

May 20, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 20, 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 Neises and carried to approve the agenda, with corrections. The minutes of the May 6th meeting were approved. Bechen, Neises and Clary reported on attending the Public Pipeline Meeting held at the 4H grounds on May 12, 2025, stating it was an informational meeting about the pipeline.

No one appeared for public comment.

Deputy Auditor Justin Brandsma presented two mileage requests by county employees to the commissioners to determine what rate should be paid. The commissioners all agreed that it should be paid at the state level as per policy; an email will be sent by Auditor Rebecca Mommaerts to all county employees to remind them that \$0.302/mile will be paid out instead of \$0.67/mile if they choose to take their personal vehicle when a county vehicle is available.

Motion by Neises, second by Clary and carried to pay the following claims: Lammers, Kleibacker, Dawson & Miller \$2,221.50 **COURT APPT ATTY**; Butler Machinery \$359,397.00 **EQUIPMENT**; Elan Financial \$140.01, Wingen's Garage \$3,163.35 **FUEL**; Brian Baldwin \$5,110.00 **IN SERVICE EDUCATION**; CLERP \$2,322.00 **LEGAL EXPENSE RELIEF FUND**; Christy McMullen \$640.00 **MOWING**; Miner Co Treasurer \$82.23, Stamp Fulfillment Services \$2,194.60, Tim Reisch \$14.60 **POSTAGE**; SD Dept of Ag \$100.00, Brian Baldwin \$420.00, Pictometry International \$27,191.79 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**; C&R Supply \$130.19, Dakota Body Shop \$919.65, Office Peeps \$71.50, Prostrollo \$236.00, Runnings \$276.14, Trane \$4,529.00 **REPAIRS**; Lyle Signs \$878.90, Menards \$234.08, Shane's Hardware \$70.47, Truenorth Steel \$14,179.20 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Amazon \$139.99, Home Service Water \$40.60, Darcy Laible \$104.00, Miner Co Treasurer \$7.44, Office Peeps \$96.04, Prostrollo \$412.78, Rusty's \$12.73, Shane's Hardware \$94.76, SD Federal Property Agency \$197.00 **SUPPLIES**; Joe Bechen \$50.25, Elan Financial \$185.00, Kathy Faber \$84.42, Josh Hahn \$114.00, Joni Jacobsen \$134.22, Becki Mommaerts \$31.27, Tim Neises \$12.06, Tim Reisch \$39.86 **TRAVEL**; Central Electric Coop \$75.27 **UTILITIES**; Witness \$174.00 **WITNESS FEES & MILEAGE**.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: Quarterly LEMPG Agreement Matrix Report, April Sheriff Report, February Miner Conservation District Minutes and Treasurer's Report.

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 \$25,000.00 from the General Fund to the 911 Fund.

A request was received to close 244th St. in Epiphany on 6/14/2025 at 8:00am to 12:00am on 6/15/25 for the Neises/Paradeis wedding reception and dance. The area closed would be between Wall St. and the cemetery entrance. Motion by Bechen, seconded by Carlson to approve this closure if they first obtain event liability insurance and fill out an alcohol permit request prior to the event. Commissioners stated they should also seek permission from the Hanson County board for the other half of the street.

Highway Superintendent Kremppges met with the board on highway matters. The bridge west of Carthage is being started soon, and they will start moving equipment in. Kremppges received the signed right-of-way agreement from Verlyn and Nell Button and Sam Schlim for the bridge replacement 2.3 miles east of Carthage. Motion by Faber, seconded by Neises to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the right-of-way agreements. The bridge NE of Argonne was bid on last week. Five bids were received, with Katzer Concrete being the lowest bid at \$333,000.00. Kremppges hopes to find out this week if it will be completed this year or next year. Kremppges reported that Lake County agreed to pay their half for the shared road for the culvert liners; Kremppges did not have a date for completion yet. Miner County will have to add two 4-ft pieces and an end section with wingwalls to a box culvert near Cody Poppen's, Kremppges will get a quote and hopes to have this completed this fall. The new blade was delivered last week; the old one was traded in for a discount. The highway will start asphalt patching in Kingsbury County soon, and once the roads dry up here, they will start blading and graveling the gravel roads.

Motion by Bechen, seconded by Faber and carried to recess as Board of Commissioners and convene as Board of Adjustment. Carlson took the position as Chair. A hearing was held, as advertised, to consider an application for a variance from the zoning ordinance from Eric Jacobson to plat a parcel causing structures to be closer to adjoining property lines than current zoning allows in the parcel described as NW4 Exc N 470' of W 950' Exc W 750' Thereof of Section 15, T107N, R55W, Henden Township, Miner County, South Dakota. Present for the hearing were Zoning Administrator Tami Severson and Sheriff Rob Eggert. Zoning administrator Severson stated she had received no calls or correspondence objecting to the project. It was moved by Bechen and seconded by Neises that the following Findings be approved:

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)	BEFORE THE MINER COUNTY
: SS		BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
COUNTY OF MINER)	

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	
)	FINDINGS
ERIC JACOBSON FOR A VARIANCE)	

FINDINGS

That the applicant, Eric Jacobson, has made an application for a variance to plat a parcel causing structures to be closer to adjoining property lines than current zoning allows in the parcel described as NW4 Exc N 470' of W 950' Exc W 750' Thereof of Section 15, T107N, R55W, Henden Township, Miner County, South Dakota, and that he is the owner of record thereof.

II

That the proposed use of said realty is specifically prohibited by the zoning ordinance without applicant first obtaining a variance, for which he has applied and paid the applicable fee.

III

That upon said application, notice of hearing was given as required by the Miner County Zoning Ordinance by mailing to the adjoining landowners and by publication.

IV

That hearing upon said application was held on May 20, 2025, in the Commission Room of the Miner County Courthouse.

V

That applicant Eric Jacobson did not appear in person.

VI

That no person appeared in objection to granting the variance.

VII

That a presentation in support of said variance and testimony on behalf of said variance was received at the hearing and that no testimony regarding concerns for granting of the variance was received at the hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, that application and testimony at the hearing all having been considered, it is the FINDING of the Miner County Board of Adjustment that the application of Eric Jacobson for a variance be approved to plat a parcel causing structures to be closer to adjoining property lines than current zoning allows for the following reasons:

1. That the Miner County Board of Adjustment is empowered under Section 506 to grant the variance and that the requirements of the zoning ordinance regarding a variance have been met by the applicant.
2. That the Miner County Board of Adjustment is able to make the applicable findings required by Section 506 of the ordinance, which are considered prerequisite to the granting of a variance.

VIII

That the Board of Adjustment vote upon approval of such application was five in favor thereof and none opposed thereto.

It is, therefore, ORDERED that said application be approved.

Dated this 20th day of May, 2025

Kari Jo Carlson, Chairperson
Miner County Board of Adjustment

Attest: Justin Brandsma, Secretary

Motion by Faber, seconded by Neises and carried to adjourn as the Board of Adjustments and reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners. Bechen took the position of Chair.

Custodian Lori Kiehl gave an update on the mower warranty. The extended warranty would cost \$2400 for 12 months of coverage. The commissioners all agreed to forego the warranty at this time and to take the mower to John Deere for an inspection at the cost of \$200-\$300 while parts would still be under warranty. Kiehl also gave an update on the memorial trees. James Valley has two 10-ft ivory silk lilac trees available; though more expensive James Valley agreed to honor the same original quote for these trees, only adding \$100 to dig a larger hole when planting due to the larger tree size. Kiehl hopes to have them planted within the next few weeks.

Cora Schwader met with the Commission at their request to give an update after the Dispatch Board meeting. Present for this portion of the meeting were Sheriff Rob Eggert, Auditor Rebecca Mommaerts, Director of Equalization Tami Severson, and City of Howard Council members Mary Leary, Lynn Borgers and Drew Yanish. Schwader gave a history of the longstanding relationship Miner County has with Sanborn County, a relationship which allows Miner County to operate as a PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point). Schwader and Eggert met with Sanborn County Sheriff Tom Fridley and Deputy Sheriff/Emergency Manager Josh Starzman to discuss options to increase funding to Miner County Dispatch. Fridley and Starzman will be meeting with their Commission to discuss this.

Schwader has communicated with April Denholm, Lake County 9-1-1 Communications Director. This was done at the request of the Miner County Commission to explore contracting 911 services with them. Denholm reported that they have a three-person 911 Board which governs them, and stated that if done correctly, she would not be against this. There are numerous factors that need to be researched and evaluated before this would be achievable. Both Schwader and Sheriff Eggert stressed the advantages of having a PSAP with shared boundaries. Commission requested Schwader arrange a meeting with the Lake County 9-1-1 Communications Board as soon as viable.

Howard City Councilman Lynn Borgers brought up concerns with the PSAP efficiency study scores of both Miner County and Lake County. Borgers stated that Howard Fire Chief Nate Ruml recommended consolidation with a communications center rather than a PSAP due to the efficiency study, which affected ISO (Insurance Services Office) scores. Schwader stated that she believes the efficiency rating in the PSAP study were skewed. Schwader will invite Jason Husby, State 9-1-1 Coordinator, to a future meeting.

Howard City Councilwoman Mary Leary brought up concerns with rising insurance costs due to the study. She also stated that Howard residents are being double billed for dispatch, and Sanborn residents are not paying enough. The City of Howard representatives stated they would not be contributing to Miner County Dispatch after 2025.

The budget for 2026 was discussed.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until June 3rd. Dated this 20th day of May, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Justin Brandsma, Miner County Deputy Auditor