

## Unofficial Minutes of March 17, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 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 Faber, second by Neises and carried to approve the agenda. The minutes of March 10th were approved. Carlson, Clary, Neises, Bechen & Mark Shumaker met at the Central Electric building to explore costs for renovating the building to use for the ambulance service. Neises met with Curtis Eliason of the City of Howard regarding a building they are considering for equipment storage that could potentially also host the Miner County Ambulance. However, they would like to push the project off to 2027. This could also result in needing to move the ambulance service temporarily while the new structure is being built.

During public comment, State's Attorney Kristian Elledorf met with the board regarding a towing bill that was addressed at a previous meeting that she needs the board to readdress. She will get on the agenda for April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the announcement from SDACO regarding April being National County Government Month (NCGM), the February VSO report and the February Sheriff report.

Clary made a motion, seconded by Neises and carried, to pay the following claims:  
Triotel \$169.53, Santel \$30.00, Alliance \$150.00 **911 CHARGES**; ICAP \$857.75  
**COMMUNITY ACTION PAYMENT**; SD DOT \$2,162.97 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Istate Truck Center \$146,626.00, Northern Truck Equipment \$71,980.00 **EQUIPMENT**; HFCA \$7,010.42, Shane's Hardware \$9.99, Auto Value \$264.81 **FUEL**; Brian Baldwin \$236.00 **IN SERVICE EDUCATION**; Davison Co Sheriff \$2,940.00, Lake Co Sheriff \$95.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Office Ally \$44.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; Pictometry Internation Corp \$27,191.79 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**; Miner County Pioneer \$914.00 **PUBLISHING**; Dust-Tex \$183.16 **RENT**; Al's Service \$307.10, Butler Machinery \$931.70, Graham Tire \$776.00, Harris Mountain West \$3,598.00, Howard Auto Clinic \$305.20, HFCA \$157.76, Office Peeps \$78.65, Twotrees Technologies \$1,784.65 **REPAIRS**; Shane's Hardware \$6.99, Spencer Quarries \$18,695.25 **ROAD MATERIALS**; 6 C's \$320.00, Amazon \$156.75, Butler Machinery \$333.26, Terry Carlson \$44.43, Crafcoc \$2,840.12, Dawson Construction \$63.97, Elan Financial \$57.98, F&M Coop Oil \$64.00, Fleetpride \$2,156.98, Fox Promo \$120.00, Gall's Inc. \$192.94, Home Service Water \$23.80, Howard Auto Clinic \$69.71, Howard Cold Storage \$124.85, HFCA \$35.35, Hydraulic World \$3,455.72, Istate Truck Center \$190.63, Jack's Uniform & Equipment \$403.65, McLeod's Printing \$55.00, Miner County Pioneer \$63.13, Becki Mommaerts \$23.90, Murray County Hwy \$2,812.50, Office Peeps \$1,284.00, Rusty's Foodland \$20.54, Shane's Hardware \$161.86, SD Federal Property \$93.25, Auto Value Howard \$802.77, Transource \$197.51, Twotrees Technologies \$197.20, Acuity Specialty

Products \$119.59 **SUPPLIES**; Joe Bechen \$52.50, Kathy Faber \$117.60, Legal & Liability Risk \$900.00, SDAAO \$975.00, SDACO \$400.00 **TRAVEL**; Central Electric Coop \$79.23, Xcel Energy \$73.74 **UTILITIES**.

Director of 911 & Dispatch Services Cora Schwader gave a departmental update. Schwader prepared the grant request in the amount of \$11,480.05 and sent it to Jason Husby. Husby is meeting with the administrative subcommittee today. Emergency Manager Kent Terwilliger will try to put the beepers and handheld radios on the homeland security grant request, but he is unsure if any funding will be available. The fire departments have inquired if there will be training on how dispatch will work once Miner County moves to Lake County for dispatch services. Schwader and April Denholm will work together to arrange for training once things are in place. Clary gave fire department personnel numbers to Schwader.

Ambulance Manager Cora Schwader gave a departmental update. Schwader, Clary and Neises met with the City of Howard last night about another possible option for the ambulance building in the future. An ambulance board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23rd; Schwader invited representation from the Commissioners. The City's next meeting is the second Monday in April. Sealed bids for the Central Electric building would need to be in by April 30<sup>th</sup>. The auction will occur on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

It was moved by Carlson, seconded by Faber and carried to remove Jessica Charles as an authorized signer on all accounts, effective March 21<sup>st</sup>. It was moved by Faber, seconded by Neises and carried to update Brittany Yanish as Treasurer and add Deputy Treasurer Mariah Jacobson as authorized signer on all accounts effective March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Due to the resignation of Jessica Charles, only one county employee will be a notary available to the public. Brittany Yanish has volunteered to become a notary, if requested. Faber made a motion to have the county pay the costs to allow Brittany Yanish to become a notary for the county, seconded by Carlson and carried.

There was discussion regarding building access after dispatch moves to Lake County, as dispatch currently grants employees access to the building in the morning. A keypad entry was discussed. Sheriff Rob Eggert will acquire a quote and check into security grant funding for this purpose.

Commissioners will decide about rescheduling the equalization meeting to a time after-hours until the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, depending on if any appeals are received.

Carlson made a motion to approve Miner County's portion of the 15-county pavement marking bid agreement between Minnehaha County and Sir Lines-A-Lot Traffic Control and Striping, seconded by Clary and passed unanimously. Miner County's portion of this bid will be \$18,698.00.



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FINDINGS

I

That the applicants, Vertical Bridge (The Towers) and Verizon, have made an application for a conditional use to construct a 265’ self-support tower with a 10’ lighting rod to improve cellular communication throughout the surrounding area within the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of Section 34-107-58, Grafton Township, West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Miner County, South Dakota and that they are the owner of record thereof.

II

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 March 17, 2026, in the Commission Room of the Miner County Courthouse.

V

That the applicants, Vertical Bridge (The Towers) and Verizon, represented by Darren Hunter, appeared telephonically.

VI

That a presentation in support of said conditional use and testimony on behalf of said conditional use was received at the hearing and that no 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 Vertical Bridge (The Towers) and Verizon for a conditional use be approved 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.

## VII

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 construct a 265' self-support tower with a 10' lighting rod to improve cellular communication throughout the surrounding area within the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of Section 34-107-58, Grafton Township, West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Miner County, South Dakota be approved.

Dated this 17th day of March 2026

Kari Jo Carlson, Chairperson  
Miner County Board of Adjustment

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Secretary

Motion by Faber, second by Neises, and carried to adjourn as the Board of Adjustment and reconvene as the Board of Miner County Commissioners.

Kari Jo Carlson, Chairperson  
Miner County Board of Adjustment

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Secretary

Oldham-Ramona-Rutland School District has requested to combine their election with the June 2<sup>nd</sup> primary election for each of their respective counties. The four affected counties have drafted an agreement that each county can amend as needed. Motion by Carlson, second by Clary, and carried to sign the joint agreement for combined election and forward it to Oldham-Ramona-Rutland school district for their approval.

State's Attorney Ellendorf had emailed Auditor Mommaerts with some concerns with the media policy, as presented. Mommaerts will take those comments and redraft the media policy and research the social media policies of other SD counties.

Kent Terwilliger met with the board to give his official resignation from his roles as Miner County Emergency Manager and Weed Supervisor, effective 3/17/26. Terwilliger stated he would stay on for an additional 30 days or until he is replaced. Commissioners expressed their appreciation for his willingness to stay to complete some projects to remain in compliance with the LEMPG while they search for a replacement. Next Wednesday is the annual weed board meeting at the 4-H Grounds at noon. Commissioners regretfully accepted his resignation.

A recognition event was held in honor of Treasurer Jessica Charles for over 9 years of service to the county and Director of Equalization Tami Severson for over 13 years of service to the county. Charles's last day is Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, and Severson's last day is Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Motion to go into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) for personnel matters at 12:00pm. Board returned to regular session 12:53. After speaking with Terwilliger, he changed the date of his official resignation to 4/17/26. Commissioners will review the position(s) to determine how to move forward.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until April 7th. Dated this 17th day of March, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman  
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor