

**December 16, 2025**

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on December 16, 2025, in the Miner County Courthouse Commission Room. Members present: Joe Bechen, Kathy Faber, Tim Neises, Kari Jo Carlson and Mike Clary. Absent: none.

Chairman Bechen called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Faber, seconded by Neises and carried to approve the agenda. The minutes from December 2<sup>nd</sup> were approved. Bechen reported on a phone call with Jeff Ebersdorfer, Sanborn County Commissioner, regarding the 911 surcharge monies. Miner County believes additional surcharge funds are due from Sanborn County; discussions will continue. No one appeared for public comment.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: VSO November Report and Sheriff November Report.

Motion by Clary, seconded by Carlson, and carried to pay the following claims: Alliance \$150.00, Santel \$30.00 **911 CHARGES**; ICAP \$796.09 **COMMUNITY ACTION PAYMENT**; Ulteig Engineers \$32,256.25 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Miner Co Treasurer \$23.00 **DOMESTIC ABUSE ADMIN EXPENSE**; Domestic Violence Network \$103.50, Safe Place of Eastern SD \$103.50 **DOMESTIC ABUSE PAY TO OTHERS**; Redwood Toxicology \$58.00 **DRUG TESTING**; Auto Value \$409.96 **EQUIPMENT**; HFCA \$13,539.28, Wingens Garage \$1,995.45 **FUEL**; Domestic Violence Network \$650.00 **GRANT**; Co Employee \$661.88 **INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT**; Miner Co Treasurer \$454.82 **POSTAGE**; Lake Co Sheriff \$900.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Office Ally \$44.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; Geotek Engineering \$265.00 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**; Dust-Tex \$180.48 **RENT**; Butler Machinery \$315.00, Howard Auto Clinic \$983.57, Istate Truck Center \$1,265.82, Klinkhammer Plumbing \$96.43, Transource \$14,847.16, Tyler Tech \$4,741.95 **REPAIRS**; Ron Ecklein \$40,500.00, Rechnagel Construction \$82,500.00 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Thomson Reuters \$475.92 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Amazon \$36.79, Butler Machinery \$49.10, DMC Wear Parts \$19,112.00, Fleetpride \$287.96, Home Service Water \$57.40, HFCA \$17.55, Interstate Power Systems \$188.99, Istate Truck Center \$3,692.96, Kimball Midwest \$260.47, Mcleod's Printing \$234.00, Miner Co Treasurer \$20.95, Office Peeps \$3,114.32, Quill \$130.99, Rockmount Research & Alloys \$1,231.60, Rusty's \$99.00, Shane's Hardware \$421.33, Auto Value \$59.90, Thomson Reuters \$475.92, CNH Industrial Retail \$169.65, Transource \$11,385.16, USPS \$252.00 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance \$1,039.53 **TELEPHONE**; HFCA \$37.83 **TRAVEL**; Central Electric Coop \$64.90 **UTILITIES**.

Zoning Manager Tami Severson presented a plat for Landon & Abby Laible. The plat will combine their current parcel that is described in footages, with an additional footage that they are purchasing from adjacent landowner, Michelle Jacobson. After reviewing with State's Attorney Kristian Ellendorf, Severson recommends this new plat be approved without the process of a variance, as the applicants are only making their grandfathered parcel larger, not smaller, and taxes have been paid. Motion by Carlson, second by Neises, and carried to approve the following resolution:

**Resolution 25-23**

Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Miner County, South Dakota, that the plat of LOT 1 of LANDON AND ABBY’S ADDITION IN THE WEST ½ OF THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 7, T 106 N, R 55 W OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairperson  
Board of County Commissioners, Miner County

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts  
Miner County Auditor

Motion by Clary, second by Faber, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen and Sheriff Eggert to sign the Agreement for Detention Services Between Minnehaha County, Lutheran Social services South Dakota and Miner County for 2026.

Motion by Faber, second by Neises, and carried to authorize Auditor Mommaerts to post Notice of Hearing, set for 9:30am on Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, to consider a supplement to the budget for Operating Transfer to Dispatch for 2025.

Highway Superintendent Ron Kremppges requested level increases for several employees. Motion by Neises, second by Faber, and carried to authorize pay increases, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, to the following highway employees: Mike Umstead to Level 4, Terry Burger to Level 5, Brian Dold to Level 7, and Adam Mentele to Level 8. Kremppges had forwarded an explanation from Matt Lacey of the DOT to the Commissioners regarding the increase in a future bridge project cost due to wetland functional capacity mitigation requirements, as determined by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Motion by Carlson, second by Neises, to authorize Chairman Bechen to re-sign the letting authorization for Project No. BRF-B 6136(01) PCN 09MC, acknowledging this recent price increase. Kremppges gave an update on the progress of the bridge west of Carthage; the gravel and an approach guardrail needs to be put in yet. Kremppges requested a resolution to remove an old bridge from the National Bridge Inventory.

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

**Resolution 25-24**

The Miner County Board of Commissioners is in agreement with SDDOT that the following structure(s) should be deleted from the National Bridge Inventory (NBI) for the following reason(s):

<u>STRUCTURE ID</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>and</u>	<u>REASON FOR DELETION:</u>
49-045-230	10S & 11.5W HOWARD		Structure and roadway have been vacated and

transferred to adjacent landowner.

The Commission is aware of the following stipulations once a structure is deleted from the NBI:

1. Federal and State Bridge funds will not be available for structure replacement or rehabilitation and
2. The structure will only be added to the Inventory following replacement, using County funds.

Upon receipt of this resolution, the above structure(s) will be deleted from inventory.

Vote of Commissioners: Yes 5 No 0

Dated at Howard, SD, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman  
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts  
Miner County Auditor

New curve signs have been placed by Hord Family Farm. Kremppges tried to get a quote for a new truck, but he did not receive this before the meeting. For the skid steer in the 2026 budget, Kremppges received a quote from Butler Cat and is waiting on one from Gehl. One downside of the Cat quote is it was redesigned which resulted in a loss of reach. Kremppges checked into the worth of the current Mack truck; it's possible it would bring in more without the snow equipment. The highway crew will be recertified for spraying on January 29 at a class in Mitchell.

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, 2026 through December 31, 2026: Howard Farmers Coop Association \$2.699 unleaded, \$2.419 unleaded with ethanol, \$3.579 clear #1, \$2.959 clear #2, \$3.292 dyed #1, \$2.732 dyed #2, \$3.292 dyed #1 at Carthage shop, \$2.732 dyed #2 at Carthage shop. It was moved by Clary, seconded by Faber, and carried to award the purchase of fuel for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2026 to Howard Farmers Coop Association with the price being adjusted according to the average cost as of January 1, 2026.

It was moved by Faber, seconded by Carlson, and carried to make an operating transfer, as provided for in the 2025 budget, of \$1,284,300 from General Fund to Dispatch in the amount of \$23,300, to Highway in the amount of \$1,250,000 and to Emergency Management in the amount of \$11,000.

Clinton Township officials, Robert Peterson and Vicki Vining met with the board about potentially vacating roads and alleyways in Fedora. The Clinton Township board was approached by Brady Jacoboson (Rural Ag Repair) who wants to expand his building and would need to vacate the adjacent rights-of-way to do so. There are several alleys that have never been maintained through the years, and several structures, such as Larson Grocery, the Fedora Fire Department and a church parking lot sit on the right-of-way of alleys. According to the

Association of Towns and Townships, the county is responsible for vacating rights-of-way in unincorporated areas. Clinton Twp would like to close all the streets and alleys that are not being used, as they pose a liability to the township. There may be powerline utility issues or existing utility easements that would need to be addressed. The process of vacating these roads will likely have to run through the county eventually, so Clinton Twp just wanted to make sure the Commissioners were aware before that point. State's Attorney Kristian Ellendorf recommended finding out who dedicated these streets and alleyways. More research will need to be done. By statute, roadway maps should be reviewed and updated annually. Commissioners thanked the Clinton Township board members for the information. They will continue to work with the county officials to get the matter resolved.

Brandan Moe of Brandan Moe, LLC IT Consulting met with the board to introduce and promote his local business. He is interested in doing managed services for the county on a month-to-month contract with anything outside of the contract's scope billable by the hour. Highway Clerk Amie Kidd stated that she believed this could be beneficial for the highway department especially. Moe will work up a proposal for a future county meeting.

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, to go into executive session at 10:45am, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (3). The board returned to regular session at 11:20am.

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, to go into executive session pursuant to 1-25-2 (1) at 11:20am. The board returned to regular session at 11:25am. Motion by Clary, seconded by Carlson to allow Sheriff Eggert to hire temporary, part-time law enforcement to fill in as needed.

Ambulance Manager Cora Schwader had no updates for the ambulance department.

Director of 911 & Dispatch Services Cora Schwader has not received a response from Sanborn County since the letter and invoice were mailed out. After speaking with Jason Husby, she does not believe Sanborn would be able to transfer services to Mitchell until March at the earliest. Bechen relayed his conversation with Jeff Ebersdorfer to Schwader. Bechen will follow-up with Ebersdorfer after the Commissioner meetings today. As for the transition to Lake County Communications, quotes for equipment needed on each side are being worked on. A proposed contract has been sent out from Lake County Communications; Commissioners will have State's Attorney Ellendorf review this contract before the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. For the 911 board, the representatives must be Commissioners, as they must be elected officials. However, others can be invited to attend the meetings. Schwader has the 911 Coordination Board grant application form that she can send out, if requested. This board meets in January and will not meet again until April. A subcommittee reviews applications and forwards them to the full board for approval, so Miner County will want to have the grant application prepared by March. The City of Howard had "dispatch" on their meeting agenda but did not request the County to attend, so Schwader did not believe it involved the county.

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, and carried to go into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (4) at 11:53am. Board returned to regular session at 12:02am. Motion by Clary, second by Carlson, to authorize Auditor Mommaerts to reach out for quotes for temporary, or as-needed, snow removal.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman  
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor