

Unofficial Minutes of February 3, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 3, 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 Faber, second by Neises and carried to approve the agenda, with the addition of an executive session for personnel matters at the end of the meeting, and the removal of Building Automation System Support Proposal from DDC for 2026. The minutes of the January 20th and January 28th meeting were approved.

The Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer for January 31, 2026 is \$5,749,393.72 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts.

A late Elderly Tax Freeze application was received by Treasurer Jessica Charles, which she has approved, pursuant to SDCL 10-6A-4. It was moved by Carlson, seconded by Faber and carried to approve the abatement application (Elderly 26-1) and authorize the auditor to abate \$317.72 off the individual's tax bill.

Three applications were received by Director of Equalization Tami Severson, which she has approved, pursuant to SDCL 10-4-40. Motion by Faber, second by Clary and carried to approve the abatement applications and authorize the auditor to abate \$2,311.36 for Vet 26-1, \$3,167.64 for Vet 26-2, and \$1,685.98 for Vet 26-3 from their individual tax bills.

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber and carried to enter into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) for personnel matters at 9:30am. Returned to regular session at 10:00am.

Motion by Clary, second by Carlson, and carried to pay the following claims: Road & Bridge \$44,099.97, MERP Fund \$61,433.28, Reliance Standard \$890.96, Delta Dental \$1,042.44, Retirement \$8,283.41, MASA \$272.00, Colonial Life \$242.42, OASI \$11,268.64, Commissioners \$5,036.00, Auditor \$8,277.00, Treasurer \$8,410.50, States Attorney \$6,550.00, Govt Building \$4,731.76, Director of Equalization \$10,297.55(includes Amy Lovett @\$22.56/hr), Register of Deeds \$7,754.73, Vet Service \$640.50, Sheriff \$13,206.20, Contract Law \$4,653.14, Welfare \$22.56, Ambulance \$11,900.97, Extension \$1,556.42, Weed \$1,549.25, Dispatch \$22,333.90, Emergency Mgt \$2,784.00 **JANUARY PAYROLL**; Triotel \$167.53 **911 CHARGES**; SD DOT \$21,689.39 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Willoughby Funeral Home \$295.00 **CORONER EXPENSE**; Law Office of Jennifer R Nelson \$937.20, Chris Nipe \$2,400.75 **COURT APPOINTED ATTY**; SD Assn Computer Equipment Service \$15.00 **DUES**; GR-Emergency Vehicle \$9,567.00 **EQUIPMENT**; Josh Esser \$60.00 **EVOC DRIVER**; Elan Financial \$71.41 **FUEL**; Northwestern Energy \$1,247.40 **GAS**; Brian Baldwin \$155.00 **IN-SERVICE EDUCATION**; SDPAA \$694.55 **INSURANCE**; Miner County Treasurer \$214.53 **POSTAGE**; Elan Financial \$12.50 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**; Microfilm Imaging \$470.00 **RENT**; A&B Pest \$39.83, Mitchell Plumbing & Heating \$1,167.19, TwoTrees Tech \$1,784.65 **REPAIRS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Relx, Inc. \$188.00 **SUBSCRIPTION**; Amazon \$273.55, C&R Supply \$41.74, Dust-Tex \$251.40, Elan Financial \$807.15, Fleetpride \$411.96, Homestead Building Supply \$84.99, K&M Tire \$1,172.00, Krug Products \$8.17, Mac's Hardware \$43.98, Mcleod's Printing \$268.83, Miner Co Treasurer \$61.26, Puthoff Repair \$143.65, Tami Severson \$20.00, Auto Value \$78.99, TwoTrees Tech \$197.20 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance Communications \$481.41, AT&T \$55.31, Jessica Charles \$30.00, Erin Feldhaus \$30.00, Lori Kiehl \$30.00, Becki Mommaerts \$30.00, Tim Reisch \$433.33, Tami Severson \$30.00, Molly Steeneck \$30.00, Verizon \$107.21, Danielle Werkmeister \$30.00 **TELEPHONE**; Jessica Charles \$41.30, Elan Financial \$65.00, Kim Lewis \$17.50, Dan Page \$23.10 **TRAVEL**; Central Electric \$141.05, City of Howard \$2,481.48, Xcel Energy \$112.58 **UTILITIES**.

Highway Superintendent Ron Krempges spoke on highway matters. Full bridge inspections must be done this year. Motion by Carlson, second by Faber and carried to authorize Bechen to sign the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 26-6

**BRIDGE REINSPECTION PROGRAM RESOLUTION
FOR USE WITH SDDOT RETAINER CONTRACTS**

WHEREAS, 23 CFR 650 Subpart C, requires initial inspection of all bridges and reinspection at intervals not to exceed two years with the exception of reinforced concrete box culverts that meet specific criteria. These culverts are reinspected at intervals not to exceed four years.

THEREFORE, Miner County is desirous of participating in the Bridge Inspection Program.

The County requests SDDOT to hire Ulteig (Consulting Engineers) for the inspection work. SDDOT will secure federal approvals, make payments to the Consulting Engineer for inspection services rendered, and bill the County for 20% of the cost. The County will be responsible for the required 20% matching funds.

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2026 at Howard, South Dakota.

Joe Bechen
Chairman of the Board
Board of County Commissioners of Miner County

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts
County Auditor

The bid opening for the bridge east of Carthage will be February 4th. Miner County will be included in Minnehaha County's pavement marking bid request again this year, which will occur later this month. Miner County's annual highway supplies bid opening will be on March 3rd. Krempges plans to use Beadle County's bid for culverts, bridge supplies, etc. again. Justin Dean took pictures of the skid steer that is going to auction. Krempges would like to add a tire & rim and additional tire to the auction, as they are no longer usable by the county. Motion by Clary, second by Neises and carried to declare the 140H rim with a 1400x24 tire and an additional 1400x24 tire as surplus and authorize its sale by auction. Commissioners approved Krempges removing the reserve from the skid steer for the auction.

The current sander needs many repairs, and Krempges believes replacing it with a stainless-steel sander may be the better option. Krempges hopes to get by with one sander for the rest of this year and obtain a replacement for the other sander by next winter.

Next week, Krempges will be at the Asphalt Conference in Mitchell and will be on vacation for a few days after the next meeting. Other highway work includes hauling chips, getting the pups and trucks cleaned up to prepare for crack sealing in the spring.

Motion by Clary, second by Neises and carried to amend the 2026 Salary Resolution due to clerical errors: Commission Chairman from \$12,940 to \$12,942; Commission Vice-chairman from \$12,361 to \$12,363; and "Custodian" to "Building & Grounds Manager."

One letter of interest was received for the First District At-Large Representative position. Motion by Clary, second by Carlson, and carried to appoint Greg Vavra as the First District At-Large Representative for Miner County.

The current personnel policy was reviewed, which needs various updates for new laws, changes in the standard workday for courthouse employees, and various other changes. Present for the discussion were Register of Deeds Gibi Page, Treasurer Charles and Director of Equalization Severson.

Mommaerts will reach out to First District of Local Governments to see if they have updated a personnel policy for another county recently. The current paid leave structure and leave donation policy were also discussed.

The executive session planned for the end of the meeting was cancelled due to extenuating circumstances.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until February 3rd. Dated this 20th day of January, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor