

May 5, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 5, 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 the removal of the OPS2a quote for the Promethean Panel that is no longer needed. The minutes of the April 21st meeting were approved.

Faber attended the ambulance board meeting on April 27th where the ambulance barn and 2027 budget were discussed. The board was invited to come to the meeting today when representatives of the City of Howard are here. Bechen attended a First District meeting on April 30th. The SD Counties monthly membership meeting regarding SB96 was discussed as well.

During public comment, Auditor Mommaerts reported that Sheriff Eggert has secured a court security grant for a key-fob entry system for the south doors once dispatch is no longer in the building. Bechen suggested the possibility of having a booth at the Howard Headers car show to answer questions about the changes to Miner County 911 & dispatch.

Highway Superintendent Ron Kremppges reported on highway matters. They are planning to start asphalt work on Monday for the bridge on the west side of Carthage. The bridge east of Carthage is being poured now. Work on the Argonne bridge will begin soon. Last Friday, Kremppges went to Mitchell for a preconstruction meeting for the Carthage park bridge; it sounds like work will begin later in May. Final gravel and signing were not included in the cost of this project. Kremppges will get a quote from Feldhaus Fencing to fence the project, since the highway crew will be in their busier season.

The highway maintenance position has been advertised, with possible shop placement. CDL medical cards have been received, and licenses have all been switched over for the highway crew. Carthage cleanup is done; Canova's is June 6th. Kremppges had it in the budget to repaint the shop this year; contractor came last week to look at the shop and explained his process to Kremppges. The total cost of the project will be about \$28,500. The contractor will need to turn in his certificate of insurance. He is asking for a \$5,000 payment in advance for supplies; Auditor Mommaerts will research if this is ok. Commissioners requested to see more area references. Commissioners approved the \$5,000 payment if Mommaerts is given the go-ahead and the references check out. Kremppges recently noticed the gutters pulling away from the shop building; the movement may have been from the walls bowing in. This may have been because of the derecho and wasn't noticed until now. The new truck should hopefully be done next week. Kremppges is working on the budget for next year and the 5-year plan for the DOT program. Kremppges is hoping to order another truck soon to be paid out of next year's budget.

The bid opening for a commercial spray applicator for the county and participating townships was held, as advertised. Both bids were from entities with a valid SD commercial pesticide applicator license. The bids received were as follows:

Howard Farmers Coop:

\$18 applicator charge per mile
2-4D Amine 1 qt/acre at \$22/gallon

Ditch Weed LLC:

\$49 applicator charge per mile for single chemical or \$59 applicator charge per mile for both chemicals

Tordon 22k or LV6, or both (included in the cost per mile)

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Faber and carried to table the decision until the end of the meeting, due to time constraints.

It was moved by Faber, seconded by Carlson and carried to authorize the auditor to pay the following claims: Road & Bridge \$49,445.19, MERP Fund \$57,943.78, Reliance Standard \$840.28, Delta Dental \$1,075.32, Retirement \$7,987.25, Colonial Life \$242.42, OASI \$11,209.24, Commissioners \$5,036.00, Auditor \$8,277.00, Treasurer \$8,599.98 (includes Mariah Jacobson@\$3317.00/mo), States Attorney \$6,550.00, Govt Building \$3,739.20, Director of Equalization \$12,036.94 (includes Barb Esser@\$4397.25/mo), Register of Deeds \$6,971.91, Vet Service \$640.50, Sheriff \$13,145.00, Contract Law \$4,547.25, Welfare \$287.50 (includes Cheryl Moore@\$23.00/hr), Ambulance \$12,052.45, Extension \$1,274.80 (includes Cheryl Moore@\$23.00/hr), Weed \$1,019.49, Dispatch \$16,034.67, Emergency Mgt \$2,406.48 **APRIL PAYROLL**; Triotel \$167.53 **911 CHARGES**; National Assn of State Agencies \$39.00 **DUES**; Josh Esser \$30.00 **EVOC DRIVER**; Elan Financial \$51.98 **FUEL**; Northwestern Energy \$660.25 **GAS**; Brian Baldwin \$155.00 **IN SERVICE EDUCATION**; Paul's Towing \$416.80 **INVESTIGATION EXPENSE**; Mark Neises \$305.00 **MOWING**; Terry Burger \$135.00, Adam Mentele \$135.00, Eric Smith \$135.00 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**; Miner County Pioneer \$980.55 **PUBLISHING**; Dust-Tex \$185.84, Microfilm Imaging Systems \$470.00 **RENT**; ES&S \$664.00, Howard Auto Clinic \$158.90, Interstate Power Systems \$2,584.50, James Valley Landscape \$1,023.53, Klinkhammer Plumbing \$76.53, Auto Value \$51.20, Transource \$472.50, TwoTrees Tech \$1,783.15 **REPAIRS**; Subsurface Inc. \$32,405.00, Z&S Dust Control Systems \$6,460.00 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Relx, Inc. \$198.00 **SUBSCRIPTION**; Amazon \$14.09, Bierschbach Equipment \$51.54, Bright Arrow Tech \$90.00, Dust-Tex \$258.28, Elan Financial \$133.70, ES&S \$134.61, Homestead Building Supply \$28.99, Interstate Power Systems \$2,494.68, K&M Tire \$488.00, Nippon Sanso Matheson \$325.86, Quill \$68.15, Rusty's \$66.74, Shane's Hardware \$19.47, Transource \$177.19, TwoTrees Tech \$267.70 **SUPPLIES**; AT&T \$469.54, 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 \$95.02, Danielle Werkmeister \$30.00, Brittany Yanish \$30.00 **TELEPHONE**; Mike Clary \$56.00, Mike Connor \$12.60, Denise Gassman \$19.60 **TRAVEL**; City of Howard \$2,442.26 **UTILITIES**.

The Uniform Alcoholic Beverage License Application appears to have been mismarked on one question by the applicant. Mommaerts will reach out to the business owner(s) to verify whether this was a mistake and correct it, if so instructed. Motion to approve the renewal of the retail (on-off sale) malt beverage & SD farm wine license for CC&F Retail Inc. (Jake's Corner), if corrected, by Carlson, seconded by Neises and passed. Bechen is authorized to sign the application if the correction is made.

Ambulance Manager Cora Schwader and ambulance board members Mike Connor and Gibi Page were present for the ambulance department update. Schwader reported that the Building Committee met at the ambulance barn for a conversation about the needs and options for the relocation of the building. Another Building Committee meeting is set for May 27th at 1:00pm. Neises and Mike Connor toured ambulance storage at the hospital in Madison as well as the search & rescue building and did some measuring. Neises spoke with Curt Eliason of the City of Howard to try to come up with direction for the proposed city building prior to the Central Electric building auction on Friday. If the county joins in some way with this city project, the current ambulance barn may need to be torn down. The representatives of the City of Howard were unexpectedly not able to attend this meeting's discussion. The City does not meet again until Monday, which will be after the Central Electric auction on Friday.

Motion by Carlson to move to executive session pursuant to 1-25-2 (4) regarding the Central Electric building auction at 10:55am, seconded by Neises and carried. The board returned to regular session at 11:17am. Neises & Bechen will be attending the bid auction on Friday, with instructions from the board on how to proceed. Faber made a motion to give authority to Neises to bid on behalf of Miner County at this auction utilizing the instruction given during executive session, seconded by Carlson and carried.

Director of 911 & Dispatch Cora Schwader attended the 911 Coordination Board meeting telephonically on April 30th. Lake County and Miner County grants were approved. The state is going to hire a part-time 911 coordinator to assist Jason Husby. Bechen asked Schwader about providing information to the public at the Howard Headers car show. Schwader suggested Achievement Days as an alternative, since the car show will have people from various areas and Achievement Days attendees are generally local. Schwader reminded the Commissioners that there are dedicated dispatchers who will be losing their jobs when this changeover takes place that need to be remembered as the County progresses forward.

Correspondence received: VSO Report for April.

Motion by Carlson for Miner County to add Diversion Services in 2027 and continue Victim Services provided by the Beadle County State's Attorney office, seconded by Faber. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Neises, and carried to amend Resolution 26-2, changing the pay for primary elections from \$250 to \$275, due to a clerical mistake and to align with the 2026 budget.

Motion by Neises, seconded by Faber and carried to take the weed spraying discussion from the table for discussion. For the annual weed grant, the board will need to make sure the chemical costs are broken down separately on the invoices from the commercial applicator. Motion by Neises, seconded by Faber and carried to approve the bid from Ditch Weed LLC to spray for the 10 townships that requested spring spraying and approve the bid from the Howard Farmers Coop for the fall spraying application for the County roads and the 2 townships that requested fall spraying.

For 4-H grounds weed spraying, Jill Calmus should reach out to Donald Eppe at the highway department to see if he is able to help with that, prior to reaching out to an outside contractor.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Faber, and carried to appoint Tim Neises as Weed Supervisor for Miner County. The weed truck will be kept in the inventory for now.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until May 19th. Dated this 5th day of May, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor