

October 7, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 7, 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 Neises, seconded by Faber, and carried to approve the agenda, as presented. The minutes of the September 16th meeting were approved.

Auditor's account with the County Treasurer was \$6,888,446.29 for August 31, 2025 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts. Auditor's account with the County Treasurer was \$6,767,805.71 for September 30, 2025 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts.

Bechen and Faber attended the ambulance meeting on September 22 where the options for the ambulance building were discussed. Deputy Director of Equalization Barb Esser took her oath of office. No one appeared for public comment.

Motion by Faber, seconded by Neises, and carried to pay the following claims: Road & Bridge \$46,399.81, MERP Fund \$58,207.39, Reliance Standard \$1,405.44, Delta Dental \$500.64, Retirement \$7,785.19, OASI \$10,681.93, Commissioners \$4,795.75, Auditor \$7,829.00, Treasurer \$8,001.75, States Attorney \$6,238.00, Govt Building \$3,473.60, Director of Equalization \$9,968.94, Register of Deeds \$6,942.27, Vet Service \$610.00, Sheriff \$13,667.83, Contract Law \$5,563.48, Welfare \$385.20, Ambulance \$11,041.67, Extension \$1,316.10, Weed \$1,427.50, Dispatch \$14,786.43, Emergency Mgt \$2,651.00 **SEPTEMBER PAYROLL**. Kent Terwilliger \$28.00, Tami Severson \$14.00 **PAYROLL TRAVEL**.

Alliance \$150.00, Santel \$30.00, Triotel \$167.53 **911 CHARGES**; ICAP \$796.09 **COMMUNITY ACTION PAYMENT**; Graves Construction \$151,619.26, Ultieg Engineers \$65,922.75 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Elan Financial \$339.99, TwoTrees \$715.53 **EQUIPMENT**; Josh Esser \$60.00 **EVOC DRIVER**; HFCA \$21,797.86, Interstate Power Systems \$88.92, Shane's Hardware \$9.27, Auto Value \$164.38 **FUEL**; Northwestern Energy \$43.13 **GAS**; Brian Baldwin \$155.00 **IN SERVICE EDUCATION**; Co Employee \$313.71, Co Employee \$202.36 **INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT**; CLERP \$2,322.00 **LEGAL EXPENSE RELIEF FUND**; Christy McMullen \$320.00 **MOWING**; Office Ally \$44.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; Miner County Pioneer \$280.16 **PUBLISHING**; Dust-Tex \$270.72, Microfilm Imaging \$470.00 **RENT**; John Deere Financial \$726.94, Al's Service \$1,521.53, Axon Enterprise \$2,768.35, HFCA \$390.00, James Valley Landscape \$965.00, Auto Value \$11.99, Tiktons \$675.00, TwoTrees \$1,781.65 **REPAIRS**; Homestead Building Supply \$77.90, Shane's Hardware \$35.97, Sir Lines-A-Lot \$16,790.85 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Relx, Inc. \$940.00 **SUBSCRIPTION**; John Deere Financial \$24.86, Amazon \$178.86, Dakota Data Shred \$21.89, Dakota Fluid Power \$72.69, Detco \$1,416.44, Diesel Machinery Inc. \$596.20, Dust-Tex \$377.10, Elan Financial \$36.71, Emblems Inc. \$272.50, HFCA \$7,690.38, Interstate Power Systems \$478.62, Krug Products \$175.28, McLeods Printing \$172.76, Mid-American Research \$1,247.40, Office Peeps \$278.45, Puthoff Repair \$4.46, Tim Reisch \$433.33, Rusty's \$80.49, Tami Severson \$20.00, Shane's Hardware \$119.35, SD Federal Property \$302.00, Stan Houston

Equipment \$79.05, Auto Value \$1,807.80, Western Hotel Supply \$303.60, TwoTrees \$212.20 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance \$992.67, AT&T \$423.18, Jessica Charles \$30.00, Erin Feldhaus \$30.00, Lori Kiehl \$30.00, Becki Mommaerts \$30.00, Tami Severson \$30.00, Molly Steeneck \$30.00, Verizon \$107.15, Danielle Werkmeister \$30.00 **TELEPHONE**; SD Dept of Public Safety \$2,340.00 **TELETYPE**; Michael Connor \$36.18, Elan Financial \$135.00, Barb Esser \$186.00, Denise Gassman \$37.52, Holiday Inn \$1,390.00, Gibi Page \$44.22, Ramkota Hotel \$560.00, Safety Benefits, Inc. \$75.00, Tami Severson \$186.00 **TRAVEL**; City of Howard \$3,063.53, Xcel Energy \$9.56 **UTILITIES**; Beadle County Auditor \$500.00 **VICTIMS ADVOCATE**.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: September 30 comp time balances; Paint the Town Purple 2025-Safe Place of Eastern South Dakota.

Highway Superintendent Ron Krempges gave an update on the Carthage bridge. The steering box for the damaged truck is still set to be inspected on October 21st; unless the steering box is going to be inspected onsite, Krempges will not be present for its removal, as he will be attending the Local Road Conference in Sioux Falls from Oct. 20th-22nd. Krempges is still researching suitable pup trailer replacement options. After discussion, Commissioners instructed Krempges to prepare bid specs to procure a replacement. Krempges presented a road maintenance agreement to the board, which has been reviewed by Deputy State's Attorney, Greg Protsch, and has been signed by Hord Family Farms of SD, LLC. Motion by Carlson, seconded by Faber and carried to table the decision on the Road Maintenance Agreement to allow the board more time to review the contract. Gravel crushers have moved in and may be done by the end of the week. There is probably a month's worth of fall mowing left to be done. 2026 RAIF applications will be due the end of October; Krempges will send a reminder to the townships.

It was moved by Clary and seconded by Neises to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-19

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MINER COUNTY FIVE-YEAR HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Transportation Local Bridge and Improvement Grant Fund requires that in order to be eligible to apply for Bridge Improvement Grant funds, Counties are required to develop a five-year Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan, hereinafter referred to as Plan; and

WHEREAS, Miner County has utilized the South Dakota Department of Transportation, County Staff, the First District Association of Local Governments, Townships, and the general public in developing the various components of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan includes maps and lists identifying an inventory of highways and bridges, project needs, and revenue sources; and

WHEREAS, Miner County held a public meeting on September 16, 2025, to solicit input into the Plan, and the citizens who attended expressed an interest in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the County will be able to use the Plan as a tool to budget for transportation enhancements and better coordinate transportation issues with other entities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MINER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT THE MINER COUNTY FIVE-YEAR HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND IS RECOGNIZED AS THE HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR MINER COUNTY.

Dated at Howard, South Dakota this 7th of October, 2025.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Commissioners

ATTEST: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

Motion by Faber, second by Clary, to recess as the Board of County Commissioners and convene as the Planning & Zoning Board, acting as the Board of Adjustments; motion passed. Carlson took the position of Chair.

A hearing was held, as advertised, to consider an application for a variance from the zoning ordinance from Verlyn D Button and Nell M Button. Present for the hearing were Zoning Administrator Tami Severson and Verlyn Button. Zoning administrator Severson stated she had received no calls or correspondence objecting to the project. It was moved by Faber and seconded by Neises that the following Findings be approved:

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF	)	
VERLYN D BUTTON AND NELL M BUTTON	)	FINDINGS
FOR A VARIANCE	)	

FINDINGS

I

That the applicants, Verlyn D Button and Nell M Button, have made an application for a variance to plat a parcel causing structures to be closer to adjoining property lines than current zoning allows in the parcel described as Lot 1 of Button's Addition in SW4 of Section 14-108-57, Carthage 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 October 7, 2025, in the Commission Room of the Miner County Courthouse.

V

That applicant Verlyn D Button 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 Verlyn D Button and Nell M Button for a variance be approved to plat a parcel causing structures to be closer to adjoining property lines than current zoning allows 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 October, 2025

Kari Jo Carlson, Chairperson
Miner County Board of Adjustment

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Secretary

Motion by Bechen, seconded by Clary, and motion carried to recommend the approval of the Verlyn D Button and Nell M Button Plat, Lot 1 of Button's Addition in SW4 of Section 14-108-57.

The Albrecht Plat had been reviewed previously; however, the signature line and notary signature were not done correctly. Carlson relayed that she spoke with State's Attorney, Greg Protsch and attorney, Jake Tiede, who notarized the plat. She also contacted Trisha Protsch and asked her to run the situation past one of her underwriters. The legal counsel for Old Republic National Title gave three options to resolve the issue with the plat. It was decided to have affidavits completed that explained the situation attached to the plat. Motion by Bechen, seconded by Faber, and motion carried to recommend the approval of the Albrecht Plat, Tract 1 of Hord's Addition in the SW ¼ of Section 19-T108N-R56W of the 5th P.M, with the attached affidavits.

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.

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

RESOLUTION 25-20

BE IT RESOLVED that the plat shown hereon and described as LOT 1 OF BUTTON'S ADDITION IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW1/4) OF SECTION FOURTEEN (14), TOWNSHIP ONE HUNDRED EIGHT (108) NORTH, RANGE FIFTY-SEVEN (57) WEST OF THE 5TH P.M. IN MINER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, be approved and accepted by the Board of County Commissioners at its meeting of October 7, 2025, and the county Auditor is hereby instructed to endorse on such plat a copy of this resolution and to certify the same.

Dated this 7th day of October, 2025

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Joe Bechen
Chairperson, County Commission
Miner County, South Dakota

ATTEST: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

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

RESOLUTION 25-21

Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Miner County, South Dakota, that the plat showing TRACT 1 OF HORD'S ADDITION IN THE SW ¼, SECTION 19-T108N, R56W OF THE 5TH P.M. MINER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA having been examined is hereby approved in accordance with the provisions of SDCL 11-3, and any amendments thereof.

Dated this 7th day of October, 2025

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Joe Bechen
Chairperson, County Commission
Miner County, South Dakota

ATTEST: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

The auction of the lease of the farmable portion of the SW ¼ of Section 4-106-56, Howard Township, consisting of 150.9 acres, known as the county farm, was held as advertised. Present for the auction were Director of Equalization Tami Severson, Dale Schwader, Jerry Calmus, Travis Voeltz and Matt Miller. It was moved by Carlson, seconded by Clary and carried to award the lease to Travis Voeltz for \$28,671 (\$190/acre). Voeltz chose a three-year lease, beginning February 1, 2026.

An email was received from Kris Jacobsen, Executive Director of the South Dakota Association of County Commissioners highlighting the fifth anniversary of Operation Green Light. Miner County has participated in the past by installing green lightbulbs in the entrance facing Main Street. Commissioners encouraged continuing this tradition the week of November 4-11, 2025.

Motion by Carlson to send future collection attempts to AAA Collections in Sioux Falls due to their lower percentage fee, seconded by Clary, and motion carried.

Lynn Bren, Executive Director of the South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance (SDPAA), presented an overview of SDPAA to the board. Bren will bring a quote for property and liability insurance to a future meeting.

It was moved by Faber, seconded by Neises, and carried to make an operating transfer, as provided for in the 2025 budget, of \$49,000 from the General Fund to the Dispatch Fund in the amount of \$45,000 and to the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of \$4,000.

Motion by Faber to declare the HP V1910-24G (Serial #CN35BX20SZ), the ProCurve Networking by HP (Serial #CN841ZPKYK) and the HP V1910-24G (Serial #CN39BX23BX) switches surplus and authorize their disposal, seconded by Clary and passed unanimously.

Cody Oien and Nick Antrobus, representing Colonial Life, gave a presentation on potential benefit options available to the county, including group life insurance coverage and a number of services free to both the employer and employee just for offering the benefits to employees. Commissioners will look over the information and decide at a future meeting.

Director of 911 & Dispatch Services Cora Schwader presented a 911/Dispatch update to the board. As requested, letters were sent out to the fire and ambulance departments in the county asking them to have their equipment requests back to Schwader by the 21st. The Lake County 911 board met in a special session to come up with a proposal of \$11,500 annually for nonemergency dispatch in addition to 100% of the surcharge funds. Clary made a motion to move forward with transitioning 911 services to Lake County Communications for the dollar amounts presented, seconded by Carlson, and carried. Lake County Communications will need to provide Miner County with a contract. Bechen will notify Dawn Niehoff of Mitchell Regional 911 Center that Miner County intends to move services to Lake County Communications.

Schwader, as Ambulance Manager, handed out ambulance barn options to the Commissioners, prepared after the ambulance board meeting on September 22nd, which prioritized the options from the opinions of that board.

Motion by Faber, second by Neises, and carried to take the Road Maintenance Agreement from the table for discussion. Motion by Carlson, seconded by Clary, and motion carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the agreement.

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

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor