

March 3, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 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 Carlson, second by Neises and carried to approve the agenda, with the removal of the Miner County Media Policy, which will be addressed at a later meeting. The minutes of the February 17th meeting were approved.

No one appeared for public comment.

Carlson made a motion, seconded by Faber and carried, to pay the following claims: Road & Bridge \$44,556.31, MERP Fund \$60,064.95, Reliance Standard \$890.96, Delta Dental \$1,042.44, Retirement \$7,995.71, MASA \$272.00, Colonial Life \$242.42, OASI \$10,750.75, Commissioners \$5,036.00, Auditor \$7,729.18, Treasurer \$8,410.50, States Attorney \$6,550.00, Govt Building \$3,797.63, Director of Equalization \$9,945.03, Register of Deeds \$7,094.97, Vet Service \$640.50, Sheriff \$13,421.15, Contract Law \$4,547.25, Welfare \$90.24, Ambulance \$11,613.37, Extension \$1,269.00, Weed \$2,306.85, Dispatch \$16,790.19, Emergency Mgt \$2,784.00 **FEBRUARY PAYROLL**. Jeremy Beyer \$14.00, Brian Dold \$14.00, Eric Smith \$14.00, Adam Mentele \$14.00, Terry Burger \$14.00, Terry Carlson \$14.00, Mike Umstead \$14.00, Donald Eppe \$14.00, Amie Kidd \$14.00, Ron Kremppges \$14.00, Tami Severson \$28.00, Barb Esser \$14.00, Becki Mommaerts \$14.00 **PAYROLL TRAVEL**.

Sanford Health \$2,391.00 **AUTOPSY**; SD DOT \$178.98, Ulteig Engineers \$1,377.00 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Redwood Toxicology \$357.00 **DRUG TEST**; SD State's Atty Assn \$763.30, Kent Terwilliger \$200.00 **DUES**; Josh Esser \$60.00 **EVOC DRIVER**; Northwestern Energy \$1,695.89 **GAS**; SDPAA \$794.73 **INSURANCE**; CLERP \$1,829.00 **LEGAL EXPENSE RELIEF FUND**; Miner Co Treasurer \$45.28 **POSTAGE**; Lewis Drug \$2,770.70 **PRISONER MEDICAL**; Microfilm Imaging \$470.00 **RENT**; Cathy Cavigielli \$25.00, Interstate Power Systems \$2,426.76 **REPAIRS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Relx, Inc. \$198.00 **SUBSCRIPTION**; Amazon \$173.74, Bound Tree Medical \$1,079.25, Dust-Tex \$254.84, Elan Financial \$537.18, Interstate Power System \$4,078.73, Lori Kiehl \$44.98, Miner Co Treasurer \$45.19, Northern Truck Equipment \$100.39, Rockmount Research & Alloys \$477.28, SD Dept of Public Safety \$30.00, Tami Severson \$20.00 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance Communications \$978.80, AT&T \$492.42, 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**; Justin Brandsma \$80.00, Comfort Inn & Suites \$143.00, Ron Kremppges \$28.00, Kent Terwilliger \$1,129.95, The Lodge at Deadwood \$630.00 **TRAVEL**; City of Howard \$2,624.81 **UTILITIES**.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the LEMPG quarterly report.

Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer showed a February 28, 2026 balance of \$5,734,042.95 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts.

Commissioners looked over options for the courthouse phone updates and chose to lease the Yealink 935 conference phone with DECT base for \$20.65 per month from Alliance Communications.

Highway Superintendent Ron Kremppges reported on highway matters. He contacted Lynn Bren with SDPAA regarding an employee issue; she instructed him to wait until more was known before utilizing the hotline. She assured him that insurance premiums would not go up based on this incident.

Kremppges will place weight limit postings tomorrow. For the bridge replacement project east of Carthage, they hope to begin around the middle of April, depending on weather. Mag water and easements will need to be done for that project. The preconstruction meeting will be in Mitchell on Friday. The pup trailer has been modified and is now in the county's possession, waiting on the truck that will pull it, which is at I-State awaiting inspection. The cost is \$146,626 for the truck, but for the box/hydraulics/pup hitch, there will be another bill for \$109,127. Kremppges received a quote to budget for next year at \$149,208 for a truck and \$140,066 for the added equipment; the large price difference for the equipment is due to the highway's ability to reuse the snow equipment from the damaged truck.

It was moved by Faber, seconded by Neises, and carried to purchase corrugated metal culverts and bridge materials during the period from February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027 off of the bid awarded to TrueNorth Steel by Beadle County during its January 13, 2026 meeting. Bid in its entirety is on file in the Auditor's office. Miner County will again be included in the pavement marking bids in Minnehaha County. Kremppges will be gone during the next meeting. Surplus highway equipment will be auctioned online, with bids accepted between March 13th and March 23rd at 6:00pm. Next Thursday, during the county's annual meeting with townships, Kremppges will encourage townships to take advantage of the Rural Access Infrastructure funding. Other highway matters included crack sealing, blading roads, shop work, and culvert inspections on county roads to update their condition in the inventory.

The highway supply bid opening was held as advertised. Highway Superintendent Ron Kremppges and a representative from Bowes Construction were present.

Bids per ton for gravel crushing in the Ecklein pit were received as follows: Bowes Construction \$2.70/ton; ProCrush LLC \$2.60/ton; Rechnagel Construction \$2.60/ton. It was moved by Neises, seconded by Faber and carried to award the bid for gravel crushing in 2026 to Rechnagel Construction.

The following bids are for a one-year period from April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Submitting bids for cutback asphalt and emulsion oil were as follows: Jebro Inc. MC3000 \$880.61/ton, CS1H \$404.20, CSS1H \$524.20. It was moved by Clary, seconded by Carlson, and carried to award the bid for cutback asphalt and emulsion oil to Jebro, Inc.

The following firms submitted bids per ton for hot bituminous patch material: Bowes Construction-Brookings plant: Class E Type 1 Virgin \$74, Class E Type 2 Virgin \$73.50, Class E Type 1 Recycled \$65, Class E Type 2 Recycled \$66.50; Asphalt Paving – Huron plant: Class E Type 1 Virgin \$78, Class E Type 2 Virgin N/A, Class E Type 1 Recycled \$75.50, Class E Type 2 Recycled \$75; Knife River – both East & West Sioux Falls plants: Class E Type 1 Virgin \$75, Class E Type 2 Virgin \$77, Class E Type 1 Recycled \$70, Class E Type 2 Recycled \$72; Commercial Asphalt – Mitchell plant: Class E Type 1 Virgin \$73, Class E Type 2 Virgin \$73, Class E Type 1 Recycled \$73, Class E Type 2 Recycled \$73; Commercial Asphalt – Spencer Quarry plant: Class E Type 1 Virgin \$70, Class E Type 2 Virgin \$70, Class E Type 1 Recycled \$70, Class E Type 2 Recycled \$70. It was moved by Clary, seconded by Carlson, and carried to award the bid for hot bituminous patch material to Bowes Construction, Knife River and Commercial Asphalt, using whichever plant makes the most sense with the location of the project.

The following bids per ton for quartzite materials were received: Spencer Quarries \$16 7/16” Chips, \$19.75 Rip Rap, \$18.75 4”-12” Rock, \$16 base material, \$15.95 1 ½-3” ballast, with trucking \$0.20/ton/mile double trailer & .30/ton/mile single trailer. It was moved by Carlson, seconded by Faber and carried to award the bid for quartzite material to Spencer Quarries.

The following bids per pound for crack sealant were received: White Cap – Durafill 3405 \$0.70; Crafc0 – Roadsaver 221 \$0.595/lb. Motion by Faber, second by Clary, and passed to award the bid for crack sealant to Crafc0.

Brittany Yanish gave an office update. She’s in the interview process currently and plans to do some follow-up interviews. She asked for permission to hire if she finds the right applicant between meetings. Commissioners gave permission for Yanish to hire a deputy Treasurer at level 1.

Sheriff Eggert and Mike Clary registered to attend the Law Enforcement Liability Conference in Deadwood in May, which is sponsored by the SDPAA. The law enforcement personnel policy was discussed. The new sheriff vehicle is needing some repairs, but it won’t cost the county anything. Eggert plans to surplus the old Dodge truck and keep the Durango as a spare.

Motion by Faber, second by Carlson and carried to enter executive session for employee negotiations pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (4) at 10:58am. Board returned to session at 11:23am. Motion by Clary, second by Carlson, and carried to accept the resignation of Director of

Equalization, Tami Severson, effective April 3rd. Motion by Clary, second by Faber, and carried to move Barb Esser from Level 3 to Level 4, retroactively effective to February 22nd. The DOE position will be advertised immediately.

State's Atty Kristian Ellendorf has prepared a letter to send to Trane, since they didn't come for the spring service, and arguably not for fall service either, as promised in the 2025 maintenance contract. A fan ended up going out in VRF unit, which may or may not have been related to the missed maintenance. Kiehl is looking into alternative servicers. Commissioners instructed Kiehl to inform Ellendorf of any requested edits to the letter, and authorized it to be sent once Kiehl's changes are made.

The pine trees at 4-H Grounds were discussed. Kiehl obtained a quote of \$400-\$500 to trim up the evergreens; to do all the trimming and cleanup, he would require \$1200 for the project. 4-H Educator Jill Calmus informed the board that 4-H has a Buildings & Grounds crew. Tim Neises offered to trim the trees, with their assistance. Calmus will discuss the project with the 4-H Leaders at their meeting tonight. Krempges has also offered to have the highway crew help to haul out branches. Calmus will attempt to arrange a day for the work to get done.

Building Automation System Support Proposal from Direct Digital Control (which was recently purchased by a Harris Company) was reviewed. At our last boiler inspection, we were told we needed a carbon monoxide detector in the boiler room. DDC said they would be able to install a carbon monoxide detector that would communicate with the system and be able to send alerts via text and email if it went off, as one installed directly in that room would not be able to be heard. Kiehl recommended accepting this proposal and seeing how the year goes, under the management of this new organization; Kiehl just worries about the company going corporate. Motion by Carlson, seconded by Faber, to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the agreement with Direct Digital Control for one year, commencing February 1st, for \$3,598.

The Mutual Aid Agreement was reviewed. Miner County has no issues with signing once the document is cleaned up for readability. Auditor Mommaerts will reach out to the regional manager regarding getting a clean copy.

Motion by Carlson, second by Neises, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the LEMPG Exhibit B Agreement Articles.

The recommendation by Safety Benefits to obtain motor vehicle reports annually was discussed. The motor vehicle reports will come out of the Commissioner budget this year; department heads should budget this cost for their department for future years.

The personnel policy was discussed. Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, and passed to edit section 2.6 to say "Smoking, tobacco use or vaping will not be permitted in any county buildings, equipment or motorized vehicles," effective immediately.

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

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor