

April 21, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 21, 2026, in the Miner County Courthouse Commission room. Members present: Joe Bechen, Kathy Faber, Tim Neises, and Kari Jo Carlson. Mike Clary appeared telephonically. Members absent: none.

Chairman Bechen called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. It was moved by Faber, seconded by Neises, and carried to approve the agenda, with additions of executive sessions. The minutes of the April 14th meeting were approved.

Neises & Clary attended the 911 Advisory Board meeting and Lake County LEPC meeting in Madison on April 15th. The grant money decisions will be made on the 30th of April. They are still planning for the end of September for the transition. Carlson attended Canova's fire department meeting last week, who expressed concerns with how dispatch will be run in the future. There will be educational meetings, but it will be up to the emergency response personnel to attend to receive this education. Neises & Carlson, along with Curt Eliason and Lynn Borgers from the City of Howard, and Rob Eggert, Cora Schwader & Mike Connor met at the current ambulance building and the potential future site of a joint City building/ambulance barn. The City of Howard is looking to build an approximately 75'x75' structure. This building committee will try to meet monthly to keep discussions going. The ambulance department has a budget meeting on the 27th.

No one appeared for public comment.

Highway Superintendent Ron Krempeges reported on highway matters. Gravel work is done on the bridge west of Carthage; the crew is currently waiting on asphalt. Tomorrow, they will begin pouring floor for the bridge east bridge and will start to form walls within a couple of days. The bridge northeast of Argonne has a preconstruction meeting on Friday morning in Mitchell; that anticipated start date is May 4th. Subsurface did culvert lining work last week. While crack-sealing the courthouse parking lot, a rock damaged the outer pane of one of the north doors; this has been repaired. There was discussion on CDL medical cards. There remain questions on whether government employees are exempt from the medical card requirement for CDLs. Motion by Faber, second by Neises, and carried to have the County reimburse up to a maximum of \$175, which includes the exam cost and license fee, with the submission of proper documentation. License plate readers were discussed. Companies want to install trial license plate readers, but the ongoing costs seem too high for it to remain feasible. The cost for one camera would be about \$3000 per year. The trial license plate readers that are installed in the Sheriff vehicles would be over \$8000 per year. However, the Sheriff's office is not impressed with the ones currently installed and would not recommend keeping them. They are researching other options. Commissioners will await more information. The highway plans to have an advertisement for the upcoming job opening in the paper hopefully next week. Krempeges has not received any updates on the new truck. Citywide cleanups will be May 2nd for Carthage and June 6th for Canova. Other highway work includes graveling and blading.

It was moved by Carlson, seconded by Neises and carried to authorize the auditor to pay the following claims: Lammers, Kleibacker, Dawson & Miller \$1,311.60 **COURT APPT ATTY**; SD Federal Property \$900.00 **EQUIPMENT**; Wingen's Garage \$2,469.90 **FUEL**;

CLERP \$1,829.00 **LEGAL EXPENSE RELIEF FUND**; Abby J Oftedal Atty at Law \$244.00 **MENTAL ILLNESS HEARING EXPENSE**; Elan Financial \$1,443.25, Miner Co Treasurer \$111.98 **POSTAGE**; Lake Co Sheriff \$190.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Madison Regional Health \$208.00 **PRISONER MEDICAL**; Amazon \$29.99, Canova Service Center \$296.85, Cummins Sales & Service \$550.15, Howard Auto Clinic \$937.40, Office Peeps \$78.65, Upstate Wholesale \$4,992.00, NBS/Wahltek \$3,724.31 **REPAIRS**; Spencer Quarries \$384.75 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Amazon \$277.18, Bound Tree Medical \$181.98, Elan Financial \$102.87, Home Service Water \$29.40, Howard Auto Clinic \$456.53, McLeods Printing \$4.00, Miner Co Treasurer \$88.57, Office Peeps \$24.82, Rusty's \$80.00, Cora Schwader \$40.36, Shane's Hardware \$51.48, SD Federal Property \$348.00, Stan Houston Equipment \$118.95, CNH Industrial Retail Accounts \$192.85 **SUPPLIES**; Brian Baldwin \$700.00 **TRAINING**; Joe Bechen \$70.00, Kathy Faber \$117.60 **TRAVEL**; Central Electric \$80.42 **UTILITIES**.

A contract from Clinton Township was received for weed spraying this year, making a total of 13 townships requesting weed spraying. The County intends to honor these contracts. A notice for bids for a commercial sprayer is currently being advertised. The Commissioners will check if there is any need at the highway to keep the spray truck.

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, and carried to have Bechen sign a notice to the state to have Miner County remove themselves from the LEMPG agreement as soon as possible. Motion by Clary, seconded by Carlson, and carried to reimburse Josh Hahn \$600/month for interim Emergency Manager duties, beginning on April 17th. April will be prorated to the number of days worked. An advertisement will be placed for a part-time Emergency Manager position.

SB96 was discussed. Commissioners requested Auditor Mommaerts invite local legislators to the May 5th meeting to try to get a better understanding of the bill.

Building & Grounds Manager Lori Kiehl recommended signing the HVAC maintenance contract with Harris, and ceasing business with Trane, due to good past experience with the representatives of DDC, who recently merged with Harris. Trane was sent a letter by State's Attorney Kristian Ellendorf regarding the County's dissatisfaction with their services last year, and there has been no response received. Carlson made a motion to sign the Harris HVAC maintenance contract for 2026, seconded by Neises. Motion passed.

Motion to go into executive session by Neises, seconded by Faber, and carried at 11:23am pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (3) to discuss the sealed bid for the Central Electric building. The board came out of executive session at 11:27am. Carlson made a motion, seconded by Faber, and carried to submit a bid to Morgan Theeler for the Central Electric building as drafted by the Miner County State's Attorney and authorize Bechen to deliver the same.

Motion to go into executive session by Faber, second by Neises, and carried at 11:30am pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (4) to discuss the live bid process for the Central Electric building. No decision was made at this time; an executive session will be scheduled on the May 5th agenda to discuss it further. The board came out of executive session at 11:42am.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until May 5th. Dated this 21st day of April, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor