

June 4, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 4, 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 May 19th meeting were approved. No one appeared for public comment.

Neises reported on the May 27th ambulance building committee meeting that he and Carlson attended. Budgetary concerns over the cost of the lease were discussed.

Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer showed a May 31st balance of \$6,504,329.42 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts.

Superintendent Krempges reported on highway matters. Krempges gave an update on bridge projects. The bridge east of Carthage is open to traffic but all gravel currently. Krempges met with Feldhaus Fencing on Monday morning. The bridge west of Carthage just needs some seeding done, and then that project should be wrapped up. Gabe Turpin will have to start training and testing for his CDL soon after he begins employment at the highway. Krempges discussed options for CDL training. The week of the 15th, the highway crew will start mowing. They probably have 2-3 days left to work in Kingsbury County and may work on culverts, if time allows. After asphalt work is finished, they will start chip sealing. Canova clean-up will be this weekend. There is also blading and fence work, when time allows. The 2027 highway budget was discussed. Krempges has the truck, snow equipment and box ordered for next year. In 2027, there will be 18 miles to chip seal.

It was moved by Carlson, seconded by Clary and carried to authorize the auditor to pay the following claims: Road & Bridge \$50,467.57, MERP Fund \$53,594.84, Reliance Standard \$813.24, Delta Dental \$910.28, Retirement \$8,045.93, Colonial Life \$227.86, OASI \$10,866.98, Commissioners \$5,036.00, Auditor \$8,277.00, Treasurer \$7,626.77, States Attorney \$6,550.00, Govt Building \$4,674.00, Director of Equalization \$6,394.87, Register of Deeds \$7,616.51, Vet Service \$640.50, Sheriff \$13,776.20, Contract Law \$4,783.95, Welfare \$23.00, Ambulance \$11,390.25, Extension \$1,610.00, Dispatch \$17,657.59, Emergency Mgt \$600.00 **MAY PAYROLL**. Barb Esser \$14.00 **PAYROLL TRAVEL**; Poll Workers \$7,260.00, On Call Election Workers \$210.00, Resolution Board \$200.00 **ELECTION SALARIES**; Poll Workers \$409.50, On Call Election Workers \$24.50 **MILEAGE**; Canova Village \$50.00, City of Carthage \$50.00, Fedora Fire Department \$75.00 **RENT**; Triotel \$171.53 **911 CHARGES**; SD DOT \$56,560.01 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Chris Nipe \$2,239.39 **COURT APPT ATTY**; Gr-Emergency Vehicle \$4,525.00, Runnings \$229.00 **EQUIPMENT**; Josh Esser \$30.00 **EVOC DRIVER**; HFCA \$298.74, Auto Value \$160.47 **FUEL**; Northwestern Energy \$317.74 **GAS**; Childrens Care Corner \$7,000.00 **GRANT**; Brian Baldwin \$155.00 **IN SERVICE EDUCATION**; Abby J Oftedal \$244.00 **MENTAL ILLNESS HEARING EXPENSE**; Neises Mowing \$305.00 **MOWING**; Miner Co Treasurer \$200.56 **POSTAGE**; Dust-Tex \$185.84, Microfilm Imaging \$1,130.00, USPS \$126.00 **RENT**; Butler Machinery \$3,482.00, Graham Tire \$787.62, Howard Auto Clinic \$1,378.79, Marshall & Swift \$2,083.70, Office Peeps \$78.65,

Twotrees Tech \$1,722.40 **REPAIRS**; Commercial Asphalt \$81,110.30 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Relx, Inc. \$198.00 **SUBSCRIPTION**; Amazon \$165.39, Bierschbach Equipment & Supply \$407.20, Butler Machinery \$4,185.38, Dust-Tex \$258.28, ES&S \$336.95, Homestead Building Supply \$65.92, K&M Tire \$476.00, Miner Co Treasurer \$171.20, Becki Mommaerts \$3.50, Office Peeps \$882.30, Quill \$42.80, Runnings \$894.89, Rusty's \$358.36, Shane's Hardware \$126.97, Auto Value \$1,892.00, Transource \$33.79, Twotrees Tech \$256.45, USPS \$576.00, Vander Haag's \$1,403.33 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance \$853.24, AT&T \$719.53, 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 \$95.06, Danielle Werkmeister \$30.00, Brittany Yanish \$30.00 **TELEPHONE**; Mike Connor \$37.80, Holiday Inn Express \$620.95, HFCA \$51.52, The Lodge at Deadwood \$285.00 **TRAVEL**; City of Howard \$2,510.53, Xcel Energy \$25.82 **UTILITIES**.

Clary made a motion to sign the proclamation for First Responders Appreciation, with corrections, seconded by Faber, and carried.

America's 250th proclamation was discussed. Faber made a motion to postpone the decision, seconded by Neises, until a museum representative can join a meeting to explain what specific commitments they are asking from the Commissioners. Motion passed.

The Board of Commissioners, as the Miner County Canvassing Board, conducted the official canvass of the results of the Primary election held on Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026. There were no changes to the results. The Certificate of Canvass was signed and transmitted to the Secretary of State's office.

The Board then performed the random selection of the precinct(s) to be included in the Post-Election Auditor (PEA) of the Primary election results by drawing from paper slips from a box. Precincts 4, 7 and 8 were all selected in order to meet the minimum 100 ballot requirement. Draw for post-election audit. US Senator was chosen as the statewide race, and SD Governor was chosen as the second race from all remaining races. The PEA for Miner County will take place in the Miner County courtroom, located on the 3rd floor of the courthouse, on Thursday, June 18th at 1:00pm.

Clary read out the letter prepared for the townships regarding their responsibility to spray their own rights-of-way and ditches in 2027. A few corrections will be made, and Carlson will send the letters out to the townships.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the 2027 budget request from Safe Place of Eastern South Dakota. They will take it into consideration with future budget discussions.

Kristian Ellendorf met with the board regarding the request to assist with demolition of the Carthage School Building. The property the school sits on and surrounding properties were discussed. There is currently \$24,751.66 owed in taxes as of the end of May. Ellendorf stated that the county can take tax deed on the property and deed the property to the City of Carthage at any time; the 180-day waiting period does not apply for that. The options Ellendorf gave to the Commissioners are as follows: 1) Take tax deed on the Carthage school property. 2) Assign the

tax certificate to City of Carthage. Carthage would then have to initiate the tax deed proceeding in 1 year and complete the process 6 months after that time is expired. 3) Do nothing because this is a City of Carthage issue and the county has no liability regarding the property. The county could be compelled to have to take the tax deed. The City of Carthage is positioned to move forward in order to either repair or destroy the building.

Brittany Yanish researched the Brownfields Program, communitywide access grant for asbestos removal. There is no funding available until October of this year. Yanish had Brownfields put Miner County on the waitlist. The representative Yanish talked to, Macy Jo Peterson, was not around when the asbestos report was done in 2019, but they would only require an exterior assessment be done again, as they believe the caulk with asbestos may have deteriorated further since the last assessment. They need an owner's signature to go through with this program and is believed the owner of the property is now deceased, so we would likely need to get authority through the court.

Yanish explained the tax deed process to the Commissioners. After moving forward with the tax deed, to qualify for the program, the county would need future plans for beautification of the property. There is no guarantee to receive funding through the Brownfields program. Under SDCL 10-35-39.1 if the county acquires property by tax deed, it needs to declare it surplus and sell it within one year. There is a program through Kansas State University where individuals will come to give options on potential uses for the property once the building is removed, which is completely free of charge, with the sole aim of increasing tax dollars for the area. Yanish will invite Peterson to the July 7th meeting to speak with the Commission more about the program. All surrounding towns will be invited to this meeting.

Ellendorf prepared a contract for CDL reimbursement if a new hire should leave the county prior to 2 years of employment. Commissioners decided to hold off on this due to the cost of CDL training being lower than expected.

Ellendorf spoke to the Commissioner regarding the Victim Witness Services through Beadle County. Ellendorf already has a diversion program in place. Her diversion program is court approved, and the school and city work with Ellendorf on the diversion program for community service hours. Beadle County will allow Miner County to reassess and resign the agreement with Beadle County to only include Victim Services. Diversion services will continue through Ellendorf. Faber made a motion to remove Diversion services from the contract with Beadle County, seconded by Carlson. Beadle County will provide only Victim Services in 2027 for Miner County. Motion passed.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Clary and carried to remove Mariah Jacobsen as a signer on all Miner County accounts.

Motion to table the Emergency Manager decision by Clary, second by Neises. Motion carried.

Ambulance Manager Schwader reported that the ambulance is planning to go forward with leasing a space for the ambulance barn through a future building project by the City of

Howard. Some requested features for the building would be a wash bay, a concrete apron for front of garage doors, bathroom, oxygen-bottle storage, utility sink, shower and office meeting room. Miner County will need to provide furnishings such as a power washer, curtain, clothes washer, dryer, open shelving, cabinet storage, and a multi-device charging station. One thing Schwader believes should be purchased soon is an oxygen tank lift, which could be purchased with this year's budget. The ambulance budget request will need to be changed, now that the ambulance department is no longer planning to build its own building. The committee will attempt to find out if the City of Howard has an idea for a lease amount and what budget year this would potentially begin.

Schwader, as Director of 911 & Dispatch Services, gave an update on the transition process. She ordered pagers and radios on the 22nd of May. Clary got department numbers to Schwader. Carlson asked who all got the email about the meeting on June 25th at 5:30 in the 4-H building. All county fire departments were invited. The Fedora fiber has been trenched in. Schwader asked about transferring the tower costs to another budget. Radio repairs is the console radio agreement, which will still be needed.

Motion to remove the Emergency Manager discussion from the table by Faber, second by Carlson and carried. Motion to go into executive session for personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) by Faber, seconded by Clary and passed. The board went into executive session at 11:50am. The board returned to open session at 12:23pm. Motion by Carlson to hire Josh Hahn as Miner County Emergency Manager at \$8000 per year, with a 6-month review, seconded by Neises. Motion passed.

Motion by Clary, second by Neises and carried to enter executive session at 12:44pm to discuss personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1). The board returned to open session at 1:12pm.

Motion by Faber to end Tami Severson's employment for Director of Equalization assistance, effective August 1st, seconded by Carlson. Motion passed.

Commissioners denied the request from DOR.

The quote from CSI for managed services was reviewed; due to the similar cost, no changes were made at this time.

Budget requests by ROCS and ICAP were reviewed and will be taken into consideration during future budget discussions.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, June 16th. Dated this 4th day of June, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor