

December 2, 2025

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

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 amended. The minutes from November 18th were approved. Bechen attended Vermillion Basin Water Development District meeting in Howard on November 19th. No one appeared for public comment.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: November 19, 2025 minutes, July & August 2025 treasurer reports, and August District Conservationist Report from the Miner Conservation District.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Faber, and carried to pay the following claims: Road & Bridge \$49,891.36, MERP Fund \$57,779.86, Reliance Standard \$1,405.44, Delta Dental \$500.64, Retirement \$8,293.15, OASI \$11,302.03, Commissioners \$4,795.75, Auditor \$8,204.00, Treasurer \$8,451.75, States Attorney \$7,438.00 (includes Kristian Ellendorf at \$4,380.50/mo & Greg Protsch at 1,857.50/mo), Govt Building \$3,573.60, Director of Equalization \$9,530.54, Register of Deeds \$7,441.88, Vet Service \$760.00, Sheriff \$14,397.25, Contract Law \$4,374.00, Welfare \$0.00, Ambulance \$12,001.79, Extension \$1,243.05, Weed \$1,488.75, Dispatch \$16,794.24, Emergency Mgt \$2,764.75 **NOVEMBER PAYROLL**. Barb Esser \$14.00, Tami Severson \$28.00, Amie Kidd \$14.00 **PAYROLL TRAVEL**.

Triotel \$169.53 **911 CHARGES**; Graves Construction \$201,405.00 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Lammers, Kleibacker, Dawson & Miller \$929.00 **COURT APPT ATTY**; Horizon Health \$190.00 **DRUG TESTING**; SDAE4-HP \$200.00 **DUES**; Kiesler Police Supply \$2,588.96 **EQUIPMENT**; Northwestern Energy \$212.08 **GAS**; Children's Care Corner \$7,000.00, Miner County Historical Society \$2,500.00 **GRANTS**; Brian Baldwin \$155.00 **IN SERVICE EDUCATION**; SDPAA \$87,940.37 **INSURANCE**; County Employee \$2,000.00 **INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT**; Miner Co Treasurer \$62.74 **POSTAGE**; Miner County Pioneer \$354.73 **PUBLISHING**; Microfilm Imaging \$470.00 **RENT**; Eliason Welding \$773.00, Two Trees Technology \$1,784.65 **REPAIRS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Relx, Inc. \$188.00 **SUBSCRIPTION**; Amazon \$1,385.39, City of Carthage \$78.50, Dust-Tex \$251.40, Monarch Sales \$171.00, Northern Truck Equipment \$104.94, Tim Reisch \$433.33, Tami Severson \$20.00, Auto Value \$757.64, Two Trees Technology \$197.20 **SUPPLIES**; AT&T \$423.34, 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**; Justin Brandsma \$48.00, Becki Mommaerts \$70.89, Ramkota Pierre \$463.00 **TRAVEL**; City of Howard \$2,481.89, Xcel Energy \$32.00 **UTILITIES**.

Motion by Carlson, second by Neises, to grant administrative leave to regular full-time employees on December 26th for the Christmas holiday. Vote was done by roll call: Bechen – nay, Faber-aye, Neises-aye, Carlson-aye, Clary-nay. Motion passed. County offices will be closed at noon on Christmas Eve through the following weekend.

Highway Superintendent Ron Krempges gave an update on the Carthage bridge. A future bridge project cost for the Depressional Wetland Capacity Units went from \$22,616 up to \$56,672. Krempges spoke to both Matt Lacey at the DOT and Brad Stangoir of Ulteig regarding this large increase. Commissioners want assurances that the price will not go up again before the bid letting. Krempges will try to find out more information before the meeting on December 16th, but he stated that to get funding, the county will have to agree to the upcharge.

Signs for the road by the Hord Family Farm construction site should be coming soon. Krempges will begin looking into options for a new skid steer, as budgeted for 2026. Krempges will finish employee evaluations before the next meeting. Other highway projects include blading and bringing in gravel to the Carthage bridge in hopes of getting that opened up. Bechen asked about the Mack truck that has been having many issues; Krempges will factor a replacement into the 2027 budget.

Motion by Faber, seconded by Carlson, and carried to declare the HP LaserJet P4014dn from the Auditor's office surplus and offer it to the 4-H program and to declare the HP LaserJet Pro 400 from the DOE office surplus and authorize its disposal.

Motion by Carlson, second by Clary, to authorize the auditor to make an automatic supplement for grant funds received from the State of South Dakota to the judicial budget in the amount of \$5,511.49.

Motion by Faber, seconded by Neises, and carried to recess as Board of Commissioners and convene as the Planning & Zoning board acting as the Board of Adjustment. Carlson took the position as Chair. Zoning Administrator Severson gave background information on the conditional use request.

A hearing was held, as advertised, to consider an application for conditional use from Hord Family Farms, LLC to construct a portable concrete mixing plant in the Spring of 2026 within the SW4SW4 of Section 19-108-56, Grafton Township, Miner County, South Dakota. Present for the hearing included board members Kari Jo Carlson, Joe Bechen, Kathy Faber, Tim Neises and Mike Clary; Zoning Administrator Tami Severson; applicant Nick Fitzgerald on behalf of the Hord Family Farms, and Jan Torkelson. Zoning Administrator Severson presented the application to the board, stating the application site meets all set back requirements as provided in the Miner County zoning ordinance.

Nick Fitzgerald gave background information for the proposed construction. GGC out of DeSmet is the concrete contractor. While the roads are frozen this winter, the pad would be built and aggregate will be brought in. This would minimize traffic on the roads during the spring thaw time. Concrete pour would be for about 90 days, pending the weather. This permit would last from January 1 through the end of July. They likely would not be pouring any concrete until April, when weather allows. There would be a 75' x 150' pad for equipment and another 215' x 50' staging area for aggregate. Well water at the site would be used. The plant will be coming from Roscoe. It would be similar to what is up at Redstone Dairy. They would look to move the plant right at the first of the year. They will reclaim aggregate base to reuse around the sow farm afterward. They are hoping to be done by the 1st of July. If they aren't done, the roads should be in good shape to haul the remainder of what is needed.

Motion by Faber to approve the conditional use, seconded by Bechen. Carlson opened the public hearing. Torkelson questioned the distance of the concrete plant from the building she owns that she states will be a residence during that time. She asked about the hours of operation, noise level, and dust pollution.

Carlson closed the public hearing. Following consideration of oral support and concerns of granting the application, and with the earlier motion by Faber and second by Bechen to approve the conditional use, the following findings were presented:

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
HORD FAMILY FARMS, LLC FOR A) FINDINGS
CONDITIONAL USE)

FINDINGS

I

That the applicant, Hord Family Farms, LLC, has made an application for a conditional use to import a temporary portable concrete mixing plant to mix concrete on site for construction activities in the spring of 2026 within the plat of tract 1 of Hord's Addition in the SW ¼, Section 19-T108N, R56W of the 5th P.M., Grafton Township, Miner County, South Dakota, and that they are the owner of record thereof.

III

That the proposed use of said realty is specifically prohibited by the zoning ordinance without the applicant first obtaining a conditional use, for which they have applied.

III

That upon said application, notice of hearing was given as required by the Miner County Zoning Ordinance by mailing to the adjoining landowners and by publication.

IV

That hearing upon said application was held on December 2, 2025, in the Commission Room of the Miner County Courthouse.

V

That the applicant, Hord Family Farms, LLC, represented by Nick Fitzgerald, appeared in person.

VI

That Jan Torkelson appeared as a neutral party for the conditional use hearing.

VII

That a presentation in support of said conditional use and testimony on behalf of said conditional use was received at the hearing and that testimony regarding concerns for granting of the variance was received at the hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, that application and testimony at the hearing all having been considered, it is the FINDING of the Miner County Board of Adjustment that the application of Hord Family Farms, LLC for a conditional use be approved for a conditional use for the following reasons:

1. That the Miner County Board of Adjustment is empowered under Section 505 of the Miner County Zoning Ordinance to grant with conditions the conditional use and that the granting of the conditional use will not adversely affect the public interest.
2. That the Miner County Board of Adjustment certifies compliance with the specific rules governing individual conditional uses.
3. That the Miner County Board of Adjustment is able to make the applicable findings required by Section 505, Subsection 4 & 5 of the ordinance, which are considered prerequisite to the granting of a conditional use.

VIII

That the Board of Adjustment vote upon approval of such application was five in favor thereof and none opposed thereto.

It is, therefore, ORDERED that said application to import a temporary portable concrete mixing plant to mix concrete onsite for construction activities in the spring of 2026, significantly reducing the constructed-related concrete truck traffic on Hwy 25 and 224th St. during the spring thaw season, and ultimately preserving the roads during a sensitive time, at the plat of tract 1 of Hord's Addition in the SW ¼, Section 19-T108N, R56W, of the 5th P.M., Grafton Township, Miner County, South Dakota be approved without conditions.

Dated this 2nd day of December, 2025.

Kari Jo Carlson, Chairperson
Miner County Board of Adjustment

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Secretary

Motion by Clary, second by Neises and carried to adjourn as the Board of Adjustment and reconvene as the Board of Miner County Commissioners. Bechen resumed the position of Chair.

Motion by Faber, second by Neises, to go into executive session at 10:29am, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (4). The board returned to regular session at 10:42am.

Ambulance Manager Cora Schwader gave an update on the search for a potential future ambulance barn. Wendell Steeneck is reluctant to give an estimated cost for the plumbing requirements for the building under consideration, as putting a drain in the building is going to

be a major undertaking, due to the uncertainty of the depth of the cement. Adding a washer and dryer and upgrading the bathroom would not be a problem.

Director of 911 & Dispatch Services Cora Schwader communicated with the Lake County Communications 911 Director regarding the two Miner County seats that will be added to their board. The board is currently made up of two Lake County commissioners and two Madison City councilmen. The expectation would be for two Miner County commissioners to fill those seats. The Miner County Commissioners stated they would prefer one commissioner and one member of the Miner County public safety community to be representatives on the Lake County 911 Board.

Schwader reported on Sanborn County's payment to Dispatch as requested after the last meeting. At the 2024 Dispatch Board meeting, Sanborn County agreed to pay 100% of their 911 surcharge money, plus the traffic fee. In May 2025, at a meeting with Sanborn County Sheriff's office personnel, a proposal was developed for the coming years. Schwader stated that the proposal was made that Sanborn County would pay Miner County 100% of their surcharge money for 2024 and 2025. Schwader received oral confirmation from Josh Starzman in June, but it is not indicated in the Sanborn County minutes. Schwader presented a proposed invoice for Sanborn County showing a total of \$26,861.83 due for 2024 and 2025 dispatch services. A letter will be drafted to Sanborn County and will be reviewed by Carlson. The invoice and letter will be sent to the Sanborn County auditor, sheriff and each commissioner at their home address.

Motion by Faber, second by Neises to go into executive session at 11:07am, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (6)(d). Done at 11:56am.

Commissioners received a request from Wade Huntington to increase the financial support for the public health nurse to \$7,186.48 for 2026. Commissioners chose to leave the amount as what was budgeted for 2026, which was \$6,696. Commissioners requested the Auditor relay that the State's future requests should be made by July or August so it can be reviewed when the budget is being set.

Motion by Clary, second by Neises, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the MOU between SDSU and Miner County of South Dakota for 2026.

Motion by Faber, second by Clary, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the Intergovernmental Contract and Acknowledgement of Known & Unknown Claims for SDPAA.

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

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor