

March 4, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 4, 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 Faber, second by Carlson and carried to approve the agenda. The minutes of the February 18th meeting were approved. The Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer for February 28, 2025 is \$6,169,932.58 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts.

Clary, Carlson and Neises reported on attending the 2025 SD Pipeline Safety Program meeting on February 25 in Madison, South Dakota. They found there to be a lot of good information for emergency responders in relation to pipeline incidents.

Several members of the public were in attendance for public comment. Cora Schwader reported the bill to take away the sunset clause on 911 surcharge payments has passed. The new ambulance is ready and needs to be picked up after performing a final inspection. Schwader urged Commissioners to reach out to South Dakota representatives in Washington DC regarding a bill looking to take out add-ons the Medicare pays for ambulance service. She also reported on generator issues during the planned power outage on Friday; Cummins will be coming out to check on the generator and provide additional training.

Marvin Kizer from Howard appeared before the board to discuss the pipeline that is scheduled to run through his home quarter. He questioned if pipeline leaks had to be reported to the Commissioners. He also brought up concerns with the pipeline running over the fault line that previously caused an earthquake in Miner County.

Welfare Director Cheryl Moore presented Welfare Case 2025-02. Willoughby Funeral Home is requesting \$2500 for cremation/burial costs for a Miner County resident thought to have no assets. Motion by Carlson, seconded by Neises and carried to approve Welfare Case 2025-02.

Director of Equalization Tami Severson handed out invitations to the county annual meeting with towns and townships set for March 13th. She updated the board on her current assessment ratio and COD (coefficient of dispersion). Severson emailed out a list of bills that the DOE office is watching for Commissioners to follow, specifically SB191, SB216 and HB1235. The county will have our next flyover for GIS in March or April, which will show any changes to properties that need to be investigated.

Motion by Clary, second by Faber and carried to pay the following claims: Road & Bridge \$42,324.23, MERP Fund \$56,964.17, Reliance Standard \$1,353.52, Delta Dental \$500.64, Retirement \$7,353.21, OASI \$10,247.69, Commissioners \$4,795.75, Auditor \$7,829.00, Treasurer \$7,968.50, States Attorney \$6,238.00, Govt Building \$3,473.60, Director of Equalization \$9,392.54, Register of Deeds \$7,822.14, Vet Service \$610.00, Sheriff \$12,522.25, Coroner \$75.00, Contract Law \$4,324.00, Welfare \$230.56, Ambulance \$11,042.53, Extension \$843.64, Weed \$1,427.50, Dispatch \$15,728.37, Emergency Mgt \$2,651.00 **FEBRUARY PAYROLL**. Becki Mommaerts \$14.00, Gibi Page \$14.00, Jessica Charles \$14.00, Amie Kidd \$14.00, Ron Krempges \$14.00, Brian Dold \$14.00, Eric Smith \$14.00, Jeremy Beyer \$14.00, Adam Mentele \$14.00, Terry Burger \$14.00, Terry Carlson \$14.00, Mike Umstead \$14.00, Donald Eppe \$14.00 **PAYROLL TRAVEL**.

Triotel \$167.53 **911 CHARGES**; Willoughby Funeral Home \$295.00 **AUTOPSY**; SD DOT \$2,201.01 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Avera \$73.20 **DRUG TESTING**; National Assn of State Agencies for Surplus Property \$39.00, National Sheriff's Association \$125.00 **DUES**; Amazon \$397.89, Arrow Manufacturing \$204,350.00 **EQUIPMENT**; Josh Esser \$60.00 **EVOC DRIVER**; Northwestern Energy \$2,066.24 **GAS**; Brian Baldwin \$193.00 **IN SERVICE EDUCATION**; Willoughby Funeral Home \$2,500.00 **POOR RELIEF BURIAL**; Dust-Tex \$175.20 **RENT**; Alliance \$50.00, Istate Truck Center \$973.70, Sturdevant's \$225.98, Twotrees Technologies \$1,788.00 **REPAIRS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Relx, Inc. \$188.00 **SUBSCRIPTION**; Amazon \$59.96, Dust-Tex \$244.58, Fleetpride \$651.41, Istate Truck Center \$205.79, K&M Tire \$1,476.16, Krug Products \$141.08, Madison Ace Hardware \$46.95, Miner County Pioneer \$63.01, Tim Reisch \$433.33, Rusty's \$27.72, Sanitation Products \$622.14, Tami Severson \$20.00, Shane's Hardware \$486.69, SD Federal Property Agency \$50.00, Stan Houston Equipment \$388.95, Sturdevant's \$134.83, Twotrees Technologies \$194.95 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance \$938.00, AT&T \$428.14, 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 \$104.87, Danielle Werkmeister \$30.00 **TELEPHONE**; Crossroads Hotel \$600.00, Glock Professional \$300.00, Ron Krempges \$14.00, Ramkota Hotel \$109.00, Two Lane Tactics \$149.99 **TRAVEL**; City of Howard \$3,729.62 **UTILITIES**.

Correspondence received: Letter from Natural Resources Conservation Service regarding historic properties; Veteran Service Officer Report for January; LEMPG Report for the 1st Quarter.

No options for a planning & zoning alternate have been found yet; interested members of the public should reach out to a county commissioner.

Carlson gave an update on HB1085, a bill to establish a moratorium on the construction of carbon dioxide pipelines in this state. The bill has passed in the House and is scheduled for a hearing with the Senate today. If passed, this would place a moratorium for a period of one year while the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is revisiting policies, which are on the DOT website. Carlson read the bill. Once rules have been finalized and adopted, the legislature can revisit the moratorium and remove it. Carlson also read HB1249, a bill to protect landowners from the use of deception, fraud, harassment, intimidation, misrepresentation, or threat, in acquiring easements or easement options. Joan Karlen shared an email from Representative Tim Walburg, who voted no, citing that there is already a law for stalking. With HB1249, a person would need to hire an attorney, which one shouldn't have to do.

Amanda Petersen informed the board HB1052, a bill to prohibit the exercise of eminent domain for a pipeline that carries carbon oxide, would be heard on the Senate floor today at 2:00. She urged Commissioners to reach out to Senators to pass this bill.

Clint Hoyer again recommended Commissioners pass a moratorium, based on HB1085.

Auditor Mommaerts presented the 2024 annual report to the board, which will be published in next week's paper and has been filed with the Department of Legislative Audit.

Motion to go into executive session by Faber pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) for personnel discussion, seconded by Neises and carried at 10:12am. Board returned to regular session at 10:46am.

Commissioners instructed Auditor Mommaerts to have the department heads meet with the commission during budget time to go over their budgets.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until March 18th. Dated this 4th day of March, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor