

## February 18, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 18, 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. Several members of the public and county employees were in attendance.

Chairman Bechen called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Faber, second by Neises and carried to approve the agenda. The minutes of the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. Kari Jo Carlson will get information from the 4-H Advisor meeting from February 13<sup>th</sup> to share with the board, as car troubles prevented her ability to attend.

Motion by Carlson, second by Clary and carried to pay the following claims: Alliance \$150.00 **911 CHARGES**; ICAP \$796.09 **COMMUNITY ACTION PAYMENT**; HFCA \$12,262.46, Sturdevant's \$48.61, Wingen's Garage \$2,462.26 **FUEL**; Community Counseling Service \$14,000.00 **GRANTS**; CLERP \$2,322.00 **LEGAL EXPENSE RELIEF FUND**; Heritage Funeral Home \$2,500.00 **POOR RELIEF BURIAL**; Davison Co Sheriff \$105.00, Lake Co Sheriff \$90.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Office Ally \$54.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; Miner County Pioneer \$926.38 **PUBLISHING**; Microfilm Imaging \$470.00 **RENT**; Dakota Fluid Power \$62.50, Howard Auto Clinic \$415.40, HFCA \$176.36, Midwest Fire & Safety \$326.00, Office Peeps \$299.87, Shane's Hardware \$8.49, Upstate Wholesale Supply \$4,992.00 **REPAIRS**; Newman Traffic Signs \$419.49, Shane's Hardware \$35.97, Spencer Quarries \$37,128.20, Sturdevant's \$120.82 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Amazon \$73.92, Butler Machinery \$498.07, Dakota Data Shred \$86.18, Fleetpride \$230.05, Home Service Water \$63.00, Hydraulic World \$2,206.61, Istate Truck Center \$429.66, Kimball Midwest \$149.61, Krug Products \$160.10, Office Peeps \$741.10, Rusty's \$7.45, Safety Kleen Systems \$288.07, Shane's Hardware \$38.05, Sturdevant's \$450.17 **SUPPLIES**; Joe Bechen \$50.25, Kathy Faber \$112.56, Ron Krempges \$155.10 **TRAVEL**; Central Electric \$75.66, Xcel Energy \$118.91 **UTILITIES**.

Cora Schwader acknowledged the passing of former Miner County official, Lanny Klinkhammer, during Public Comment. Klinkhammer served the citizens of Miner County as a dispatcher, EMT, ambulance board member, deputy sheriff and as Miner County Sheriff. He was a dedicated employee/elected official of Miner County for 30 years. Schwader requested Auditor Mommaerts send out an email to county employees and elected officials for donations toward planting a memorial tree for Lanny Klinkhammer, alongside the one planned for the late Commissioner Tom Reisch.

Schwader also reported on Senate Bill 37, which will likely go before legislation this week, seeking to repeal the sunset clause for the 911 surcharge payments. Schwader encouraged the Commissioners to reach out to legislators to let them know that we support the bill, as removing the sunset clause would provide further funding for our dispatch services. Lastly, Schwader reported that the new ambulance would be delivered soon.

Correspondence received: Miner Conservation District Sept Treasurer Report & Minutes, Treasurer Report & NRCS Report for Oct 2024; Jan 2025 Sheriff Report.

It was moved by Faber, seconded by Clary, and carried to make an operating transfer, as provided for in the 2025 budget, in the amount of \$25,000 from General Fund to Emergency Management.

Commissioners approved adding Henry Rentschler, as part of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and Ted Austerman, as an employee of Alliance Communications, to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) list of volunteers.

Faber made a motion to appoint Kari Jo Carlson as Chair of the Miner County Planning & Zoning Board, seconded by Neises and carried. Tim Neises made a motion to make Kathy Faber Vice-Chair, seconded by Carlson and carried. The board was instructed to search for interested parties to be the alternate for the Planning & Zoning board.

Mommaerts reported that Sheriff Eggert had informed her that Judge Stoltenburg was in favor of implementing the walk-thru metal detector. A security committee meeting has not been set up yet, but a decision will need to be made to permanently install the metal detector or install it on rollers to move into position, as needed. Custodian Kiehl has mentioned that it being on rollers would assist her with cleaning. Due to the limited manpower in the Sheriff's office, other county law enforcement officials may be called in to man the metal detector, paid at the part-time law enforcement hourly wage.

Highway Superintendent Ron Krempges reported on highway matters. Krempges will watch the weather and the activity of the Department of Transportation to post Spring weight limitations. Krempges is still gathering information about the utility permits. A signed contract has not yet been received for the bridge in Carthage. Highway employee, Don Eppe, will be attending the weed conference with Weed Supervisor Kent Terwilliger in Huron to maximize the state grant. Gravel crushing and material bid opening will be on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Krempges said he will obtain quotes for crack sealer this year, as opposed to bids, as Crafc0 is going to be selling directly to consumers this year. Miner County is included in the paint striping bid with Minnehaha County; that bid opening is on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Miner County will again go off Beadle County's bid for culvert and bridge materials. Other highway matters included updating shop inventory, preparing to crack seal once it warms up, and plowing snow. Krempges will be gone for the next meeting and will leave after the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> to attend a conference in Deadwood.

Commissioner appointments were discussed. Bechen will be removing himself from 4-H Promotion & Expansion; Neises will take his place, along with the appointments that were previously given to Alex Protsch (Courthouse and Farm).

Carlson shared correspondence about House Bill 1261, an act to provide the board of commissioners with authority over certain intra-county land uses and construction projects. If passed, this bill would add a whole new section in codified law to chapter 11-2.

Clint Hoyer appeared before the board to request setback requirements for CO2 pipelines. Hoyer prepared and distributed a resolution he'd like to see the board pass. Hoyer stated concerns for the safety of Miner County citizens as the primary reason for his request. Hoyer presented information on how the pipeline is expected to work and possible ramifications of a malfunction. Hoyer also distributed information on a pipeline failure in Sartartia, Mississippi to the board. He believes the pipeline could be a potential liability to the county. Commissioners thanked Hoyer for taking the time to address his concerns with the board.

Commissioners invited others in attendance to speak. Cody Hoyer asked if there had been discussions on setbacks previously. Bechen stated that the First District of Local Governments assists Miner County with its zoning ordinances. However, First District has

declined to assist with writing ordinances restricting CO2 pipelines due to the complicated litigation that is likely to follow.

Joan Karlen stated concerns with decreasing land values due to the pipeline easements and issues with insurance coverage if pipelines are on an individual's property. Karlen agreed there could be liability issues, and at a minimum, a setback should be set to give time to residents to evacuate in case of failures. Commissioners thanked all in attendance for taking the time to show their support in this matter.

Tami Severson presented a plat for approval by the Gary & Mary Stangohr Living Trust that meets all zoning requirements. Gary Stangohr stated he wanted to simplify their plat for the future, but they had no intention to make any changes on the land. Taxes have been paid. It was moved by Faber and seconded by Neises and motion carried to approve the following resolution:

### **RESOLUTION 25-9**

BE IT RESOLVED that the plat shown hereon and described as "TRACT 1 OF STANGOHR'S ADDITION IN THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 106 NORTH, RANGE 56 WEST OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> P.M., MINER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA," be approved and accepted by the Board of County Commissioners at its meeting of February 18, 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 18<sup>th</sup> Day of February, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairperson, County Commission  
Miner County, South Dakota

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

Protsch informed the board of a moratorium passed in Edmunds County to give the board more time to research and educate themselves to better protect the public. Protsch encouraged the board to reach out to him if they wanted to pursue this. Commissioners will research and discuss at their next meeting.

Director of Equalization Tami Severson presented a 2025 update to the board on the upcoming equalization process. She distributed appeal process guides, an explanation of reasons for adjusting non-ag values, a worksheet for implementation of productivity valuation of agricultural land for the 2025 assessment year, and 2025 assessment year productivity information. Severson presented evidence that the adjustments made for non-ag land actually resulted in lower taxable value than if the adjustments had not been made; adjustments must bring the property to a state ratio between 85%-100%. Severson will have her annual meeting with the townships on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> over the noon hour. Severson also distributed a copy of proposed Senate Bill 216, an act to reduce the growth in the assessed value of owner-occupied property, to limit increases in certain property tax revenues, and revise eligibility requirements for a property tax assessment freeze, which she believes is the bill most likely to be passed this year based on the support so far.

Welfare Director Cheryl Moore presented Welfare Case 2025-01. After it was determined the individual was a resident of Miner County, Heritage Funeral Home of Sioux Falls is seeking \$2,500 for burial expenses. There has not been any contact with family members of

the deceased. A county lien will be placed on the individual's name, as the individual is believed to own property. Motion by Carlson, second by Clary to approve Welfare Case 2025-01.

Motion to go into executive session by Carlson pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 for personnel discussion, seconded by Faber and carried at 10:54am. Board came out of executive session at 11:10am.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until March 4th. Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman  
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor