

January 7, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners held their reorganization meeting on January 7, 2025, in the Miner County Courthouse Commission Room. Members present: Alex Protsch, Joe Bechen, Kathy Faber, Kari Jo Carlson and Mike Clary. Members absent: None.

County Auditor Rebecca Mommaerts called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer for December 31, 2024 is \$6,162,358.31 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts. New elected/appointed Commissioners took their oaths of office: Alex Protsch, Kari Jo Carlson and Kathy Faber. Motion by Bechen, second by Faber and carried to approve the agenda.

Mommaerts called for nominations for Chair. Carlson nominated Bechen, with a second by Faber. Hearing no other nominations, Protsch made a motion for nominations to cease, seconded by Faber and carried. All voted in favor of electing Bechen as Chair for 2025. Bechen took his position as Chairman of the Miner County Board of Commissioners. Bechen called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Protsch nominated Faber, seconded by Carlson. All voted in favor. Faber will serve as Vice-Chair of the board for 2025.

The minutes of the December 30th meeting were approved. There was no report of meetings attended. The Miner County Pioneer was designated as the official county newspaper. The Miner County Courthouse, Canova Community Hall, and Carthage Community Center were designated as mortgage sale sites. Rivers Edge Bank in Howard, American Bank & Trust in Carthage, and SD Public Funds Investment Trust (FIT) were designated as official depositories.

Motion by Carlson, second by Clary and carried to pay the following claims: SDSU Extension \$10,805.00 **4-H PAYMENT TO STATE**; Santel \$30.00, Triotel \$171.53, Alliance \$150.00 **911 CHARGES**; SD Assn Co Weed & Pest \$200.00, IAAO \$240.00, SDAAO \$150.00, SD State's Atty Assn \$733.94, SD Assn Co Hwy Supts \$350.00, SD Assn Weed Supervisors \$75.00, SD EM Assn \$50.00, SD Sheriff's Assn \$568.94 **DUES**; HFCA \$1,400.65 **FUEL**; LeadsOnline \$2,219.00 **INVESTIGATION EXPENSE**; Miner Co Treasurer \$162.37 **POSTAGE**; Lake Co Sheriff \$180.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Miner County Pioneer \$391.54 **PUBLISHING**; Dware Inc. \$4,700.00, ES&S \$4,830.60, First District Assn Local Gvt \$4,000.00, Howard Auto Clinic \$473.80, Klinkhammer Plumbing \$108.67, Two Trees \$1,975.75, Vanguard Appraisals \$1,750.00 **REPAIRS**; Relx, Inc. \$149.00 **SUBSCRIPTION**; Dakota Data Shred \$21.89, Miner Co Treasurer \$36.38, Office Peeps \$1,048.77, Two Trees \$197.20, Shane's Hardware \$8.49 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance \$941.70, AT&T \$54.48, Verizon \$98.13 **TELEPHONE**; SD Assn Co Weed & Pest \$350.00 **TRAVEL**; City of Howard \$3,133.88 **UTILITIES**.

During public comment, Tim Reisch informed the board that he wouldn't have his regular office hours while the legislature was in session (9 weeks). The Commission had previously agreed to decreasing the annual Veteran Service Officer wages to account for this time away. Commissioners agreed to keep this previous arrangement. Reisch also informed the board about a legislative bill coming up that would increase sales tax from 4.2 to 5% to allow a reduction in owner-occupied property taxes by about 35%.

Brittany Yanish appeared on behalf of the Festival of Trees event. Next year, the courthouse employees may not have the Festival of Trees open house coincide with the Hometown Holidays event, as attendance has been down in recent years. Yanish requested \$250 from the general courthouse budget in 2025 to update courthouse decorations for this open house. In 2024, this money was used to purchase new lights for the courthouse tree and office garlands as well as for decorations for the tree. Next year's theme will be a Farmhouse Christmas. Motion by Protsch to approve \$250 from the general courthouse supplies budget to be used for Festival of Trees décor, seconded by Faber and passed unanimously.

Correspondence received: Thank you from the family of Tom Reisch, Veteran Service Officer December 2024 Report, Introduction letter from the South Region 4-H Regional Youth Educator Hilary Kroupa.

Highway Superintendent Ron Kremppges reported on highway matters. The DOT bid authorization was received for the bridge in Carthage. Bid specifications will be sent out, and the bid opening will be January 30th at 11am at the courthouse. The bid will be awarded during the February 4th Commissioner meeting.

Butler Cat received the part the County had been waiting on for the sensor so the blade is now operational. Kremppges has been told that the supply is improving, so there won't be wait times like this in the near future. Butler Cat said it would take 4-7 months for the new motor grader to arrive, with the old one being traded in at that time. Kremppges has more equipment to declare surplus and possibly sell at an upcoming auction through Wieman Land & Auction in March and April; he will prepare a list for a future meeting. Kremppges requested to move the usual bid opening date for highway materials since he will be gone for the first meeting in March. Commissioners approved moving the bid opening to March 18th. Other highway matters included hauling gravel, cutting trees, stockpiling chips for chip sealing over the summer, blading and shop work.

Motion by Faber, second by Clary and carried to approve the quote from Connecting Point for the renewal of the end user support for the four WatchDog wireless access points, for \$239.60 for three years.

Motion by Protsch, second by Carlson and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the Building Automation System Support Agreement from Direct Digital Control (DDC) for 2025.

The following quote per gallon (excluding non-applicable or refunded tax) based on a constant markup escalator clause was received for fuel for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025: Howard Farmers Coop Association \$2.799 unleaded, \$2.419 unleaded with ethanol, \$3.219 clear #1, \$2.789 clear #2, \$2.952 dyed #1, \$2.512 dyed #2, \$3.152 dyed #1 at Carthage shop, \$2.712 dyed #2 at Carthage shop. It was moved by Faber, seconded by Carlson, and carried to award the purchase of fuel for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2025 to Howard Farmers Coop Association with the price being adjusted according to the average cost as of January 1, 2025.

The following appointments were made: Jody Becker (EMT), Kari Jo Carlson (SE area) and Gibi Page (NW area) to 3-year terms on the Ambulance Board. Members and the year their term expires are as follows:

Mike Connor (NE area)	1-1-27	Denise Gassman (SW area)	1-1-27
Jody Becker (EMT)	1-1-28	Kari Jo Carlson (SE area)	1-1-28
Gibi Page (NW area)	1-1-28	Jackie Stuhr (City)	1-1-26
Jody Becker (Medical)	1-1-26	Rob Eggert (Law Enforcement)	1-1-26

The following persons serve as Volunteer Ambulance Attendants: Jody Becker, Cathy Cavigielli and Aaron Jeffrey; and Volunteer Ambulance Drivers: Mike Clary, Rob Eggert, Josh Esser, Kevin Feldhaus, Josh Hahn, Amie Kidd, Nathan Kizer, Nick Kramer, Amber Kramer, Ron Kremppges, Evan Meyer, Adam North, Nathan Ruml, Scott Stangohr, Jackie Stuhr, Garret Werkmeister and Drew Yanish.

Members of the weed board and the year their term expires are as follows:

Dan Page (NW Area)	1-1-26	Kim Lewis (NE Area)	1-1-26
Brandon Jacobson (SE Area)	1-1-27	Wyatt Walter (SW Area)	1-1-27

The following persons serve as weather spotters: Matt Bornitz, Joe Calmus, Mike Clary, Kody Dawson, Nathan Dawson, Evan Donahue, Rob Eggert, Dave Esser, Reginald Faber, Kevin Feldhaus, Mike Genzlinger, Sam Gosmire, David Hattervig, Dick Henn, Mike Hvam, Aaron Jeffrey, Nathan Kizer, Nick Kramer, Ron Krempges, Randy Lager, Lee Lewis, Evan Meyer, Tim Nelson, Adam North, Gary Nutter, Dan Page, Gibi Page, Chad Podhradsky, Alex Protsch, Eric Rentschler, Ken Ruml, Nathan Ruml, Brandon Schwader, Scott Stangohr, Grant Stevens, Travis Stevens, and Drew Yanish.

The following serve as EOC Volunteers: Teresa Abrahamson, Ashley Callies, Connie Eliason, Wade Erickson, John Mengenhause, Rick Olson, and Stephen Vigliotti.

The following took their oath of office for their respective positions: Rebecca Mommaerts, Auditor; Joshua Hahn, Coroner; Amanda Austerman, Deputy Register of Deeds; and Jessica Charles, Treasurer. Kristian Ellendorf, State's Attorney, will take her oath from her remote location and file the oath with the Register of Deeds office.

The following commissioners' appointments were made for 2024:

Entire board-Zoning and Emergency Management Boards

Weed Board-Carlson & Faber	Dispatch Board/Law Enforcement-Clary
Ambulance Board-Faber	Farm-Bechen & Protsch
First District Board-Bechen	Courthouse-Bechen & Protsch
Highway-Bechen & Clary	Juvenile Detention Board-Clary
Legislative Representative-Carlson	4-H Promotion & Expansion-Carlson & Bechen

There was discussion on an alternate member of the Planning & Zoning board; this position may be appointed at a later time.

Treasurer Jessica Charles presented properties with delinquent taxes old enough to begin tax deed proceedings. Commissioners authorized Charles to proceed.

Motion by Protsch, second by Faber to pass the following resolution:

Resolution 25-1

WHEREAS, SDCL 7-7-25 states that the Board of County Commissioners, by resolution, may authorize county officials to attend educational conferences, meetings, and conventions held and conducted within the state of South Dakota pertaining to the betterment and advancement of county government;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the county commissioners, highway superintendent, auditor, treasurer, register of deeds, state's attorney, sheriff, assessing officer, coroner, veterans service officer, weed supervisor and emergency manager be authorized to attend conferences, meetings, and conventions (within SD) called for the purpose set forth in SDCL 7-7-25 and that the mileage and necessary expenses to attend such be allowed. This resolution shall be in force for fiscal year 2025.

Voting aye: Bechen, Faber, Protsch, Carlson & Clary. Voting nay: none. Resolution approved this 7th day of January, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

Motion by Clary, second by Carlson to pass the following resolution:

Resolution 25-2

WHEREAS, SDCL 12-15-11 provides that the Board of Commissioners shall by annual resolution at the first regular commission meeting establish the rate of compensation to be paid the judges and clerks of a necessary election;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the rate of compensation for judges and clerks for any county-wide election in 2024 be established at \$250.00 for a general election, \$250.00 for a primary or special election, on call election board workers \$75, election school attendants \$30 and resolution board workers \$100. Post Election Audit Board members shall be paid \$25.00 per hour for each hour required plus the county mileage rate per mile for miles necessarily traveled, any necessary meal costs and any other costs established in SD Administrative Rule 05:02:23:15.

Voting aye: Bechen, Faber, Protsch, Carlson & Clary. Voting nay: none. Resolution approved this 7th day of January, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

Motion by Clary, second by Faber to pass the following resolution:

Resolution 25-3

2025 SALARY RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the following wage scale for Miner County employees be in effect for fiscal year 2025 (annual salary unless otherwise specified).

Commissioners-Chairman	\$12,324
Vice-chairman	11,772
Commissioners	11,151
Appointed boards	25.00/ meeting
Auditor, Rebecca Mommaerts	55,836
Treasurer Jessica Charles	55,836
Register of Deeds Karla Neises,	58,515
Director of Equalization Tami Severson	58,656
State's Attorney Kristian Ellendorf	52,566
Deputy State's Attorney Greg Protsch	22,290
<i>(State's Attorney and Deputy State's Attorney Salaries are swapped during Ellendorf's physical leave-of-absence)</i>	
Sheriff Robert Eggert	60,930
Chief Deputy Sheriff Josh Hahn	48,936
Deputy Sheriff Darrell O'Connor	46,392
Part-time law enforcement	21.74/hr.
Guards-	20.33/hr.

Highway Safety Grant Hours	25.04/hr.
Director of 911 & Dispatch Services Cora Schwader plus a \$1.00 per hour bonus for providing dispatcher training	50,916
Dispatchers/Permanent PT Clerical:	
Level 1-Cheryl Moore, Amy Lovett	20.96/hr.
Level 2-Katie Leary	21.40/hr.
Level 3-Amanda Austerman	21.84/hr.
Level 4-Jennifer Hahn, Shannon Hoffman	22.28/hr.
Level 5-	22.72/hr.
Level 6-Deborah Gibson	23.16/hr.
Level 7-Jennifer Bolden, Joni Jacobsen	23.60/hr.
Level 8-	24.04/hr.
Level 9- Randall Schwader	24.48/hr.
Level 10-	24.92/hr.
plus a \$1.00 per hour bonus for providing dispatcher training	
Full-time clerical (salaried):	
Level 1-	37,692
Level 2- Justin Brandsma	38,112
Level 3- Barb Esser	38,586
Level 4-	38,985
Level 5-	39,387
Level 6-Brittany Yanish	39,786
Level 7-	40,185
Level 8-	40,587
Level 9-	40,986
Level 10-Amie Kidd	41,388
2025 SALARY CHANGES CONTINUED	
Full-time clerical (hourly):	
Level 1-	20.71/hr.
Level 2-	20.94/hr.
Level 3-	21.20/hr.
Level 4-	21.42/hr.
Level 5-	21.64/hr.
Level 6-	21.86/hr.
Level 7-	22.08/hr.
Level 8-	22.30/hr.
Level 9-	22.52/hr.
Level 10- Gibi Page	22.74/hr.
Temporary clerical	19.96/hr.
Custodian-Lori Kiehl	21.71/hr.
Emergency Management Director-Kent Terwilliger	31,812
Veterans Service Officer-Tim Reisch	7,320
Ambulance Manager-Cora Schwader	11,697
Ambulance Billing Manager – Justin Brandsma	20.94/hr.
Welfare Director-Cheryl Moore	20.96/hr.

Ambulance EMT- Molly Steeneck, Erin Feldhaus, Danielle Werkmeister	32,424
Ambulance Volunteers	
Weekday-12 hr shift	\$48
Weekend-12 hr shift	\$78
Holiday-24 hr shift	\$100
3 rd Attendant/Driver	\$30/run
Weed Supervisor-Kent Terwilliger	17,130
Highway Department: Superintendent-Ron Krempges	68,724
Level 1-	19.71/hr.
Level 2-	20.50/hr.
Level 3-Mike Umstead	20.72/hr.
Level 4-Terry Burger	20.94/hr.
Level 5-	21.17/hr.
Level 6-Brian Dold	21.38/hr.
Level 7-Adam Mentele	21.80/hr.
Level 8-Eric Smith	22.30/hr.
Level 9-Donald Eppe, Jeremy Beyer	22.52/hr.
Level 10-Terry Carlson	22.74/hr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that longevity pay based on \$25.00 per year of employment be paid in November for 2025.

Voting aye: Bechen, Faber, Protsch, Carlson & Clary. Voting nay: none. Resolution approved this 7th day of January, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber and carried to set the 2025 holidays as follows: All County offices (excluding 911 call center employees) New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday (12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.), Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Native American Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve (12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.), Christmas Day; 911 call center employees (all shifts unless otherwise noted) New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday (5 PM to 1 AM), Easter, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Native American Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve (5 PM-1AM shift), Christmas Day, New Year's Eve (5 PM-1 AM shift).

Motion by Protsch, second by Clary and carried to approve the rates charged for dispatching and 911 services which were used to prepare the 2025 budget.

Motion by Clary, second by Carlson and carried to approve the clothing allowance of \$250/yr/employee for law enforcement clothing for law enforcement and \$250/yr/employee for high-visibility clothing for highway workers.

Miner County Ambulance rates for 2025 will be \$650 plus \$18.00/mile.

Miner County copy rates will be \$0.25 per black copy and \$0.50 per color copy.

Miner County's inclement weather policy was discussed. The Commissioners have decided that, barring the most extreme circumstances, county offices will remain open during inclement weather. However, Commissioners do not want employees driving in inclement weather conditions if they do not feel safe doing so. In cases where an employee does not feel he/she can travel safely, he/she may use comp time/vacation leave (closing nonessential offices, when necessary) until conditions improve enough to safely travel to work.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until January 21st. Dated this 7th day of January, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor