

**August 18, 2026**

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 18, 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 Faber, seconded by Neises, and carried to approve the agenda. The minutes of the August 3rd meeting were approved, with the portion about weed spraying for Green Valley amended to “they will be responsible to pay the total cost for the application and chemical used there.”

Carlson reported on attending the Canova Fire Department meeting last Thursday night.

No one appeared for public comment.

Deputy Director of Equalization Autumn Glanzer and Deputy Treasurer Shellie Bluhm took their oaths of office.

It was moved by Carlson, seconded by Clary and carried to authorize the auditor to pay the following claims: Diane Anderson \$110.00, Christi Borgers \$110.00, Karley Hall \$110.00, Jeff VanderWal \$425.00, Bobbi Kommes \$110.00, Mitchell VanderWal \$425.00, Wendy Sweeter \$110.00 **4-H JUDGES**; Alliance \$150.00, Santel \$30.00, Triotel \$169.53 **911 CHARGES**; ICAP \$857.75 **COMMUNITY ACTION PAYMENT**; Dawson Construction \$5,440.24 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Chris Nipe \$4,812.84 **COURT APPT ATTY**; Madison Regional Health \$110.00 **DRUG TESTING**; Motorola Solutions \$4,400.44 **EQUIPMENT**; HFCA \$23,125.22, John Deere Financial \$87.28, Auto Value \$47.47, Wingen’s Garage \$1,804.75 **FUEL**; Lincoln Co Auditor \$130.00 **MENTAL ILLNESS HEARING EXPENSE**; Neises Mowing \$305.00 **MOWING**; Davison Co Sheriff \$3,255.00, Lake Co Sheriff \$95.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Lewis Drug \$24.49 **PRISONER MEDICAL**; Davison Co Sheriff \$250.23, Randy Schwader \$152.17 **PRISONER TRANSPORT**; Office Ally \$44.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; Miner County Pioneer \$977.90 **PUBLISHING**; Dust-Tex \$185.84 **RENT**; Dakota Alignment & Frame \$686.01, Barb Esser \$12.00, Harris Mountain West \$2,300.00, Howard Auto Clinic \$149.20, HFCA \$124.08, John Deere Financial \$2,158.08, Office Peeps \$86.51, Prostrullo Auto Mall \$1,246.19, S&S Contracting \$352.45, Schomps Mechanical Services \$3,070.28, Wingen’s Garage \$170.00 **REPAIRS**; HFCA \$825.00 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Diamond Mowers \$1,820.13, Diesel Machinery \$1,102.90, Autumn Glanzer \$15.92, Home Service Water \$56.60, Homestead Building \$17.58, HFCA \$30.76, Istate Truck Center \$176.58, Jacks Uniform & Equipment \$57.06, John Deere Financial \$1,545.77, K&M Tire \$1,448.92, Office Peeps \$593.99, Rockmount Research & Alloys \$1,704.87, Rusty’s \$179.01, Shane’s Hardware \$156.84, SD Federal Property \$457.00, Auto Value \$914.21, Transource \$140.31, City of Howard \$250.00 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance \$980.41 **TELEPHONE**; Joe Bechen \$35.00, Barb Esser \$29.61, Kathy Faber \$58.80, Holiday Inn Express \$1,792.00, HFCA \$84.82, Brittany Yanish \$65.80 **TRAVEL**; City of Howard \$18.80, Xcel Energy \$10.19, Central Electric \$170.25 **UTILITIES**; Ray Genzlinger \$350.00 **WATCHMAN**.

The following correspondence was received: Invitation from the Safe Place for their Community Impact Session & Tour, and the First District of Local Governments August 2026 newsletter.

Sheriff Eggert requested to order some of the parts utilizing the current year's budget for the vehicle that will be purchased with the 2027 budget. Commissioners approved the request if his budget for 2026 allowed. Eggert plans to keep the Durango as the Sheriff backup vehicle. Commissioners requested that the additional vehicles be brought to them to be declared surplus with a plan for removal.

Highway Superintendent Krempges gave an update on bridge projects. Paint striping is currently underway. The first round of mowing is done; Krempges plans to start Fall mowing around the second week in September. There may only be one RAIF project next year. The DOT 5-year plan information was sent to First District. Krempges received a \$15,302 quote for a county highway repeater from Schwader; Schwader will talk more about it later in the meeting. Motion by Neises to move Eric Smith from Level 8 to Level 9 (\$23.68/hr), effective August 23<sup>rd</sup>, due to his position change to Shop Foreman, seconded by Faber and carried. Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, and carried to move into executive session at 9:47am for personnel matters, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1). The board returned to regular session at 10:09am. Other highway matters included blading, hauling gravel, and culvert work.

September meeting dates were discussed. There will be three meeting dates in September, due to conflict with the County Convention and to provide the ability to pay claims in a timely manner. Meeting dates will be Tuesday, September 1, Tuesday, September 8, and Tuesday, September 22.

Motion by Clary, second by Carlson and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the Charles Mix Law Enforcement Center Prisoner Housing Agreement for 2027.

The second reading of Ordinance 2026-01, An Ordinance amending "the Zoning Ordinance of Miner County" as established by Ordinance #04-1 and all amendments thereto, in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 11-2, 1967 SDCL, and amendments thereof, and for the repeal of all resolutions and ordinances in conflict therewith, was held. This ordinance adds "Resorts" as a Conditional Use. Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, to approve Ordinance 2026-01. Yeas: Bechen, Faber, Neises, Carlson and Clary. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2026-01 adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman  
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

A public drawing for candidate order on the general ballot was held. The independent candidates for County Commissioner at Large will be Kent Terwilliger, Joe Bechen and Mike Clary, in that order.

Director of 911 & Dispatch Services Schwader gave a 911 update to the board. She and April Denholm spoke to about 50 individuals during Achievement Days; the biggest concerns from the public were about ambulance service.

Denholm and Schwader met with Two Way Solutions technicians regarding questions that have come up related to the upcoming changes in Dispatch. The Lake County console will communicate with the Miner County console to send out dispatches in the same way they went out before. Miner County will not need a paging frequency. No pagers will need to be reprogrammed. The Carthage radio in the Dispatch Center will be replaced due to poor signal output; that cost is approximately \$1600. Two Way Solutions will reprogram all county radios at the same time, in the same format. They have the new Canova radio. It was suggested that a cell phone modifier be installed as an internet back up. The current State radios have the capability of Smart Connect, which uses Wi-Fi as primary and eliminates tower location issues. The Responder Network was discussed, which gives first responders the ability to communicate via radio inside a building using Wi-Fi.

The County Highway will need to have their own repeater to prevent interruption of first responder communications. This is not something that has to be done immediately. The repeater can be placed on the City building tower along with the one currently being used. The recorder needs to be replaced; a quote for one with fewer channels was received, as there will not be 911 to record. This replacement cannot be done until after the transition. Lake County 911 would be able to remote into the Miner County recorder, if needed. The next all agency meeting is set for August 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at the 4-H building. Two Way Solutions expects to be done with the project by the end of September. It is possible that the transition could take place by the end of October. A 60-day notice will need to be sent to the State, so that Lumen (911 telephone system) and Intrado (call routing) can determine a cutover date.

Clary asked about obtaining permission to put more on the City of Howard's tower. Neises will visit with the City of Howard before the meeting on the 27th. Carlson made a motion to authorize Schwader to sign the quote for the Highway repeater to get it ordered, seconded by Clary and passed.

Community Counseling Services submitted their budget request for 2027, which remains the same as the previous year. The Commissioners approved the request but asked Mommaerts to arrange for Belinda Grave to come to a future meeting to explain how the funding is being used.

Auditor Mommaerts and Director of Equalization Esser reported on the open Auditor & Equalization Clerk Position. They received many applicants and interviewed about half of those which were seen as the most qualified for the position. Interviews will be completed by the end of the day, and they hope to have an offer made to one of the applicants this week.

Motion by Carlson to add "Weed Supervisor" with the dispatchers and custodian (now Building & Grounds Manager) under section 4.5, Overtime, in the Miner County personnel policy to received one and one-half (150% of the employee's regular hourly rate after forty (40) hours of work in a week." Neises seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, and carried to go into executive session for legal matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (3) at 11:21am. Out at 11:24am.

Motion by Clary, second by Faber, and carried to go into executive session for personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) at 11:25am. Out at 11:38am.

Motion by Carlson, second by Clary and passed to pay the Two Way Solutions claim (\$3,407.50 **EQUIPMENT** \$49,997.59 **SUPPLIES**) and the Lammers, Kleibacker, Dawson & Miller claim (\$1,186.20 **COURT APPT ATTY**).

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, September 1st. Dated this 18th day of August, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman  
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor