

April 15, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 15, 2025, in the Miner County Courthouse Commission Room. Members present: Joe Bechen, Kathy Faber, Tim Neises, and Mike Clary. Members absent: Kari Jo Carlson.

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 April 1st meeting were approved. Neises and Clary reported on attending the PUC meeting on 10th; Summit Carbon Solution's application has been continued for two weeks. If a plan isn't submitted at that time, they will need to begin the application process from the start again.

During public comment, Kathy Faber informed the board that the City of Carthage is going to the State Reservation system for the lake campground, rather than using the previous first-come, first-serve method. The city campground reservation process has not changed yet, but it may change in the future.

Motion by Clary, second by Neises and carried to pay the following claims: Miner Co Treasurer \$26.70 **FEES**; Elan Financial \$94.83, HFCA \$6362.93, Sturdevant's \$97.69 **FUEL**; Rural Office of Community Services \$4,500.00 **GRANT**; Miner Co Treasurer \$73.00 **POSTAGE**; Lake Co Sheriff's Office \$180.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Office Ally \$44.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; Dust-Tex \$175.20 **RENT**; General Equipment & Supplies \$485.35, Office Peeps \$71.50, Twotrees Technologies \$299.90 **REPAIRS**; Shane's Hardware \$4.99, Stan Houston Equipment \$156.24 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Amazon \$41.98, Butler Machinery \$2,995.21, Elan Financial \$64.80, Gall's Inc. \$250.00, Miner Co Treasurer \$32.01, Office Peeps \$659.05, Pheasantland Industries \$1,853.90, Rusty's \$16.70, Shane's Hardware \$41.52, Sturdevant's \$359.52 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance \$68.03 **TELEPHONE**; Joe Bechen \$50.25, Jessica Charles \$20.00, Mike Clary \$40.00, Elan Financial \$224.00, Kathy Faber \$56.28, Miner Co Treasurer \$46.32, Becki Mommaerts \$20.00, Tim Neises \$249.04, SDACO \$200.00 **TRAVEL**; Xcel Energy \$47.47 **UTILITIES**.

Commissioner acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: LEMPG Agreement Exercise Requirement Memo from Dept. of Public Safety.

Motion by Faber, seconded by Clary and passed unanimously to make an operating transfer, as provided for in the 2025 budget, in the amount of \$5500 from the General Fund to the Emergency Management Fund.

Highway Superintendent Krempges met with the board on highway matters. Spring load limit postings will be taken off tomorrow. Shoulders have been pulled into windrows, and they are waiting on rain to lay them out. Carthage Cleanup will be on May 3rd; the highway department will assist. Krempges gave an update on bridges and culverts. The bridge east of Carthage will be replacements; easements are currently being collected. There will be a detour for that since it is on a highway, but construction likely won't begin until next year. Krempges is still waiting for notice of a preconstruction meeting for the bridge west of Carthage. Krempges plans to repair the bridge two miles east and 1 ¾ miles south of Carthage with the placement of a concrete-filled culvert. There is a box culvert north of Howard that has been repaired temporarily, but a more permanent fix will be needed. Halloway Construction will prepare a quote to take out a couple of sections and put in a pre-cast box that ties into old structure, as replacing it with steel would not last long around a feedlot like this one. There are two bigger, original culverts on the northeast part of the County at south end of Lake Thompson that have been flagged on the side of the road. Krempges will need permits to do work there, but he believes the highway could replace the steel culverts themselves. Bechen asked about lining

them with the black rubber polycoating; Krempges will look into it. There are two 36-inch culverts on the southeast corner of the county that are rusting out. Krempges is getting a quote for culvert lining there, which will have a considerable cost due to their size. However, the road is in good shape at that intersection, so lining would be preferred if the quote comes at a reasonable rate. Other highway discussions included crack sealing, patching and chip sealing.

The CO2 pipeline moratorium & resolution request that was postponed at the last meeting was brought back to the Commissioners. There were 16 members of the public present in support of the request. Clary and Neises relayed the information from the PUC meeting last week. If no plan is brought forward, the application will be denied, and they will need to reapply at that time. Even if Summit appeals HB1052, the timeline would be pushed out for about a year and a half. Neises suggested also waiting to see what the Circuit 8 courts decide on 2 lawsuits in Iowa before moving forward on anything. HB1052 grants the landowners the right to decide on their own if they want to be in favor of the pipeline or not. Summit currently has no easements on Phase 2. However, 25 easements have already been recorded at the courthouse for Phase I, so the Commissioners questioned placing a setback after these landowners have already given permission.

Clint Hoyer expressed appreciation to Commissioners for their research. Hoyer brought concerns for the neighbors of the landowners that have given permission for the pipeline, who are not getting any compensation for the added risk. Hoyer believes imposing an ordinance would give the ability for those neighbors to have recourse.

Joan Karlen acknowledged that pipeline safety is regulated by PHMSA. However, she argued that the safety they're concerned about is that of the citizens around the pipeline, which is separate from the safety regulations provided by PHMSA. Karlen offered to email out a letter from PHMSA to all the commissioners. Karlen urged commissioners to be proactive rather than reactive.

Amanda Petersen stated there was no amount of money that would make her accept the risks posed by the pipeline.

Joey Clarke explained how Summit wanted to take power from Commission and give to PUC so they did not have to talk to counties about setbacks with Referred Law 21. Luckily, it was voted down. Joey Clark advised commissioners to request plume study to be able to make an educated decision on what to do.

Commissioners questioned the farmers present if they were prepared for the ethanol plants to shut down if the pipeline does not go through. Danny Clarke did not believe they would shut down and stated the farming community would work together, as they always have. Having run over the time limit allotted, Bechen closed conversation on the CO2 pipeline setback requests. He stated they would watch the developments of the PUC and Circuit 8 courts and would readdress everything at a later date if it was put on the agenda.

Memorial Trees for Tom Reisch and Lanny Klinkhammer were discussed. Kiehl requested hiring an outside entity to plant it. Commissioners instructed her to talk to Jon Mentele. Commissioners will take a walk around the grounds following the meeting to look for locations. Clary suggested buying the memorial stones first to determine budget for the trees. Clary, Cora Schwader and Lori Kiehl will work together to determine what will be purchased.

Gibi Page requested a level increase to Level 4 for Amanda Austerman. Clary made a motion to move Amanda Austerman to Level 4 on May 1st, seconded by Faber and passed unanimously.

Schwader returned for dispatch discussions brought up at the April 8th meeting. Schwader again requested to change the policy for dispatchers to move to Level 3 on the dispatcher pay scale following their certification. Motion by Faber, seconded by Neises and passed unanimously to have dispatchers move to Level 3 once certification is achieved, beginning the pay period following their certification.

Schwader has surveyed current Dispatch employees regarding their interest in a full-time position as proposed to the Commission, and their part-time requests if they are not interested in a full-time position. The results were mixed. Schwader stated she believed that one 40-hour position would work well in scheduling at this time, with the current staff. Faber made a motion to offer a full-time dispatch position to an internal employee. Clary requested to add "at their current level of pay on the dispatch scale, subject to interview and competency review", as requested by Schwader. Faber made an amended motion to hire a full-time dispatcher at their current level on the dispatcher pay scale, seconded by Neises and passed unanimously.

Schwader asked for further clarification on whether employees who occasionally work over 30 hours are entitled to prorated benefits. Mommaerts will talk to Todd Kays to research.

Schwader invited everyone to the Dispatch board meeting at 1:30pm. The sheriffs are at the Sheriff's Conference in Deadwood, so they will be unable to attend. If the intergovernmental agreement were abolished, it would give Miner County control over the entire dispatch department, but it would mean added financial liability to the county. However, the County would be able to enter dispatch agreements without the consent of the other governmental entities that are currently members of the dispatch board. Mommaerts will need to check on budget implications.

Commissioners went out to discuss tree placement at the courthouse.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until May 6th. Dated this 15th day of April, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor