

June 16, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 16, 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 Faber, seconded by Neises, and carried to approve the agenda. The minutes of the June 4th meeting were approved. No one appeared for public comment.

Neises reported on an unofficial meeting with Curt Eliason regarding the City of Howard lease for a new ambulance barn. Eliason hopes to have an estimated lease amount discussed at the next City Council meeting.

Superintendent Krempges reported on highway matters. Gabe Turpin is in the process of training and studying for his CDL and has been completing MSHA training. Krempges gave an update on bridge projects. Ulteig is going to do Miner County's bridge inspections again. Krempges will wait to hear of the inspection results and funding available before scheduling future bridge replacements. Chip sealing will begin next week in Kingsbury County first and then Miner County, with fog sealing to follow. Mowing began today. Krempges is working on getting figures for a new sander. Krempges reviewed his budget request for 2027. Terry Carlson will be retiring June 26th from the highway.

It was moved by Neises, seconded by Clary and carried to authorize the auditor to pay the following claims: SDSU Extension \$10,805.00 **4-H PMT TO STATE**; Santel \$30.00, Alliance \$150.00 **911 CHARGES**; SD DOR \$1,498.83, Sioux Falls Area Humane Society \$124.00 **ANIMAL CONTROL**; ICAP \$857.75 **COMMUNITY ACTION PAYMENT**; SD DOH LAB SERVICE \$10.00 **DRUG TESTING**; Elan Financial \$34.10, HFCA \$26,625.36, Wingen's Garage \$512.50 **FUEL**; Madison Regional Health \$2,524.06 **MENTAL ILLNESS PATIENT CARE**; Neises Mowing \$305.00 **MOWING**; Lake Co Sheriff \$95.00, Davison Co Sheriff \$3,255.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Lewis \$2,803.35 **PRISONER MEDICAL**; Office Ally \$44.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; Miner County Pioneer \$847.19 **PUBLISHING**; Canova Service Center \$567.03, James Valley Landscape \$1,129.00, Kramer Concrete \$2,497.96 **REPAIRS**; Commercial Asphalt \$99,192.40, TrueNorth Steel \$1,077.13 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Amazon \$440.91, Dakota Data Shred \$109.68, Elan Financial \$93.82, ES&S \$43.47, Fox Promo \$60.00, Home Service Water \$40.60, HFCA \$179.80, Shane's Hardware \$615.36, USPS \$126.00 **SUPPLIES**; Joe Bechen \$35.00, Justin Brandsma \$27.90, Elan Financial \$1,096.15, Barb Esser \$256.00, Kathy Faber \$88.20, Holiday Inn \$440.00 **TRAVEL**; Central Electric \$96.02 **UTILITIES**; Ditch Weed \$26,558.00 **WEED SPRAYING**.

The following correspondence was received: May Sheriff report, May VSO report, Miner Conservation District minutes and reports from March 2026.

Motion by Faber, second by Neises and carried to enter executive session at 10:15am to discuss legal matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (3). The board returned to open session at 11:00am.

Attorney Greg Protsch met with the Commissioners on behalf of Nate and Valerie Ruml. They sold a house on contract for deed in 2023, which ended up in foreclosure. Once the contract for deed foreclosure ran its course, the Rumls received the property free and clear of all liens, except real estate taxes. When a title report was ordered, it was determined that there were County liens against the Contract for Deed Purchasers; however, the county liens were subordinate to the contract for deed vendor's lien in the foreclosure action. They are requesting that the county release the county liens against the parcel now owned by them, leaving the liens in effect on other property the lienees still own or any subsequently acquired properties. Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, to pass the following resolution:

Resolution 26-7

WHEREAS, Assistance having been granted for account numbers 1896 and 1856, by the County of Miner in the total amount of \$1,369.25.

WHEREAS, It has been proposed that said County liens be released as it relates to the following described real estate only.

WHEREAS, It appears to all members of the Board of County Commissioners of said Miner County, that it is to the advantage, benefit, and best interest that the following described real estate be released from said liens.

WHEREAS, The liens against the following described real property, to-wit:
Lot Three (3), except the North Seventy Feet (N 70') thereof, Block One (1), Wards Addition to the City of Howard, Miner County South Dakota; also described as Lot 3 of Ward's First Addition to the City of Howard, Miner County, South Dakota;
be released.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the said County of Miner, South Dakota, hereby agrees to release said County liens above described, which said liens are of record under account numbers 1896 and 1856 in the office of the Register of Deeds of Miner County, South Dakota, and that the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners and the County Auditor are authorized to execute the proper release of said liens on behalf of said County, releasing said liens against the above-described property only.

Dated at the City of Howard, Miner County, South Dakota on this 16th day of June, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman of the Board of
County Commissioners, Miner County, SD

ATTEST: Rebecca Mommaerts
County Auditor, Miner County, SD

There were no updates for the ambulance department at this time, apart from waiting for an estimate from the City of Howard on a lease amount.

Cora Schwader, as Director of 911 & Dispatch Services, gave an update on the transition process. There will be a meeting on June 25th at 5:30pm at the 4-H building, led by April Denholm. All the emergency responders in Miner County were invited to this meeting. Clary requested Schwader to send out a reminder to the fire departments and ambulance personnel the day of the meeting.

The first meeting in August will be moved to Monday, August 3rd, to allow for a timely canvass of the July 28th Runoff election results.

A request was received from Vanessa Walter to host the Fall Festival on the Miner County 4-H Grounds from 10am-4pm on Saturday, October 10th, with proceeds benefitting the Little Tiger PAWS PTO. The Commissioners approved the sale of beer and wine on the 4-H Grounds, provided the required licensure and insurance are acquired, as in the past. This will be the last year Vanessa Walter will organize the event; if someone is willing to take on the event in the future as a fundraiser for a community organization or business, they should reach out to her.

Auditor Mommaerts informed the board that the Auditor's office is looking into timeclock software, as an alternative to Excel timesheets. Unfortunately, it does not seem like Ultra is willing to integrate any timeclock software into their accounting software, but a standalone timeclock program may still save a lot of staff time. TCP Timeclock Software will have a proposal by the next meeting.

Mommaerts requested a level raise for her deputy, Justin Brandsma, due to the exemplary work he puts in to the position. Motion by Neises, second by Faber to grant a level raise to Justin Brandsma from Level 3 to Level 4, effective June 1st. Motion carried.

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber and carried to go into executive session at 11:36am for personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Board returned to regular session at 11:42am.

Treasurer Brittany Yanish gave an update on the open deputy position in her office. An offer has been made and accepted by Shellie Bluhm, with the start date still being discussed.

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber to go into executive session for personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1). Board returned to regular session at 12:22pm.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, July 7th. Dated this 16th day of June, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor