Director of SDPAA, presented her quote for property & liability coverage to the board. SDPAA coverage includes LLRMI (Legal & Liability Risk Management Institute) resources. LLRMI has a national conference in SD in Deadwood that is SD Law Enforcement focused, which members are able to attend. Lynn encouraged the board to reach out with any questions.

Director of 911 & Dispatch Services Cora Schwader gave an update on the 911 project. The Lake County Commission unanimously voted to proceed with contracting for emergency and nonemergency dispatch; this does not include City of Howard utility outage calls. Commissioners would like to see more public education, similar to the recent Miner County Sheriff Facebook post, on reasons an individual should call 911 as opposed to the nonemergency phone line. Schwader received “wish lists” from all the fire and ambulance departments in the county; Schwader will email a copy to Clary. Two-Way Solutions is compiling an inventory of all current equipment and what will be needed. One of the biggest challenges is work needed on the repeater for Canova. Lake County 9-1-1 Communications would like all Miner County fire departments on the same radio system. The timeline for this transition is unknown at this time; a supplemental budget may be needed for 2026.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until Monday, October 27th. Dated this 21st day of October 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor