

## Unapproved Minutes of May 19, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 19, 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 Pledge of Allegiance was recited. It was moved by Carlson, seconded by Faber, and carried to approve the agenda. The minutes of the May 5th meeting were approved.

Tim Neises reported on attending the Southeast Central District meeting on May 13th.

It was moved by Faber, seconded by Neises, and carried to make an operating transfer, as provided for in the 2026 budget, in the amount of \$25,000 from General Fund to Dispatch Fund.

Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer showed an April 30, 2026 balance of \$8,696,889.11 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts.

Correspondence received: Shannon Hutterian Brethren, Inc. manure management system amended certificate of compliance and Shannon HBI poultry barn as-builts & proposed modular nursery barns plans & specifications review from the Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources, and the April 2026 Sheriff report.

No one appeared for public comment.

Building & Grounds Manager Lori Kiehl reported on new locks installed at the courthouse. She received a quote for \$3,070.28 from Schomp's Mechanical Services to repair the VRF unit. She also received a quote from Harris to extend water loop and put in an extra valve to repair the issues with the heating & cooling system, which came to around \$19,300, which is a cheaper alternative to putting in water tanks that would clutter the boiler room; early Fall would be the best time to make this repair. Resolution of the Trane contract was discussed. Commissioners instructed Kiehl to have State's Attorney Kristian Ellendorf request a refund of half of the contract amount. When Harris did their service call, they noticed pump #2 in the boiler room is vibrating, which is likely to cause damage if left unattended; Kiehl is waiting for a repair quote. The CO2 detector was installed in the boiler room and is integrated into the digital alert system. Kiehl received a quote from Kramer Concrete Construction Inc. for the front sidewalk blocks that are disintegrating. Kramer suggested completely replacing them. Motion by Carlson, second by Neises, to approve the quote from Kramer Concrete Construction Inc. for \$2,497.96.

It was moved by Clary, seconded by Carlson and carried to authorize the auditor to pay the following claims: Santel \$30.00, Alliance \$150.00 **911 CHARGES**; Sioux Falls Area Humane Society \$62.00 **ANIMAL CONTROL**; ICAP \$857.75 **COMMUNITY ACTION PAYMENT**; SD DOH Public Health \$1,674.00 **CO NURSE PMT TO STATE**; Istate Truck Center \$109,127.00, Office Peeps \$712.00 **EQUIPMENT**; SD SOS \$30.00 **FILING FEE**; Elan Financial \$186.22, HFCA \$15,642.44 **FUEL**; Life Quest \$3,000.00 **GRANT**; SDPAA \$1,786.04 **INSURANCE**; SD DOH \$12.00 **LICENSE**; Mark Neises \$610.00 **MOWING**; Elan Financial

\$2,387.65 **POSTAGE**; Davison Co Sheriff \$3,150.00, Lake Co Sheriff \$2,465.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Lake Co Sheriff \$75.00, Lewis Drug \$2,803.35 **PRISONER MEDICAL**; Lake Co Sheriff \$30.00 **PRISONER TRANSPORT**; Office Ally \$44.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; Jeremy Beyer \$143.00, Terry Burger \$40.00, Terry Carlson \$175.00, Brian Dold \$145.00, Donald Epp \$175.00, Ron Krempeges \$143.00, Adam Mentele \$40.00, Yesika Munoz \$200.00, Eric Smith \$40.00 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**; Canova Service Center \$225.02, ES&S \$2,032.42, James Gorman \$28,500.00, HFCA \$256.35, Interstate Glass & Door \$633.47, James Valley Landscape \$506.00, Office Peeps \$91.39, Auto Value \$25.98, TwoTrees Tech \$917.10 **REPAIRS**; Amazon \$376.25, Elan Financial \$180.00, Election Source \$5,484.45, Fleetpride \$58.99, Home Service Water \$46.20, HFCA \$80.61, Office Peeps \$183.24, Pheasantland Industries \$1,631.11, Quill \$5.79, Rockmount Research & Alloys \$250.04, Shane's Hardware \$121.52, Acuity Specialty \$297.73 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance Communications \$2,014.99 **TELEPHONE**; Mike Clary \$589.20, Rob Eggert \$74.00, Joe Bechen \$52.50, Elan Financial \$347.49, Barb Esser \$206.47, Kathy Faber \$88.20, HFCA \$35.33, Becki Mommaerts \$20.00, Yesika Munoz \$123.25, Gibi Page \$20.00, Ramkota Hotel \$705.00, The Lodge at Deadwood \$285.00 **TRAVEL**; Xcel Energy \$43.68, Central Electric \$80.17 **UTILITIES**.

Highway Superintendent Ron Krempeges reported that there is a little dirt work and seeding left to do on the bridge west of Carthage. Signs were taken down from east/west roads, but signs need to be removed from the gravel roads. The box and grading is done on the bridge east of Carthage; it needs a gravel surface on it. Krempeges talked to Lee Feldhaus on permanent fencing, but he hasn't heard back from him definitively yet. Demolition and base should be done and the contractor should be coming this week to start on the Green Valley bridge northeast of Argonne. The Highway Shop has been painted. The new truck and pup trailer have been received. Freightliner will need to know within the week if we want to order a truck to be ready by the first of the year. Gabe Turpin has accepted the open highway maintenance position; he will need to train for his CDL. There was discussion on whether a contract should be secured for employees trained for a CDL; Ellendorf will research. The highway crew will likely be working in Kingsbury County next week.

Adam Frerichs met with the board to confirm their departure from the LEMPG agreement and to explain there are still some reporting requirements for the Emergency Manager to complete. Bechen asked about counties that share emergency managers; Frerichs stated this works well most of the time, with the biggest drawback being in the midst of a disaster that affects both counties. Also, only the parent company can be reimbursed by the grant programs for Emergency Managers.

The Commissioners reviewed the email request from Magdalena Popek-Hurst regarding First Responders Appreciation Month in October. Mommaerts will prepare a proclamation for Miner County using the provided template and bring it to the next meeting.

Commissioners instructed Mommaerts to invite a representative from Glacial Lakes & Prairies Tourism to a teleconference at the next meeting to discuss their budget request.

Neises signed the Weed Grant agreement for 2026-2027. The CSI proposal was discussed; Mommaerts will ask for a new proposal after some adjustments to better compare with the county's current managed services plan.

There was discussion on SB96, with Director of Equalization Barb Esser and Miner County resident Kathy Weidler in attendance. Mommaerts & Neises reviewed what they learned at the Spring Workshop and District meeting, respectively. The biggest takeaway is that it doesn't seem to benefit small counties or those with little tourism. Even larger counties may decide against it due to higher population of renters, rather than homeowners. The decision could be referred to a vote of the people. If utilized, the tax would begin either in the months January or July, but there is no deadline to decide by.

Carthage Mayor David Hattervig and Tim Nelson appeared on behalf of the citizens of Carthage regarding the potential hazards of the deteriorating condition of the old Carthage School. They believe the building needs to be demolished. There may be money available to help with this demolition if the building was owned by a public entity. Asbestos in the building is one of the biggest hurdles. The treasurer's office is struggling to locate the owner. Yanish has spoken with the post office to seek a forwarding address for Steven Brewer. Faber has said there are people willing to donate to removing the building, and there are individuals interested in purchasing the property once the building is removed. The state provided assistance for an asbestos inspection in 2019. The City of Carthage has a judgement lien on the property giving them authority to tear it down. There is a grant through DANR for asbestos cleanup, but the property must be held by a tax-exempt entity. Yanish will check if there is any funding available for this program, and the Commissioners will readdress the issue at the next Commissioner meeting.

Motion by Faber, second by Neises, and carried to hire Tami Severson under the title DOE Consultant to assist Esser as a part-time, as-needed employee, without benefits, at the rate of \$29.61/hr, which was her last hourly wage as Director of Equalization.

Treasurer Brittany Yanish reported that her deputy, Mariah Jacobson, has resigned effective May 29<sup>th</sup>. Yanish is advertising for her replacement and has reached out to past applicants. She's received a few new applicants as well.

Ambulance Manager Cora Schwader reported that the Central Electric building was purchased by Kingbrook Rural Water, so that's no longer a potential option. The ambulance building committee met on May 7<sup>th</sup> and has a meeting set up for next week. It was stated that the existing ambulance barn would not be demolished. One full-time EMT is going to be out on medical leave for a minimum of 6 weeks, and the ambulance is always in need of more drivers. Commissioners may look into the option of hiring an additional full-time EMT.

Schwader, as Director of 911 & Dispatch Services, gave an update on the transition process. There was discussion on the needed pagers/radios that the County will purchase. Faber will find out from Brandon Darnell how many pagers the Carthage Fire Department needs and will report back to Schwader and Clary. Commissioners gave permission to Schwader to order the requested pagers and radios, once those numbers are known. Once the County purchases

these pagers and radios and delivers them to the emergency responders, they will become the property of the individual departments, who will be responsible for all maintenance and repair costs. The battery backup is being purchased for the Carthage repeater, which was covered by the grant. Santel requires a five-year agreement to install fiberoptic to the Fire Hall for Fedora. The agreement will be under Miner County for the first five years (50% paid by the grant and 50% by the county). After that, it will become Fedora Fire Department's responsibility.

Clary asked Faber about the switch for the siren for Carthage that appeared in Carthage's minutes. Carthage wants to be able to manually set the siren off, due to past troubles with the siren not sounding. It will be keyed so only the proper authorities can set it off.

Kiehl received the estimate for the repair of the vibrating pipe in the boiler room. She encouraged the board to complete this repair soon to avoid additional damage costs. The board requested Kiehl to investigate if there is any trade-in value for the previous pump, and authorized her to proceed with that, if so. Motion by Carlson, second by Faber to approve the quote from Harris for pipe repairs in the amount of \$6,760.34.

Motion Carlson, second by Neises and carried to enter executive session at 11:51am to discuss personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1). The board came out of executive session at 12:22.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until Thursday, June 4th. Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman  
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor