

July 21, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 21, 2026, in the Miner County Courthouse Commission room. Members present: Joe Bechen, Kathy Faber, Tim Neises, Kari Jo Carlson, and Mike Clary.

Chairman Bechen called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. It was moved by Neises, seconded by Clary, and carried to approve the agenda, as amended. The minutes of the July 7th meeting were approved.

Neises and Carlson reported on attending the quarterly 911 advisory meeting; the transition will hopefully be happening in September. Neises talked to Eliason from the City of Howard; the potential ambulance building was on their agenda, but there was no progress made.

No one appeared for public comment.

It was moved by Carlson, seconded by Faber and carried to authorize the auditor to pay the following claims: Sanford Health \$2,100.00 **AUTOPSY**; Axis Forensic Toxicology \$65.00 **DRUG TESTING**; Elan Financial \$175.00 **DUES**; Post Election Board \$112.50 **ELECTION SALARIES**; HFCA \$1,624.24, Auto Value \$54.16 **FUEL**; Brian Baldwin \$155.00 **IN SERVICE EDUCATION**; SDACC \$1,829.00 **LEGAL EXPENSE RELIEF FUND**; Lincoln Co Auditor \$1,355.97 **MENTAL ILLNESS HEARING EXPENSE**; Avera McKennan Hospital \$873.00, Avera Behavioral Health \$150.86 **MENTAL ILLNESS PATIENT CARE**; Neises Mowing \$610.00 **MOWING**; Miner Co Treasurer \$142.92, Stamp Fulfillment Services \$2,910.70 **POSTAGE**; Davison Co Sheriff \$3,150.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Office Ally \$44.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; HFCA \$317.72, Interstate Power Systems \$458.78, S&S Contracting \$461.43, TwoTrees Technologies \$275.00 **REPAIRS**; Homestead Building Supplies \$15.96, Lyle Signs \$461.33, TrueNorth Steel \$26,035.20 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Amazon \$349.06, Elan Financial \$574.56, Gall's \$196.74, Home Service Water \$29.40, HFCA \$60.00, Istate Truck Center \$472.58, John Deere Financial \$172.27, Menards \$216.78, Miner County Pioneer \$213.75, Miner Co Treasurer \$17.65, Safety Kleen Systems \$311.99, Shane's Hardware \$34.05, Sioux Falls Rubber Stamp \$45.19, Auto Value \$1,613.55, Thomson Reuters \$374.70, Tyler Technologies \$504.50, Wingen's Garage \$1,335.50, WW Tire Service \$480.00 **SUPPLIES**; Joe Bechen \$35.00, Kathy Faber \$88.20, HFCA \$89.57, Tim Neises \$28.00, SDAAO \$900.00, SDACC \$1,060.00 **TRAVEL**; Central Electric \$165.21, Xcel Energy \$11.69 **UTILITIES**.

Building & Grounds Manager Kiehl presented her 2027 budget request for the general government building. She also requested to install a water softener in the building to help with faucet fixture wear and tear. Commissioners approved her proceeding with this building improvement.

Zoning Manager Barb Esser presented a plat from David Callies and David Dawson for approval. Motion by Faber, second by Neises, and carried to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 26-10

BE IT RESOLVED that the Plat of TRACT 1 AND TRACT 2 OF CALLIES ADDITION, AN ADDITION IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 106 NORTH, RANGE 56 WEST OF THE 5TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, MINER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, as described above and drawn hereon, appears to conform to the system of roads, existing plats, and section lines of Miner County and that adequate provisions has been made for access to adjacent unplatted lands and that all provisions of Miner County Subdivision Regulations have been paid and that the plat and the survey thereof have been lawfully executed. Said plat is approved and accepted and the Chairman is hereby instructed to endorse on such plat this resolution and to certify the same.

Adopted this 21st Day of July, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts
Miner County Auditor

Director of Equalization Barb Esser reviewed her budget requests for 2027 for the Director of Equalization and GIS departments. Deputy DOE Autumn Glanzer has finished all of her training books. She will attend school with Esser and take her certification test following that.

Highway Superintendent Ron Krempges reported on bridge projects. The bridge west of Carthage is preparing for final payment. Gravel surfacing is holding up well on the bridge east of Carthage. The plan is to asphalt it between mid-August and early fall. Dawson Construction is doing dirt work on the Green Valley structure northeast of Argonne. The seeding and erosion control crew may be coming in tomorrow, and then the highway can do the temporary fencing and graveling. Krempges plans to have Feldhaus do the permanent fencing. Dirt work has not yet started on the Carthage park bridge. The highway crew is done mowing the oils and the northeast and southeast corner gravels. Gabe Turpin acquired his CDL. Krempges is planning to retire next summer; hiring for his position was discussed.

Motion by Faber, second by Neises and carried to enter executive session pursuant to 1-25-2 (1) for personnel matters at 10:05am. Board returned to regular session at 10:25am.

Tami Moore, Miner Conservation District Manager, presented the 2025 financial report and 2025 annual report to the board.

The Miner County Weed Board held its quarterly meeting in conjunction with the Commission meeting. Board members in attendance were Wyatt Walter, Dan Page, Kim Lewis, and Kathy Faber. Walter asserted that the county should have sprayed in the spring as well as the fall for this year, as things went to seed due to the timing. However, at this point, the county will move forward to transition to fall spraying. There is question on whether a Commissioner can serve as weed supervisor due to possible conflict of interest, which is being researched; attorneys at SDPAA believe it is acceptable as long as the weed supervisor abstains from decisions regarding his department. Neises has received five weed complaints so far. If the

complaint needs to be pushed toward an enforcement, that's when the weed board gets involved. All complaints, except one, have already been addressed. Neises asked if the weed board would continue to serve. Walter stated he felt the position was unnecessary. Walter also expressed concern for the weeds within the county with the county no longer spraying for the townships. The board chose to remain intact until March of 2027. Page questioned if the grant money the county receives for the weed department could be shared with the townships. The weed board requested to leave most of the budget the same as the previous year during this transition year. The Commissioners thanked the weed board for attending.

Sheriff Rob Eggert met with the board regarding the contract for law enforcement with the City of Howard after meeting with Lynn Borgers of the City of Howard on July 1st. Currently, the contracted amount is \$93,000 per year. It was agreed to increase the contracted amount to \$96,000 starting January 1st, 2027 for a two-year contract.

Eggert has to add more services to the CentralSquare software to accommodate for the 911 transition. Eggert had concerns with this making him go over his budget for the current year. Commissioners stated they would cover any budget overage with contingency funds. Eggert reviewed his budget requests for the Sheriff and Contract Law budgets for 2027. Clary requested Eggert implement a charge for fingerprinting due to the increased costs to the county associated with fingerprinting. Eggert requested the clothing allowance be increased for law enforcement. Motion by Clary, seconded by Carlson, and carried to raise the clothing allowance for law enforcement from \$250 to \$350 per officer, beginning in 2027. Commissioners asked about Miner County deputies working part-time for other entities; if they are wearing county-bought equipment, who is responsible for replacement costs if the equipment is used or damaged? In his 2027 budget request, Eggert requested raises for himself, his deputies and his office manager.

Motion by Neises, seconded by Carlson, and carried to go into executive session for personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) at 11:56am. Returned to regular session at 12:10.

Ambulance Manager Cora Schwader reported that no decisions have been made regarding the cost for a building lease through the City of Howard, as they are awaiting dimensions of the proposed building. The City of Howard plans to tear down the old fire hall. Schwader suggested requesting a special meeting with the City council. Neises will keep visiting with Eliason to get hard numbers to push the decision forward. Schwader presented her 2027 budget request, which includes an amount for the county to build a new ambulance barn, if necessary.

Director 911 & Dispatch Services Schwader gave an update on the 911 transition project. Radio programming was discussed. All like departments need to program their radio channel numbers so that they are consistent. Schwader will try to get Two Way Radio to come onsite to program the radios since they will have to program the truck radios as well. During Achievement Days, there will be a booth on Tuesday and Wednesday to get information about the upcoming changes out to the public. Schwader has reached out to Jason Husby regarding surplus radios held by the Department of Health, with the hope that this will improve

communication with Carthage. Schwader stated it may be October before the changeover can fully occur.

The Resort zoning ordinance that will be addressed at a public hearing during the next Commission meeting was discussed. The Planning & Zoning committee will review it to bring the recommendation to that meeting.

The Weed Supervisor position was discussed. No decision was made at this time.

Auditor Mommaerts requested to combine the soon-to-be vacant part-time DOE clerk position with new part-time Auditor clerk position to allow for the position to be a fulltime 35-hour per week position. Commissioners approved Mommaerts and Esser to advertise for this position.

4-H Youth Advisor Jill Calmus reported on summer project days and the livestock judging workshop at beginning of June. The livestock judging contest is tonight. The County horse show went well, with two participants who went on to the state horse show. Cloverbud camp was held at the beginning of July. Calmus will be in Huron preparing for the State Fair from August 31st-September 2nd. Calmus is potentially going to national conference in Kansas (the closest location to SD) on Oct 27-29th. Calmus is preparing for Achievement Days to be held Aug 3-5 with theme "Every Project Tells a Story." Motion to move to executive session by Carlson, seconded by Clary and carried to discuss personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) at 1:20pm. The board returned to regular session at 1:25pm. Motion by Neises, seconded by Carlson, and carried to hire Amy Lovett as temporary help for the extension office during Achievement Days and possibly during the State Fair, to be paid at her current rate of pay. Calmus reviewed her 2027 budget requests for the extension and ag building departments.

It was moved by Carlson, seconded by Neises, and carried to make an operating transfer, as provided for in the 2026 budget, of \$292,500 from General Fund to the Road & Bridge fund in the amount of \$250,000, to the Dispatch fund in the amount of \$40,000 and to the Emergency Management fund in the amount of \$2,500.

Treasurer Brittany Yanish presented her 2027 budget request. She is now scanning information to send to the state which should decrease postage costs. Motion by Carlson, seconded by Clary, and carried to add Shellie Bluhm as an account signer at all financial institutions. Yanish is awaiting a response on whether we can transfer the County's spot in line to the City of Carthage in the Brownfields program. Carthage will need to sign for the structural assessment to move forward with the program.

Emergency Manager & Coroner Josh Hahn presented his 2027 budget requests to the board. Auditor Mommaerts presented the 2027 budget requests for the Auditor and Elections departments.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Clary, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign TCP contract for timeclock management services.

The following correspondence was received: June Sheriff report and pipeline safety resources from Northern Natural Gas.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until Monday, August 3rd. Dated this 21st day of July, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor