

April 1, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 1, 2025, in the Miner County Courthouse Commission Room. Members present: Joe Bechen, Tim Neises, Kari Jo Carlson and Mike Clary. Members absent: Kathy Faber.

Chairman Bechen called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Clary, second by Neises and carried to approve the agenda, with the addition of an executive session at the end. The minutes of the March 18th meeting were approved.

The Auditor's Account with the County Treasurer for March 31, 2025 was \$6,667,920.62 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts.

Clary reported on meeting with Sheriff Eggert regarding the metal detector for the courtroom. Needed accessories for the current model would cost approximately \$800. Currently, Garrett, the manufacturer of the metal detector, has a state bid out for the newer PD 6500i model. Eggert believed a judicial security grant could help secure this newer model for an approximate cost to the county of roughly \$1200 with all the needed accessories. Clary made a motion to set up a security team meeting to start the grant process to order the Garrett PD 6500i metal detector, seconded by Neises and carried. Commissioners instructed county employees to retain the other metal detector until grant is secured.

Motion by Neises, second by Carlson and carried to pay the following claims: Road & Bridge \$45,579.43, MERP Fund \$56,964.17, Reliance Standard \$1,353.52, Delta Dental \$500.64, Retirement \$7,265.19, OASI \$10,346.71, 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 \$9,282.50, Register of Deeds \$6,831.54, Vet Service \$610.00, Sheriff \$12,597.37, Contract Law \$4,324.00, Welfare \$277.72, Ambulance \$10,771.79, Extension \$1,152.80, Weed \$1,527.50, Dispatch \$15,164.77, Emergency Mgt \$2,651.00 **MARCH PAYROLL.**

Triotel Communications \$167.53 **911 CHARGES**; Sanford Health \$2,391.00 **AUTOPSY**; SD DOT \$1,567.36 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Leroy Ainslie \$30.00, Josh Esser \$90.00, Nathan Kizer \$30.00 **EVOC DRIVER**; SDSU Extension \$10,805.00 **EXTENSION 4/H PMT TO STATE**; Northwestern Energy \$1,357.58 **GAS**; Brian Baldwin \$285.00 **IN SERVICE EDUCATION**; Thomson Reuters \$214.40 **LAW BOOKS**; Nelson & Ericsson Law Office \$600.00 **MENTAL ILLNESS HEARING EXPENSE**; Miner Co Treasurer \$6,000.00 **OTHER EXPENSE**; Stamp Fulfillment Services \$905.20 **POSTAGE**; Al's Service \$116.58, Dakota Body Shop \$389.25, Fire Protection Solutions \$798.00, Homestead Building Supply \$19.99, Hydraulic World \$90.00, Sturdevant's \$61.57, Two Trees Tech \$1,771.35, Two Way Solutions \$817.94, Vanguard Appraisal \$2,250.00 **REPAIRS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Amazon \$120.31, Bound Tree Medical \$202.78, Kari Jo Carlson \$50.98, Dust-Tex \$244.58, Hydraulic World \$2,185.00, Kimball Midwest \$342.74, Krug Products \$159.75, Light and Siren \$710.30, Microfilm Imaging \$225.00, North Central Int'l \$114.19, Tim Reisch \$433.33, Tami Severson \$20.00, Sturdevant's \$53.99, CNH Industrial \$1,827.40, Two Trees Tech \$197.20 **SUPPLIES**; 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 \$104.10, Danielle Werkmeister \$30.00 **TELEPHONE**; SD Dept of Public Safety \$2,340.00 **TELETYPE**; Brian Baldwin \$26.00 **TRAINING**; Ron Krempges \$34.00, Tim Neises \$77.72, The Lodge at Deadwood \$210.00 **TRAVEL.**

Kathy Faber had informed Auditor Mommaerts that the Carthage public library would be able to use the surplus iPads from the County. Commissioners instructed Mommaerts to gift the iPads to the Carthage Library.

Motion by Carlson, second by Neises and carried to declare the following highway inventory items as surplus and to authorize their disposal, as they damaged beyond repair and/or are outdated beyond their usefulness: Bear Wheel Balancer, 2009 Verizon flip phone, 2017 Motorola MotoZ smart phone, and 2021 Galaxy Tablet S7FE 5G tablet computer.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Clary and carried to approve the permit to land aircraft on Miner County highways submitted by Dakota Air Spray, with the condition that Dakota Air Spray provide a copy of the updated liability insurance prior to the expiration of the current liability insurance policy submitted with the permit request.

Ron Kremppges reported on highway matters. Spring weight postings will remain in place. It was moved by Neises, seconded by Carlson and carried to purchase corrugated metal culverts, structural plate, guardrail, steel decking, sheet piling, timber bridge products, prefabricated modular steel bridges, aluminum box culverts and assorted bridge components & hardware during the period from February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026, off of the bid awarded by Beadle County during its January 7, 2025 meeting to TrueNorth Steel. The right-of-way notice will be in the paper next week and another time in the next month. Canova would like to do their citywide cleanup on May 31st with the county's assistance again, which Commissioners approved. Kremppges will speak with Faber to see if Carthage would like the County to assist with theirs again too. There was discussion on boring vs. open cuts on roads for utilities. Currently, Miner County does not allow open cuts on oil roads, but they are allowed on gravel roads. Commissioners instructed Kremppges to leave the policy as is for now; if there are issues, they will readdress. Other recent county work included snow removal and shoulder work. Kremppges will start on next year's budget soon as well as the 7-year plan for DOT and 5-year plan for the BIG program.

The bid opening for the 2025 mowing and trimming of Miner County 4-H Grounds was held as advertised. The following bids received reflect a per occurrence basis: Christy McMullen \$320, Neises Mowing Service \$368, and K&K Mowing \$325. Motion by Neises, second by Carlson and carried to accept the bid and secure a contract with Christy McMullen, providing the required proof of insurance is received.

Correspondence received: Letter from Dept of Ag & Natural Resources Re: Surface Water Discharge Permit Public Notice. Carlson also reported on an email received from Kris Jacobsen, executive director of SDACC, regarding the homeowner tax relief proposal by Governor Rhoden.

Commissioners approved the request of Welfare Director Cheryl Moore to obtain a county email address to use for county welfare business.

4-H Youth Educator Jill Calmus gave an update on the 4-H/Extension Office happenings and events. She plans to have a Cloverbud summer camp on July 1st, at which she is hoping to incorporate the ambulance service, sheriff office, and fire department. The Miner County 4-H Horse Show will be on June 17th (rain date of June 24th). Calmus will be gone for the State Horse Show in Huron July 8-10th. Project Days will be advertised in preparation of Miner County Achievement Days Aug 4-6th; which will have a Western theme this year. Calmus has been working on curriculum with other 4-H Educators for Cloverbuds and is Co-Chair of the state swine committee. Rivers Edge Bank is providing volunteer labor on April 30th to paint the beef barns. Leaders are planning to add cement between the show ring and barn. They are

also in the early planning stages for a shower/bathroom house for the campground. Other future improvements include replacing show ring posts, replacing railroad ties on the outer fence, spray-foaming and adding heat to the bathrooms in Quonset and adding a covered picnic area on 4-H grounds.

Treasurer Jessica Charles and Auditor Mommaerts met with the board to discuss the governor granting administrative leave to state offices on Good Friday and Easter Monday. The new 605 Drive licensing program has caused the Treasurer's office to be much more reliant on state assistance as they navigate through new processes and program glitches. Due to state closure on these dates, there may be things they will not be able to help customers with during that time. Charles and Mommaerts wanted Commissioners to be aware this could result in complaints, but the reality is many things will need to wait until Tuesday or later when the state is available to assist again. County offices will be closed the afternoon of Good Friday, but will be open on Easter Monday.

Carlson asked for an explanation of the current Miner County burn ban ordinance, which was given. The burn ban ordinance is available on the Miner County website. Commissioners asked for changes on the website to assist the public with knowing when they are able to burn, as well as for an article in the newspaper and on the county Facebook page to raise awareness.

The annual meeting with the Director of Equalization was held as required by SDCL 10-3-14. Carlson made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) at 10:45am, seconded by Neises and carried. The board came out of executive session at 11:13am.

Clint Hoyer met with the Commissioners to request a two-year moratorium of CO2 pipelines in the county and readdress the resolution he presented previously for setback ordinances. Hoyer gave more of a background on the basis of his request, namely concerns over the safety risks associated with CO2 pipelines. Those who appeared in support of Hoyer's request were Jane Hoyer, Cody Hoyer, Marvin Kizer, Janet Kizer, Brian Kizer, Robbie Beyer, and Joan Karlen.

Marvin Kizer addressed concerns that the landowners' insurance will not cover damages that occur as a result of the pipeline.

Bechen stated he did not believe the Commissioners have jurisdiction on pipelines; the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) does. Carlson explained that you cannot use safety as a reason for implementing a setback; the federal government is responsible for regulating safety, and the Commissioners cannot go above and beyond the federal regulations for safety reasons. Safety would not be an admissible defense for the County to defend its setbacks. The PUC would have to give up control to give Commissioners the authority; currently, the PUC can determine a setback is too restrictive and disregard it.

Joan Karlen stated that many are led to believe Summit Carbon Solutions has almost all the easements for the entire pipeline, but they only have almost all the easements for Phase 1 of the pipeline. Clint Hoyer agreed that the PUC has the ability to determine a setback too restrictive, but they have not done so with any of the counties that have setbacks in place for the pipeline. Bechen asked if those present would be happy with a 1500 foot setback like Sanborn County has in place. Hoyer countered that PHMSA (Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration) has proposed two miles for safety. Brian Kizer brought up concerns with those

who rent homes near the proposed pipeline, who have an added risk of danger without any compensation. Neises recommended those in attendance talk to their neighbors to encourage them not to sign the easements if they want to prevent the pipeline from going through their land.

Clint Hoyer requested the Commissioners listen in on the PUC public hearing on April 10th. Motion to table the CO2 pipeline discussion until April 15th by Carlson, seconded by Neises and carried.

Carlson made a motion to go into executive session in the Sheriff Office at 12:14pm pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1), seconded by Neises and passed unanimously. Board returned to regular session 12:52pm. Dispatch matters will be placed on the April 8th agenda.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until April 8th. Dated this 1st day of April, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor