

Unapproved Minutes of September 1, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 1st, 2026, in the Miner County Courthouse Commission room. Members present: Joe Bechen, Kathy Faber, and Kari Jo Carlson. Absent: Tim Neises and Mike Clary.

Chairman Bechen called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. It was moved by Faber, seconded by Carlson, and carried to approve the agenda. The minutes of the August 18th meeting were approved.

Faber, Carlson & Neises attended the 911 meeting on Thursday, August 27th. Carlson expressed appreciation of the Active Alert program. Neises sent a message to the other Commissioners that the City of Howard has approved the County putting the new repeater for the highway on their tower.

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: Road & Bridge \$48,641.95, MERP Fund \$55,826.35, Reliance Standard \$786.28, Delta Dental \$1,092.08, Retirement \$7,841.72, Colonial Life \$235.14, OASI \$10,422.49, Commissioners \$5,036.00, Auditor \$8,310.50, Treasurer \$7,134.70, States Attorney \$6,550.00, Govt Building \$3,739.20, Director of Equalization \$7,714.25, Register of Deeds \$6,901.59, Vet Service \$640.50, Sheriff \$13,342.25, Contract Law \$4,547.25, Ambulance \$12,686.85, Extension \$1,207.66 (includes Amy Lovett @ \$22.56/hr), Dispatch \$14,444.66, Emergency Mgt \$666.67 **AUGUST PAYROLL**; Autumn Glanzer \$14.00, Barb Esser \$14.00 **PAYROLL TRAVEL**; Triotel \$167.53 **911 CHARGES**; Josh Esser \$90.00 **EVOC DRIVER**; Auto Value \$32.78 **FUEL**; Northwestern Energy \$36.63 **GAS**; Co Employee \$1,723.51 **INSURANCE**; John M Nelson Atty \$183.00 **MENTAL ILLNESS HEARING EXPENSE**; Neises Mowing \$610.00 **MOWING**; Beadle Co Sheriff \$105.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Lewis Drug \$5,842.27 **PRISONER MEDICAL**; Miner County Pioneer \$1,013.76 **PUBLISHING**; Marshall & Swift \$1,336.10, Motorola Solutions \$786.22, Safe N Secure \$2,659.94, Triotel \$160.15 **REPAIRS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Amazon \$94.65, Dust-Tex \$258.28, MARC \$1,376.90, Quill \$87.18, Auto Value \$663.36 **SUPPLIES**; AT&T \$424.76, Barb Esser \$30.00, Erin Feldhaus \$30.00, Lori Kiehl \$30.00, Becki Mommaerts \$30.00, Tim Reisch \$433.33, Molly Steeneck \$30.00, Danielle Werkmeister \$30.00, Brittany Yanish \$30.00 **TELEPHONE**; SDACC \$250.00 **TRAVEL**; City of Howard \$2,656.29 **UTILITIES**; Vermillion Twp \$11,243.84 **RAIF GRANT**.

Motion by Faber, second by Carlson, and carried to authorize Bechen to sign the contract with the State of SD for Community Health Nurse services for 2027.

Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer showed an August 31st, 2026 balance of \$5,194,905.04 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts.

The following correspondence was received: Notices from DANR: Shannon HBI – Modular Nursery Barns & Manure Transfer Pipeline As-builts. As-built Plans and Specifications Review, and Shannon HBI – Manure Management System. Amended Permit Coverage; Miner

Conservation District reports: June minutes, June NRCS report, and April-June Treasurer's reports; and August month-end account balances.

The public hearing for the 2027 Provisional Budget was held, as advertised. No members of the public appeared.

Faber moved to executive session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2 (1), second by Carlson and carried at 9:31am. The board returned to open session at 9:37am.

Xcel Energy sent a meeting invitation to the Commission, requesting one person be named as a representative from the county to attend. The Commissioners instructed Auditor Mommaerts to let them know a representative would attend, which will be decided at the next meeting.

Auditor Mommaerts reported to the board that the Auditor & Equalization Clerk position has been filled. Jodi Hope will begin on September 14.

It was moved by Faber, seconded by Carlson and carried to recess as a Board of Commissioners and reconvene as a Planning & Zoning Commission acting as the Board of Adjustment. Carlson took the chair.

A hearing was held as advertised to consider an application for a variance from the zoning ordinance from Gary & Toshia Beekman for placing a Quality Storage garage closer to property lines than current zoning allows on their parcel described as Lot 1A, Lot 2 & .58 acres of Lot 3 in NE4 25-1-05-56, Canova Township, Miner County, South Dakota. Present for the hearing were Zoning Administrator Barb Esser, and Coleen Hoffman and Brooke Davis of the Safe Place of Eastern SD.

Motion by Bechen and seconded by Faber that the Findings that follow be approved:

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)	BEFORE THE MINER COUNTY
: SS	BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
COUNTY OF MINER)	

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	
)	FINDINGS
GARY & TOSHIA BEEKMAN FOR A VARIANCE)	

FINDINGS

That the applicants, Gary and Toshia Beekman, have made an application for a variance to place a Quality Storage garage closer to adjoining property lines than zoning allows in the parcel described as Lot 1A, Lot 2, and .58 acres of Lot 3 in NE4 25-1-05-56, Canova Township, Miner County, South Dakota, and that they are the owners of record thereof.

II

That the proposed use of said realty is specifically prohibited by the zoning ordinance without applicants first obtaining a variance, for which they have applied and paid the applicable fee.

III

That upon said application, notice of hearing was given as required by the Miner County Zoning Ordinance by mailing to the adjoining landowners and by publication.

IV

That hearing upon said application was held on September 1, 2026, in the Commission Room of the Miner County Courthouse.

V

That applicants, Gary & Toshia Beekman, did not appear in person.

VI

That no other persons appeared in opposition.

VII

That a presentation in support of said variance and testimony on behalf of said variance was received at the hearing and that no testimony regarding concerns for the granting of the variance was received at the hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, that application and testimony at the hearing all having been considered, it is the FINDING of the Miner County Board of Adjustment that the application of Gary & Toshia Beekman for a variance be approved to allow installing the garage closer to the property line for the following reasons:

- 1) That the Miner County Board of Adjustment is empowered under Section 506 to grant the variance and that the requirements of the zoning ordinance regarding a variance have been met by the applicants.
- 2) That the Miner County Board of Adjustment is able to make the applicable findings required by Section 506 of the ordinance, which are considered prerequisite to the granting of a variance.

VIII

That the Board of Adjustment vote upon approval of such application was three in favor thereof and none opposed thereto.

It is, therefore, ORDERED that said application be approved.

Dated this 1st day of September, 2026.

Kari Jo Carlson, Chair
Miner County Board of Adjustment

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Secretary

Motion by Faber, second by Bechen, and carried to adjourn as the Planning & Zoning Commission and reconvene as the Board of Commissioners. Bechen assumed the chair.

Coleen Hoffman, executive director of Safe Place of Eastern South Dakota, gave handouts to the board and gave a presentation of the mission and progress of her organization. Others with her included Brooke Davis, Rural Outreach Advocate, and Brenda Schmit, President for Safe Place Foundation Board. They invited the Commissioners to the open house of their new facility in Mitchell. They also mentioned they are trying to recruit two people from all counties for good overall representation.

Director of 911 & Dispatches Services Schwader reported to the board that there were no changes made to the radio programming and she will forward the information on to Two Way Solutions. The FirstNet modifier will be a backup of the internet through the phone system (redundant system). The County will need an FCC license for the county repeater. Two Way Solutions will acquire it, but the cost will be between \$600-\$1300. Also, the highway radios will have to be reprogrammed at \$35 each. The quote for the recorder had a \$3000 line that was on the quote, but was not included in the total, which will bring the total cost up to \$19,520. Commissioners instructed Schwader to proceed with the recorder purchase. There was concern about generators and battery backups at the all-agency meeting. Josh Hahn is researching Homeland Security purchases related to this. Lumen and Intrado need to come up with a date for the switchover now.

Canova Fire Department reported to Schwader that their internet was installed, and they received bill, which was included in the grant proposal. Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, to pay the Triotel bill for the Canova Fire Department in the amount of \$160.15. Motion passed.

Television monitors for the fire departments were discussed. Schwader will have them all delivered to the courthouse, and they will either be picked up or delivered to each fire department after that. Schwader will order for the internet to be installed in Fedora. Schwader will put together a cheat sheet for call signs for the area departments. The new radio has been ordered for Carthage.

Emergency Manager Josh Hahn informed the board that the Homeland Security grant was approved; Hahn signed acceptance for the trailer project. However, Hahn will be revamping the project, within the Homeland Security grant criteria. Tracks were part of the original project; Hahn is still researching to see if this purchase would be appropriate. Hahn plans on acquiring a smaller trailer; the current Emergency Manager pickup should be able to pull the trailer. Hahn would like to transfer the backup Sheriff department pickup to the Emergency Manager department and surplus the Emergency Management pickup. Hahn plans to have a maintenance schedule for the equipment related to the trailer project to prevent issues from leaving the equipment idle for long periods of time.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until a special meeting on Tuesday, September 8th. Dated this 1st day of September, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor