

August 19, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 19, 2025, 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. Motion by Faber, seconded by Carlson and carried to approve the agenda. The minutes of the August 1, 2025 meeting were approved.

During public comment, Register of Deeds Gibi Page brought forward a proposed resolution from a Commissioner in Yankton wanting to raise the transfer fees from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per \$1,000.00. Page would like to see the commissioners table the decision at the County Convention so that the Registers of Deeds can discuss it at their roundtable.

Motion by Neises, seconded by Clary and carried to pay the following claims: Karley Hall \$100.00, Diane Anderson \$100.00, Christi Borgers \$100.00, Karen Lambert \$100.00, Laura Hoff \$100.00, Mitchell Vanderwal \$400.00, Jeff Vanderwal \$400.00, Bobbi Kommes \$100.00 **4-H JUDGES**; Alliance \$150.00, Santel \$30.00, Triotel \$167.53 **911 CHARGES**; ICAP \$796.09 **COMMUNITY ACTION PAYMENT**; Lammers, Kleibacker, Dawson & Miller \$2,184.00 **COURT APPT ATTY**; SDSU Extension \$180.00 **DUES**; HFCA \$14,363.45, Safety Kleen Systems \$288.90 **FUEL**; John M Nelson Atty at Law \$240.00 **MENTAL ILLNESS HEARING EXPENSE**; Christy McMullen \$960.00 **MOWING**; Davison Co Sheriff \$210.00, Lake Co Sheriff \$450.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Office Ally \$54.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; Miner County Pioneer \$187.61 **PUBLISHING**; A-Ox Welding Supply \$472.50, Dust-Tex \$180.48 **RENT**; Dakota Body Shop \$596.00, HFCA \$118.03, Istate Truck Center \$1,456.00, John Deere \$1,802.33, Microfilm Imaging \$470.00, Office Peeps \$78.65, Wingen's Garage \$45.88 **REPAIRS**; Shane's Hardware \$42.95 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Amazon \$155.56, Diamond Mowers \$452.62, Elan Financial \$529.66, Home Service Water \$29.40, HFCA \$288.09, Istate Truck Center \$1,826.37, John Deere \$925.84, K&M Tire \$413.98, Krug Products \$130.02, Lacal Equipment \$692.40, Miner County Pioneer \$63.01, Office Peeps \$506.41, Rusty's \$25.36, Shane's Hardware \$11.79, Auto Value \$336.08, Transource \$275.86 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance \$991.84 **TELEPHONE**; Total Response \$1,692.70 **TRAINING**; Joe Bechen \$96.48, Elan Financial \$236.00, Kathy Faber \$56.28, Tim Neises \$8.04, SDACC \$880.00 **TRAVEL**; Central Electric Coop \$115.70, Xcel Energy \$9.05 **UTILITIES**; Ray Genzlinger \$350.00 **WATCHMAN**.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: Miner Conservation June minutes, conservationist report, and June & July treasurer report; July Veterans Service Officer report; July Sheriff report; Weed Watchers August newsletter; and the quarterly LEMPG Agreement matrix report.

Highway Superintendent Ron Krempges reported on highway matters. Continental Western has an insurance settlement that he believes the County can agree on. The county would keep the snow equipment, and Continental Western will pay \$197,500 for the truck. Krempges would also like to ask about the possibility of keeping the brackets off the truck. Krempges has been comparing options for replacement of the truck but has not made a lot of progress on

finding a suitable replacement for the pup trailer. The inspector for the steering gear box was tentatively scheduled to come on Friday. Once that is done, the insurance company will get the truck out. Though satisfied with the insurance settlement offer for the truck, Krempges stated he was a little dissatisfied with the pup trailer settlement. Bechen suggested accepting the settlement if the brackets were undamaged and the county could keep them. The other Commissioners agreed.

Krempges gave an update on the Carthage bridge project. The west pier was being worked on when he was last there, but rising water from rainfall may have hindered progress. The highway department should finish chip sealing tomorrow; Krempges will check on the bridge progress after that. Five-year Rural Access Infrastructure Fund (RAIF) plans are due at the end of the month. Fog sealing will take a couple of days after chip sealing is done, and hopefully, paint striping will follow soon after that. Top cut mowing was done about a week ago; Krempges plans to start Fall mowing the second week of September. Last Wednesday, 4-H had a meeting about the proposed picnic shelter (a 40x72 structure). They are requesting the County to donate the dirt work and gravel for the structure. Krempges stated 4-H Advisor Jill Calmus plans to talk with them at a future meeting, but they may need to do the work before then. Commissioners approved the highway helping with dirt work, if time allows, so long as it didn't delay any road work.

Custodian Lori Kiehl talked to Ron about trimming the bushes and trees surrounding the north walkway; the highway department will try to fit it into their schedule this fall or winter.

A request was received from Scott A. Wheeler, Jr. of Tallahassee, Florida for a letter of support from the Commissioners to honor Lawrence Welk and Myron Floren during the 70th Anniversary year of the national debut of "The Lawrence Welk Show." Commissioners reminisced on the show and requested Auditor Mommaerts to send out a letter of support from the Commission using the template provided.

County employees requested permission to close offices during the Homecoming Parade on September 12 in support of the Howard School by posting signs on the doors stating that offices will reopen at the conclusion of the parade. Commissioner granted that offices may remain open during the regular lunch break that day to make up for the time of closure, but employees are expected to take leave for any extra missed work time.

Auditor Mommaerts requested to close the Auditor's office on Friday, September 5th to allow Auditor staff to attend a training on the new voter registration website. Commissioners granted this request.

Motion by Faber, second by Clary and passed unanimously to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Dakota State University and Miner County to allow Miner County more opportunities to further their cybersecurity posture.

A short ceremony followed by the south entrance of the courthouse to dedicate the trees planted in June to Lanny Klinkhammer and Tom Reisch, the former Miner County employees who passed unexpectedly during this past year. Many family, friends, and coworkers were in attendance to commemorate their service.

Motion by Faber, seconded by Carlson and carried to go into executive session for legal matters at 10:56am, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (3). Board returned to regular session at 11:34am.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until September 2, 2025. Dated this 19th day of August, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor