

July 7, 2026

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 7, 2026, in the Miner County Courthouse Commission room. Members present: Joe Bechen, Kathy Faber, Tim Neises, Kari Jo Carlson. Mike Clary was not present for the beginning of the meeting.

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, as amended. The minutes of the June 16th meeting were approved.

Commissioners reported on attending the 911 meeting on June 25th.

Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer showed a June 30th balance of \$6,312,095.23 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts.

The following correspondence was received: June VSO report, a notice from DANR regarding modifications to proposed modular nursery swine barns for Shannon HBI, and a notice of hearing on petition for annexation from the City of Howard for Rusty's Food Store.

Motion by Faber, second by Neises and carried to enter executive session at 9:15am to discuss legal matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (3). Mike Clary joined the meeting at 9:34am. The board returned to open session at 10:09am. Todd Kays of First District of Local Governments will set up a revision for the zoning ordinance and share the timeline with the board once that's ready.

Motion by Faber, seconded by Neises, and carried to recess as the Board of Commissioners and convene as the Planning & Zoning Board acting as the Board of Adjustment. Carlson took the position of Chair. A hearing was held, as advertised, to consider an application for variance from Bernard and Brenda Donahue to build a pole barn closer to the adjoining property line than current zoning allows on the east half (E ½) of the northeast quarter (NE ¼) of Section 27, Township 106, Range 58, Clinton Township, Miner County, South Dakota. Present at the hearing included board members Kari Jo Carlson, Joe Bechen, Kathy Faber, Tim Neises and Mike Clary; Zoning Administrator Barb Esser and assistant Autumn Glanzer; Auditor Rebecca Mommaerts; and applicants Bernard & Brenda Donahue. Zoning Administrator Esser presented the application to the board. The adjoining properties are owned by Bernard & Brenda Donahue, who gave an overview of their request.

There being no one else present to speak at the public hearing, it was moved by Bechen and seconded by Neises that the following Findings be approved:

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
 : SS
COUNTY OF MINER)

BEFORE THE MINER COUNTY
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
BERNARD & BRENDA DONAHUE) FINDINGS
FOR A VARIANCE)

FINDINGS

I

That the applicants, Bernard & Brenda Donahue, have made an application for a variance to build a pole barn closer to adjoining property lines than current zoning allows in the parcel described as the E2NE4 of Section 27-106-58, Clinton 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 July 7, 2026, in the Commission Room of the Miner County Courthouse.

V

That the applicants, Bernard and Brenda Donahue, did appear in person.

VI

That no person appeared in objection to granting the variance.

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 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 Bernard and Brenda Donahue for a variance to build a pole barn closer to adjoining property lines than current zoning allows be approved 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 applicant.

- 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 five in favor thereof and none opposed thereto.

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

Dated this 7th day of July, 2026

Kari Jo Carlson, Chairperson
Miner County Board of Adjustment

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Secretary

Motion to adjourn as the Planning & Zoning Commission and reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners by Faber, seconded by Neises, and passed. Bechen resumed the position of Chair.

Barb Esser introduced Autumn Glanzer to the board as her newly hired deputy; Glanzer began employment at the county on July 1st.

It was moved by Carlson, seconded by Clary, and motion carried to pass the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 26-8

Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Miner County, South Dakota, that the plat of CLAUSSEN TRACT 1, A SUBDIVISION OF THE SW ¼ OF SECTION 7, T 107 N, R 56 W OF THE 5TH P.M., MINER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, which has been submitted for examination pursuant to law, is hereby approved and the County Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to endorse on such plat a copy of this Resolution and certify the same.

Dated this 7th day of July, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairperson
Board of County Commissioners
Miner County

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

It was moved by Clary and seconded by Neises and motion carried to pass the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 26-9

Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Miner County, South Dakota, that the plat of LOT 1 OF MCNAMES ADDITION IN THE SW ¼ OF SECTION 10, T 107 N, R 57 W OF THE 5TH P.M., MINER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, which has been submitted for examination pursuant to law, is hereby approved and the County Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to endorse on such plat a copy of this Resolution and certify the same.

Dated this 7th day of July, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairperson
Board of County Commissioners
Miner County

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

It was moved by Faber, seconded by Clary and carried to authorize the auditor to pay the following claims: Road & Bridge \$76,995.40 (includes Gabe Turpin@ \$20.87/hr), MERP Fund \$53,763.06, Reliance Standard \$771.72, Delta Dental \$992.80, Retirement \$9,226.96, Colonial Life \$220.58, OASI \$12,563.31, Commissioners \$5,036.00, Auditor \$8,342.18 (includes Justin Brandsma@ \$3,424.75/mo), Treasurer \$4,397.25, States Attorney \$6,550.00, Govt Building \$3,908.63, Director of Equalization \$6,231.31, Register of Deeds \$7,141.85, Vet Service \$640.50, Sheriff \$13,263.35, Coroner \$100.00, Contract Law \$4,981.20, Ambulance \$11,389.75 (includes Justin Brandsma@ \$22.58/hr), Extension \$1,299.50, Dispatch \$18,445.77, Emergency Mgt \$666.67 (includes Josh Hahn@ \$666.67/mo) **JUNE PAYROLL**; Alliance \$150.00, Santel \$30.00, Triotel \$169.53 **911 CHARGES**; ICAP \$857.75 **COMMUNITY ACTION PAYMENT**; SD DOT \$100,974.40 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; SD DOH Public Health \$1,674.00 **CO NURSE PMT TO STATE**; Avera \$296.00, Horizon Health \$105.00 **DRUG TESTING**; SDSU Extension \$180.00 **DUES**; Josh Esser \$30.00 **EVOC DRIVER**; Elan Financial \$82.01, HFCA \$11,061.43 **FUEL**; Northwestern Energy \$65.53 **GAS**; Brian Baldwin \$155.00 **IN SERVICE EDUCATION**; Co Employee \$1,973.61 **INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT**; Thomson Reuters \$762.81 **LAW BOOKS**; Safe n Secure \$179.88 **MISC SERVICES**; Mark Neises \$1,015.00 **MOWING**; Elan Financial \$484.60 **POSTAGE**; Lewis Drug \$2,856.42 **PRISONER MEDICAL**; Crystal Kansanback \$300.00 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**; Miner County Pioneer \$267.73 **PUBLISHING**; Microfilm Imaging \$470.00, Dust-Tex \$185.84 **RENT**; Homestead Building Supply \$95.98, Howard Auto Clinic \$76.30, James Valley \$410.90, Office Peeps \$78.65, Scotts Lock \$500.00, Two Trees Technology \$1,554.00 **REPAIRS**; HFCA \$180.00, Lyle Signs \$398.07 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Relx, Inc. \$198.00 **SUBSCRIPTION**; Amazon \$350.68, C&B Operations \$813.07, Jillian Calmus \$99.00, Dakota Data Shred \$142.88, Diesel Machinery \$335.10, Dust-Tex \$258.28, Elan Financial \$82.55, Fox Promo \$60.00, Howard Auto Clinic \$20.00, HFCA \$279.99, K&M Tire \$3,345.28, Krug Products \$24.62, McLeod's Printing \$181.40, Office Peeps \$742.90, Pheasantland Industries \$194.84, Rusty's \$42.92, Shane's Hardware \$6.49, Auto Value \$78.99, Thomson Reuters \$959.29, Western Hotel Supply \$345.66, Twin Valley Tire \$514.00, Twotrees Technologies \$180.00 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance \$899.04, AT&T \$469.54, 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 \$135.06, Danielle Werkmeister \$30.00, Brittany Yanish \$30.00 **TELEPHONE**; Becki Mommaerts \$12.60 **TRAVEL**; City of Howard \$3,244.39 **UTILITIES**; Factor360 \$830.00 **WEBSITE**.

Auditor Mommaerts presented the results of the 2026 Post-Election Audit for the June 2, 2026 Primary Election, which was held on Thursday, June 18th. The post-election audit was performed by a three-person board of registered Miner County voters and tallied the votes for the United States Senator and Governor races from precincts 4, 7 and 8. The findings showed an accuracy rate of 100% compared to the tabular results on election night and the official canvass results. There was a discrepancy from the election board's recap sheet for precinct 7 regarding the number of each type of ballot voted; the PEA board determined there was one additional *District 08 with OR ballot* and one less *District 08* ballot. Auditor Mommaerts researched this and determined from the pollbook that the number of voters given the ballot with the Oldham-Ramona school board district race coincided with the number of voters in that district that voted in the Primary election, concluding all voters were given the correct ballots, and the numbers recorded on the recap sheet were in error.

Macy Peterson, Brownfields Coordinator, gave a presentation to the board along with representatives from Carthage, David Hattervig and Tim Nelson. Also present were State's Attorney Ellendorf, Director of Equalization Esser, Deputy DOE Glanzer and Treasurer Yanish. In regard to the county deeding the property to Carthage, Peterson advised the county to retain the property until the process was complete, as an ownership transfer could complicate things and funding is on a first-come, first-serve basis. If the property is deemed structurally unsafe, they could demolish without abatement, but the process would be extremely expensive, so Peterson advised avoiding that, if possible. State's Attorney Ellendorf asked about assigning the tax certificate to the City of Carthage; this is a possibility, but the County is already on the waiting list and the City of Carthage is not. An updated assessment needs to be done, and that could be done before the county takes the property on tax deed. Motion by Faber, seconded by Carlson, and carried to have a structural assessment and asbestos assessment done on the old Carthage high school. Ellendorf will research liability concerns and bring a recommendation to the board on how to proceed.

Rosie Smith of Glacial Lakes Tourism appeared telephonically to give the Commissioners an overview of the work done utilizing their 2027 budget request. Commissioners requested to be added on to the newsletter and requested Smith reach out to the Miner County Historical Society to promote the Rural Life Museum in Howard.

Tim Reisch presented his budget request for 2027. Reisch requested his salary be adjusted back up in 2027, as it was adjusted down when he was elected into the legislature, and he will no longer be serving in that capacity next year. Reisch also reiterated his dislike of the county's mileage reimbursement policy, as there are times when taking one's own vehicle is more convenient than taking a county vehicle.

Gibi Page presented her budget requests for 2027. She will need a new fee book and new recording books, so she has increased her supply budget accordingly. Page explained fees the county receives as income through her office.

There were no updates today for the ambulance department.

Director of 911 & Dispatch Services Cora Schwader gave an update on the transition process. At the 911 meeting on June 25th, there were 37 attendees, and the meeting went very well. Two Way Solutions sent programming lists for the radios. Every agency signed an acknowledgement form that future costs will be their own. The next 911 meeting will be Thursday, July 23rd.

Weed Supervisor Neises gave a weed report. There was some discrepancy between the spray maps submitted and what was sprayed during the spring spraying done by Ditch Weed LLC. Neises will get back in touch with Roswell Township regarding this. There have been three weed complaints that are being addressed. Neises and Bechen met with Jeremiah Phelps, the State Weed & Pest Program Specialist, regarding how to handle weed complaints. The notice of intent to inspect was sent to the paper to be published this week; that will need to be sent out in the spring next year. The next weed board meeting will be held in conjunction with the next Commission meeting on July 21st.

Auditor Mommaerts and Deputy Auditor Justin Brandsma watched timeclock software demonstrations from TCP and TimeTrex. The end pricing is almost identical, but the TCP software had a cleaner, more user-friendly feel to it, and there are many other counties that use that software. Commissioners gave permission for the Auditor's office to move forward with TCP for a timecard solution for 2027.

There are many ADA requirements for county websites approaching that need to be addressed. The Auditor's office has reviewed solutions through Factor360 and CivicPlus. Though the CivicPlus software is outstanding, its pricing is well above the Factor360 proposed solution. Commissioners requested the Auditors proceed with the solution provided by Factor360 for 2027 budgeting purposes.

The Twotrees Technologies managed services contract is in its renewal period. There was a significant increase in price, so the Auditor's office researched a few alternatives. There is a cheaper alternative used by another county; however, there are many unknown variables, particularly related to the SecureSD program. Commissioners requested Mommaerts inquire with Twotrees on whether the renewal price is on a month-to-month basis, or if the county can lock in the rate for a longer period. If the rate can be locked in, the Commissioners advised the county remain with Twotrees for managed services.

Commissioners reviewed "Conducting the Public's Business in Public: A guide to South Dakota's Open Meetings Laws (Revised 2025)" prepared by the SD Attorney General's Office, as required by SB 74.

The 2027 budget requests were reviewed. Auditor Mommaerts will prepare a more complete provisional budget to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, July 21st. Dated this 7th day of July, 2026.

Joe Bechen, Chairman

Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor