

## February 17, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 17, 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 Carlson, second by Neises and carried to approve the agenda. The minutes of the February 3rd meeting were approved, with the correction of the dates at the end to say, "Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until February 17th. Dated this 3rd day of February, 2026."

Commissioner acknowledged the following correspondence/reports: Sheriff January report, VSO January report, and the Nov 2025-Feb 2025 Miner Conservation District reports.

Motion by Clary, second by Faber, to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the Community Health Nurse Contract for 2026 with the State of South Dakota Department of Health.

During Public Comment, Director of Equalization Tami Severson reviewed some legislation she's been watching and some bills she encouraged the Commissioners to watch. Chief Deputy Sheriff Josh Hahn was called to get clarification on a towing bill he submitted for payment; Commissioners still had reservations on paying the bill and requested to speak with the State's Attorney before paying it.

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, and carried to enter into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) for personnel matters at 9:35am. Returned to regular session at 9:52am.

State's Attorney Kristian Ellendorf appeared in person to answer questions on the towing bill. After discussion, there was a motion by Clary, second by Carlson, and carried to pay the \$416.80 to Paul's Towing and place a lien against the title of the vehicle to recoup costs if the vehicle is sold.

Highway Superintendent Ron Kremppges has been holding off on spring weight postings, due to the upcoming cold weather. There were 6 bidders for the bridge project east of Carthage, with the winning bid being granted to Lehtola Builders, Inc. of Lake Norden at \$544,784.47. MSHA training was completed last week. The new pup trailer is ready at Northern. The new truck is built and needs to be delivered to Sioux Falls; this will hopefully be in the county's possession by the spring. Motion by Faber, second by Neises, and carried to declare the HP LE2201W monitor at the highway office surplus and authorize its disposal. The highway supplies bid opening will be at the next meeting on March 3. The highway crew has completed hauling chips. Other highway work includes blading, crack sealing south of Fedora, and shop work.

Motion by Clary, second by Neises, and carried to pay the following claims: Alliance \$150.00, Santel \$30.00 **911 CHARGES**; Jury Members \$610.00 **JURIES**; Alliance \$540.33 **TELEPHONE**; Jury Members \$123.20 **TRAVEL**. SDSU Extension \$10,805.00 **4-H PMT TO STATE**; ICAP \$857.75 **COMMUNITY ACTION PMT**; Graves Construction \$2,000.00 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; SD DOH \$1,674.00 **CO NURSE PMT TO STATE**; First District Assn of Local Govt \$250.00, National Sheriff's Assn \$125.00, Tri-State Emergency Mgmt Assn \$20.00 **DUES**; AT&T \$1,099.00 **EQUIPMENT**; Butler Machinery \$282.90, Hoffman Diesel Service \$94.90, HFCA \$13,755.29, Auto Value Howard \$59.65 Wingen's Garage \$3,614.29 **FUEL**; Co Employee \$2,085.30 **INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT**; Davison Co Sheriff \$3,255.00, Lake Co Sheriff \$2,850.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Dental Care Center \$230.51, Lewis Drug \$5,537.38 **PRISONER MEDICAL**; Office Ally \$44.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; Avera Occupational Medicine \$109.80 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**; Miner County Pioneer \$481.53 **PUBLISHING**; Dust-Tex \$180.48 **RENT**; Fire Protection Solutions \$1,022.00, Fox Print \$659.26, Hoffman Diesel Service \$1,184.00, Howard Auto Clinic \$540.99, IState Truck Center \$1,074.94, Office Peeps \$78.65, Prostrollo

Auto Mall \$300.30, Transource \$2,765.00, Ultra \$299.90 **REPAIRS**; Spencer Quarries \$25,069.50 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Amazon \$226.20, Butler Machinery \$1,508.76, Dakota Data Shred \$103.33, Dakota Fluid Power \$177.66, Fleetpride \$1,122.52, Hoffman Diesel Service \$101.75, Home Service Water \$35.00, IState Truck Center \$756.34, Kimball Midwest \$270.41, Krug Products \$85.80, McLeod's \$147.88, Office Peeps \$781.45, Prostrollo Auto Mall \$437.24, Rusty's \$78.57, Shane's Hardware \$178.46, Auto Value Howard \$1,447.96, Transource \$5,789.12 **SUPPLIES**; AT&T \$409.20 **TELEPHONE**; SD Dept of Public Safety \$2,340.00 **TELETYPE**; Joe Bechen \$52.50, Kathy Faber \$88.20, HFCA \$40.87, Tim Neises \$28.00 **TRAVEL**; Central Electric Coop \$80.40 **UTILITIES**.

Welfare Director Cheryl Moore presented welfare case 2026-02 to the board and recommended paying for the cremation at the county rate and placing a lien on the deceased's property. Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, and carried to pay \$2500 for cremation to Kinsley Funeral Home and place a lien in an attempt to recoup costs. The paperwork for welfare case 2026-01 has not yet been received, so it will need to be postponed to a future meeting.

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, to authorize all interested county employees to take a general CPR course, which will be paid out of the Commissioner budget. This CPR course does not replace the courses necessary for ambulance personnel.

Director of Equalization Severson gave an office update. Severson provided a handout showing the Average dollar per acre and average soil rates for 2026. Severson discussed some current legislative bills that could affect valuations. Conditional uses were also discussed. Commissioners requested Severson mail a letter to a business operating without the necessary conditional use.

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, and carried to move into executive session for personnel reasons at 10:34am. Came out of executive session at 10:55am. With the acceptance of the resignation of Treasurer Jessica Charles, there was a motion by Faber to appoint Brittany Yanish to the Treasurer position effective March 21<sup>st</sup> at 90% of the current Treasurer salary (\$52,767), seconded by Carlson. Motion passed. Auditor Mommaerts will research with the Secretary of State's office if Yanish will have to run for office in this year's election. Motion by Neises to advertise for the deputy treasurer position, effective immediately, seconded by Faber. Motion passed.

Motion by Carlson, second by Neises, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the SDPAA updated intergovernmental agreement.

Motion by Clary, second by Faber and carried to issue a tax refund of \$300.65 as result of a property loss due to fire for parcel #324 for 2025 taxes payable 2026. Motion by Clary, second by Faber; motion carried.

Director of 911 & Dispatch Services Cora Schwader gave a departmental update. Schwader dispersed a printed copy of the 911 Annual Report. She informed the board that they could look up the 911 Coordination Board meetings at [boardsandcommissions.sd.gov](http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov). Schwader will contact Two Way Solutions and have them send the list of the things they believe the County needs to consolidate with Lake County Communications. Emergency Manager Kent Terwilliger spoke to Schwader about the lists provided by the fire departments in the county, regarding the need for more specificity. City of Howard Councilman Curt Eliason would like to arrange a meeting with the County to discuss education for the public. There will be a Coordination Board meeting on April 30; Miner County's grant request will need to be ready before that.

Motion to enter executive session for personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) by Carlson, seconded by Neises and carried at 11:09am. Came out of executive session at 11:27am.

The future of the ambulance barn was discussed, with no notable updates at this time.

A donation request was received from Miner County Recreation. After researching what was gifted previously, there was a motion by Clary with a second by Carlson to donate \$3500 to Miner County Recreation out of the recreation budget. Motion passed.

A recommendation from the most recent loss control survey provided by SBI was discussed regarding obtaining a Motor Vehicle Report for every employee who may drive for the county, whether daily or for occasional meetings and trainings. Clary suggested Mommaerts ask Schwader if the dispatch department would be able to run driver license verifications.

Also from recommendation from the loss control survey, Mommaerts prepared a media policy for Miner County, which she has sent to State's Attorney Ellendorf to review. Commissioners believed it to be satisfactory, pending Ellendorf's approval.

The personnel policy was discussed, mainly focused on leave accrual and accumulation. Additional research will be done to update the policy in the most practical way possible. Employees with suggestions for revisions should reach out to the Commissioners.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until March 3rd. Dated this 17th day of February, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman  
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor