

April 7, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 7, 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 pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (3) under Ambulance Discussion. The minutes of March 17th were approved, with corrections to the Findings of the Board of Adjustment, changing “Grafton Township” to “Miner Township” in two places.

Auditor’s Account with the County Treasurer showed a March 31, 2026 balance of \$5,560,249.19 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts.

Treasurer Brittany Yanish, Deputy Treasurer Mariah Jacobson, and Director of Equalization Barb Esser took their oaths of office. Yanish requested the closure of the Treasurer office for the afternoon of May 7th (12:00-4:00) to allow office staff to attend their children’s kindergarten graduation; Commissioners approved this request, with notification to the public.

No one appeared for public comment.

Highway Superintendent Ron Kremppges gave an update on highway matters. Weight postings were pulled today. Auction items brought in a total of \$21,667.84, after auction fees. Kremppges acquired a router at a good price; the old router will be kept to use for parts. Work will soon begin on the bridge east of Carthage. Kremppges is hopeful the bridge on the west side of Carthage will be finished by the end of the month, if the weather cooperates. The new truck is in at Sanitation Products. The plow mounts are on, and it is awaiting hydraulics. Kremppges inquired about a sander from the DOT; it will be a year or so before they have any for sale. Kremppges received a quote for \$27,043 from Sanitation Products, but this is not in the budget currently. Sheriff Eggert had inquired about installing license plates readers; Commissioners told Kremppges they would need more information from Eggert before making a decision.

The State of SD will adopt federal regulation 49 CRF 391.11, which requires most CDL holder to maintain a valid medical card. After research, Kremppges believes government employees are exempt from the medical card requirement. However, the highway workers will need to get an endorsement on their driver’s license prior to July 1st, which will cost \$43/person. Kremppges will investigate costs a little more and bring information to the next meeting. There will be a notice in the paper notifying the public that there should be no farming in the right-of-way. Other highway matters included pulling shoulders and culvert inspections. Terry Carlson will be retiring at the end of June; Kremppges would like to start advertising for his replacement. The executive session was tabled due to time constraints.

Carlson made a motion, seconded by Clary and carried, to pay the following claims:
 Road & Bridge \$48,725.12, MERP Fund \$57,887.48, Reliance Standard \$883.68, Delta Dental \$992.80, Retirement \$8,048.27, Colonial Life \$242.42, OASI \$10,940.77, Commissioners \$5,036.00, Auditor \$8,277.00, Treasurer \$9,850.82(includes Brittany Yanish@\$4,397.25/mo), States Attorney \$6,550.00, Govt Building \$3,739.20, Director of Equalization \$9,673.97(includes Barb Esser@\$3424.75/mo), Register of Deeds \$7,065.67, Vet Service \$640.50, Sheriff \$13,243.63, Contract Law \$4,621.29, Welfare \$11.28, Ambulance \$11,554.45, Extension \$1,142.10, Weed \$1,499.25, Dispatch \$13,970.83, Emergency Mgt \$2,784.00
MARCH PAYROLL; Alliance Communications \$150.00, Santel \$30.00, Triotel \$167.53 **911 CHARGES**; ICAP \$857.75 **COMMUNITY ACTION PAYMENT**; Hollaway Construction \$23,260.48, SD DOT \$377.84 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Lammers, Kleibacker, Dawson & Miller \$8,084.40 **COURT APPT ATTY**; Avera \$75.40, Axis Forensic Toxicology \$250.00, Horizon Healthcare \$210.00 **DRUG TESTING**; Dep of Ag & Natural Resources \$200.00 **DUES**; Auto Value \$1,417.02, Twotrees Technology \$3,136.00 **EQUIPMENT**; Elan Financial \$170.16, HFCA \$9,420.40, Runnings \$81.79, Auto Value \$43.15 **FUEL**; Northwestern Energy \$1,088.43 **GAS**; Safe Place of Eastern SD \$1,300.00 **GRANTS**; Brian Baldwin \$155.00 **IN SERVICE EDUCATION**; Davison County Sheriff \$3,255.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Lewis \$2,785.69 **PRISONER MEDICAL**; MC Pioneer \$928.69 **PUBLISHING**; Dust-Tex \$278.76, Microfilm Imaging \$470.00 **RENT**; Prostrollo \$1,780.24, Auto Value \$71.30, Transource \$525.00, Twotrees Technology \$1,852.65, Vanguard Appraisals \$2,475.00 **REPAIRS**; Hollaway Construction \$10,039.52 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Relx, Inc. \$198.00 **SUBSCRIPTION**; Amazon \$87.88, Auto Value \$21.99, Butler Machinery \$719.54, Crafcoc \$143.55, Dakota Data Shred \$26.25, Dakota Fluid Power \$430.10, Dust-Tex \$387.42, Elan Financial \$50.99, Fleetpride \$126.90, HFCA \$23.80, Jack's Uniforms \$74.94, Kimball Midwest \$311.97, Darcy Laible \$58.50, Mac's Hardware \$311.92, Office Peeps \$326.33, Gibi Page \$317.19, Prostrollo \$117.00, Rusty's \$438.67, Shane's Hardware \$24.98, Auto Value \$855.65, Sunset Law Enforcement \$980.00, Transource \$1,206.43, Twotrees Technology \$197.20 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance Communications \$938.96, AT&T \$469.62, Barb Esser \$30.00, Erin Feldhaus \$30.00, Lori Kiehl \$30.00, Becki Mommaerts \$30.00, Tim Reisch \$433.33, Molly Steeneck \$30.00, Verizon \$107.21, Danielle Werkmeister \$30.00, Brittany Yanish \$30.00 **TELEPHONE**; HFCA \$6.68, Cheryl Moore \$20.00, Ramkota Pierre \$112.00, The Lodge at Deadwood \$210.00 **TRAVEL**; City of Howard \$2,311.52, Xcel Energy \$55.88 **UTILITIES**.

4-H Youth Educator Jill Calmus gave a 4-H Update. The State shoot will be held April 24-26 in Fort Pierre; a fun shoot is planned for afterward. Youth Livestock Literacy event was held, which is a requirement for youth to exhibit livestock at both the county and state levels. Last meeting for the Cloverbuds is next week; a morning camp is planned for July 1st. Chicks in the Classroom with the 4th graders will start next week. 4-H horse practices will begin April 16, with Youth Horse Literacy scheduled for May 3rd at Tad Enck's; this is a requirement for youth to exhibit at both the county and state levels. A livestock judging workout will be held June 2 for

youth across the state to come and practice prior to the State Judging Contest in mid-June. Leather, rugs & coaster, and batik project days are planned for the summer. Youth in Action contest will be on July 20th. Miner County Achievement Days are set for Aug 3-5th with the theme “Every Project Has a Story.” Calmus attended the Spring Conference in Rapid City last week. The picnic shelter is up at the 4-H grounds awaiting hook-up to electricity with the city. Leaders have purchased additional chairs and tables to use in this structure. Neises & Bechen helped trim trees at the 4-H Grounds to assist with mowing. Leaders will have gutters put up around showring and the goat, sheep and swine barn. Calmus is planning a building & grounds meeting next Tuesday to do dirt work cleanup and other small projects to prepare for all the summer activities.

Motion by Neises, second by Faber to enter executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (3) to discuss legal matters at 10:24am. Board came out of executive session at 10:34am. Motion by Clary to void the check previously written to Paul’s Towing in February and let the tow company settle the bill with the defendant or his family directly, seconded by Carlson. Motion passed.

The bid opening for the 2026 mowing and trimming of the Miner County 4-H Grounds was held as advertised. The following bids received reflect a per occurrence basis: Dana Spader \$347, and Neises Mowing Service \$305. Motion by Faber, second by Clary and carried to accept the bid and secure a contract with Neises Mowing Service, providing the required proof of insurance is received.

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, and carried to go into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (3) for pending litigation at 10:39am. Board returned to regular session at 10:42am. Faber made a motion to authorize Bechen to sign the Admission of Service, seconded by Carlson. Motion carried.

Motion by Carlson, second by Neises, and carried to go into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) for personnel matters at 10:44am. Came out of executive session at 11:18am.

Ambulance Manager Cora Schwader met with the board for ambulance matters. Motion by Clary, second by Faber, and carried enter executive session to discuss a bid amount for a potential future location of the ambulance barn, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (5) at 11:21am. Came out of executive session at 11:33am. Auditor Mommaerts will work with the State’s Attorney office to submit a sealed bid for the Central Electric building.

Director of 911 & Dispatch Cora Schwader gave an update on the dispatch department. Sanborn County 911 & dispatch services went to Mitchell on April 1st; we will need to await the surcharge money to determine if either county is owed money. Schwader and Emergency Manager Terwilliger reviewed quotes from Two Way Solutions. Grant applications will be reviewed on the 30th.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the March VSO report, the March Sheriff report, the Miner Conservation District minutes and reports from February, and notices from DANR regarding Donahue Farms for their manure management system and pen modifications.

A recognition event was held in honor of Emergency Manager & Weed Supervisor Kent Terwilliger for over 7 years of service to the county. Terwilliger's last day will be Friday, April 17th.

The first meeting in June will be rescheduled to Thursday, June 4th at 9am, due to the Primary Election on June 2nd. The Primary Election Canvass will take place during this meeting.

Motion by Faber, second by Clary and carried to authorize Bechen to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the South Central Alcohol Task Force for May 1, 2026 through May 1, 2031.

The burn ban was discussed. Commissioners would like to further educate the public on when the burn ban is in place in Miner County. Auditor Mommaerts will write an article to publish in the Miner County Pioneer.

A late Elderly Tax Freeze application was received by Treasurer Brittany Yanish, which she has approved, pursuant to SDCL 10-6A-4. It was moved by Carlson, seconded by Clary and carried to approve the abatement application (Elderly 26-2) and authorize the auditor to abate \$670.38 off the individual's tax bill.

It was moved by Neises, seconded by Faber, and carried to make an operating transfer, as provided for in the 2026 budget, of \$57,000, from General Fund to the Dispatch Fund in the amount of \$52,000 and to the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of \$5,000.

The annual conference of commissioners and the director was held pursuant to SDCL 10-3-14. If there are no appeals, the equalization meeting will be at 9:00am on April 14th; if an appeal is received, the meeting time will be moved to 7:00pm. Motion to move to executive session by Carlson, second by Clary, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) for personnel matters at 1:20pm. Motion carried. Board returned to regular session at 1:30pm.

Commissioners will attend the annual weed board meeting as a fact-finding venture. Neises and Bechen have researched possibilities for the future of the Miner County Weed department. Neises has talked with Brenda Sievers and Andrew Canham while researching possibilities. Discussion was held regarding future options for weed management in Miner County.

The future of the Miner County Emergency Management department was discussed. Next steps are to find out what the actual requirements from the state are if Miner County chooses to end the LEMPG agreement.

Motion by Neises, second by Faber and carried to enter into executive session for personnel matters pursuant to 1-25-2 (1) at 1:40pm. The board returned to regular session at 1:44pm.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until April 14th. Dated this 7th day of April, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor