

December 30, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in special session on December 30, 2025, in the Miner County Courthouse Commission Room. Members present: Joe Bechen, Kathy Faber, Tim Neises, and Mike Clary. Absent: Kari Jo Carlson (for the beginning of the meeting).

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 from December 16th were approved. No reports of meetings attended. No one appeared for public comment.

Motion by Clary, seconded by Neises, and carried to pay the following claims: Road & Bridge \$62,391.80, MERP Fund \$61,433.28, Reliance Standard \$890.96, Delta Dental \$1,042.44, Retirement \$8,877.19, MASA \$272.00, OASI \$11,884.27, Commissioners \$4,795.75, Auditor \$7,854.68 (includes Justin Brandsma @ \$3215.50/mo), Treasurer \$8,001.75, States Attorney \$6,238.00, Govt Building \$3,473.60, Director of Equalization \$9,403.02, Register of Deeds \$7,298.75, Vet Service \$762.24, Sheriff \$12,522.25, Coroner \$75.00, Contract Law \$4,324.00, Welfare \$144.45, Ambulance \$12,017.27, Extension \$1,321.45, Weed \$1,427.50, Dispatch \$17,090.73, Emergency Mgt \$2,651.00 **DECEMBER PAYROLL**; Graves Construction \$235,545.60, SD DOT \$10,954.17 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Avera \$75.40, Redwood Toxicology \$146.00 **DRUG TESTING**; Amazon \$1,350.00, Auto Value \$529.95 **EQUIPMENT**; Josh Esser \$60.00 **EVOC DRIVER**; Elan Financial \$47.00, HFCA \$9,305.38, Auto Value \$126.89 **FUEL**; Northwestern Energy \$1,044.46 **GAS**; Howard Tigers PAWS PTO \$2,000.00 **GRANT**; Jury Members \$350.00 **JURIES**; Miner Co Treasurer \$87.00 **POSTAGE**; Dust-Tex \$180.48 **RENT**; Al's Service \$149.11, Crafco \$1,000.00, Dakota Fluid Power \$1,202.06, HFCA \$65.01, Office Peeps \$78.65, Prostrollo \$154.45, Safe N Secure \$241.02, Auto Value \$105.95 **REPAIRS**; Crafco \$28,708.75, Lyle Signs \$131.85 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Amazon \$966.15, Butler Machinery \$809.30, Dakota Fluid Power \$147.80, Elan Financial \$344.07, Homestead Building Supply \$7.09, Hydraulic World \$2,180.78, John Deere \$544.58, North Central Int'l \$451.35, Office Peeps \$495.77, Rusty's \$368.00, Auto Value \$1,007.28, Twin Valley Tire \$2,698.00, Two Way Solutions \$365.97, Crafco \$3,314.95, Dust-Tex \$251.40 **SUPPLIES**; Joe Bechen \$52.50, Kathy Faber \$88.20, HFCA \$15.91, Jury Members \$117.60 **TRAVEL**.

Highway Superintendent Krempges submitted a corrected Letting Authorization for Project No. BRF-B 6136(01) PCN 09MC due to missing design costs on the previous form, bringing the total cost of the project to \$1,184,000. Motion by Faber, seconded by Neises, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the updated Letting Authorization for this project.

Severson presented a request from Cotality (Core Logic) to purchase the GIS Parcel Layer for \$5,000 plus tax. Motion by Clary, second by Faber, and carried to approve the sale of the GIS Parcel Layer.

An email was received from the Miner County Historical Society, seeking local government involvement in the America250 activities being planned nationwide, statewide, and locally by the Historical Society this year, primarily in the month of July. Commissioners made no action at this time.

Motion by Neises, seconded by Faber, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the Sioux Falls Area Human Society's Animal Control Services and Impoundment Facility Operations Agreement for the year 2026.

Motion by Clary, seconded by Faber, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the Davison County Sheriff's Office Jail Contract for 2026.

Commissioner Kari Jo Carlson joined the meeting at this time.

A public hearing was held, as advertised, at 9:30am for consideration of the adoption of a supplemental budget for Miner County for 2025. Hearing no opposition to the supplemental budget consideration, it was moved by Carlson, seconded by Faber, and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-25

ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR MINER COUNTY

WHEREAS, SDCL 7-21-22 provides that the Board of Commissioners, in the event of the failure to provide by the final budget a sufficient appropriation to enable the county to conduct the indispensable functions of government, may make, approve, and adopt a supplemental budget providing therein for an appropriation for such purposes; and

WHEREAS, notice has been given of the board's intention to make and adopt such supplemental budget, along with the time and place when the same will be considered and adopted by the governing board, by posting at the front & back door of the courthouse and by publication;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that such supplemental budget, OPERATING TRANSFER TO 911 \$4,000 shall be approved and adopted as a supplemental budget to the 2025 annual budget for Miner County, South Dakota.

Dated this 30th day of December 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Kathy Faber
Kari Jo Carlson
Tim Neises
Mike Clary

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

Motion by Faber, seconded by Carlson, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the fuel contract for 2026 with the Howard Farmers Coop Association.

The following employees were recognized for their commitment and service to the citizens of Miner County: Terry Carlson for 15 years of service; Rob Eggert for 25 years of service; Donald Eppe for 25 years of service, and Ron Krempges for 40 years of service.

State's Attorney Kristian Ellendorf gave an update on the Catastrophic Legal Expense Relief Program (CLERP). Once costs exceed \$25,000 for a specific case, a claim can be submitted for the CLERP to cover 90% of the costs beyond that initial \$25,000. CEF is another fund that could help cover up to \$1500 for a competency evaluation.

Auditor Mommaerts presented the job description for the new role of Buildings & Grounds Manager, which will replace the role of Custodian at Miner County. Lori Kiehl shall assume this new job title effective January 1, 2026.

Director of 911 & Dispatch Services Cora Schwader gave a departmental update. The City of Howard put a notice in the paper regarding after-hours nonemergency calls that has resulted in calls to the county due to confusion from its vague wording. Schwader intends to put a clarification ad in the paper and on Facebook.

Schwader read the Sanborn County minutes from December 16th which state that their board made a proposal regarding the amount owed for E911 services via e-mail, which was received by Miner County. Schwader stated that the agreement with Sanborn County was for 100% of the surcharge monies; however, Sanborn County has not paid that amount. Schwader did some research, and Mitchell PSAP's contracts for 2026 require a flat 95% of surcharge monies plus a \$3,000 annual capital fee, plus a traffic services fee, if desired. Miner County's request then seems well within line. The dispute goes back to the change in surcharge revenue due to a law change in 2024. Carlson requested all the related documentation be emailed or mailed to the entire Sanborn County Commission. Neises requested that Schwader meet with the Sanborn County Commission to discuss the disagreement in person. The Commission also requested that Schwader consult with the State 911 Coordination Board for assistance with this matter. Schwader will try to get on Sanborn County's agenda for January 20th.

It was moved by Carlson and seconded by Faber and carried unanimously to revert the capital outlay designations of 2025 Bridge Replacement \$300,000, 2025 Chip Seal \$200,000, and 2025 Motor Grader \$460,000 (a total of \$960,000) back to General Fund Balance Unassigned.

It was moved by Faber and seconded by Neises and carried to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-26

WHEREAS SDCL 7-21-51 allows the board of commissioners to authorize the accumulation of funds for a period longer than one year for capital outlay purposes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Miner County Board of Commissioners set forth funds from the General Fund for capital outlay accumulation as follows: Move 2025 Bridge Replacement \$120,000 to 2026, and add 2026 Skidsteer \$80,000, 2027 Truck \$260,000, 2028 Backhoe \$160,000, and 2028 Front End Loader \$380,000.

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

Resolution adopted this 30th day of December 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

It was moved by Faber, seconded by Neises, and carried to make an operating transfer, as provided for in the 2025 budget, in the amount of \$562,964 from General Fund to Highway in the amount of \$558,964 and to 911 in the amount of \$4,000.

It was moved by Carlson and seconded by Neises to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-27

WHEREAS, insufficient appropriation was made in the 2025 budget for the following departments to discharge just obligation of said appropriation; and

WHEREAS, SDCL 7-21-32.2 provides that transfers may be made by resolution of the board from the contingency appropriation established pursuant to SDCL 7-21-6.1 to other appropriations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the appropriation be transferred from contingency to the following departments: Commissioners \$28,388.97; and 911 \$4,884.10.

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

Resolution approved this 30th day of December 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

The Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan (MERP) cash balance as of December 29, 2025, following the second year of participation, is \$28,009.51, an increase of \$8,582.02 from the previous year.

Amanda Austerman, representing the Howard Tigers PAWS (Parents Active With Students) PTO, requested recreation funds from the county to use toward elementary school playground equipment and elementary recreation programs, such as field trips. Motion by Carlson to donate \$2,000 from the recreation budget for 2025 to PAWS, seconded by Clary; motion passed.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until January 6, 2026. Dated this 30th day of December, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor