

Unapproved Minutes of July 1, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 1, 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, seconded by Neises and carried to approve the agenda, with the removal of the Clark Plat. The minutes of the June 17, 2025 meeting were approved.

Auditor's account with the County Treasurer was \$8,045,974.85 for May 31, 2025 and \$8,128,844.26 for June 30, 2025 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts.

Bechen, Neises and Clary reported on the dispatch meeting they attended with the Lake County 911 Board on June 17th. There will be another meeting on July 14th where the Lake County 911 Board will decide whether or not to make the recommendation to the Lake County Commissioners to investigate the feasibility of a contract with Miner County for 911 services in the future. Faber reported the City of Carthage received a letter from the City of Howard officially informing them that the City of Howard will be withdrawing from the intergovernmental agreement for dispatch for 2026.

No one appeared for public comment.

Temporary custodial employees have been hired to fill in for Lori Kiehl during her medical leave of absence. Lynne Calmus will assist with custodial work in the courthouse, and Larry Sherman will assist with mowing the courthouse grounds, both hired at \$20.96/hour.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Faber and carried to pay the following claims: Road & Bridge \$46,943.65, MERP Fund \$58,207.39, Reliance Standard \$1,408.24, Delta Dental \$500.64, Retirement \$7,435.90, OASI \$10,904.29, 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 \$9,748.86, Register of Deeds \$7,081.52, Vet Service \$610.00, Sheriff \$12,897.85, Contract Law \$4,324.00, Welfare \$428.00, Ambulance \$10,939.67, Extension \$1,522.08, Weed \$1,427.50, Dispatch \$19,101.61, Emergency Mgt \$2,651.00 **JUNE PAYROLL**. Crystal Kansanback \$300.00 **4-H JUDGE**; Graves Construction \$89,118.99, Ulteig Engineers \$31,823.10 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Horizon Health Care \$95.00 **DRUG TESTING**; SD DANR \$200.00 **DUES**; Rob Eggert \$30.00 **EVOC DRIVER**; Northwestern Energy \$163.14 **GAS**; Miner County Conservation \$7,000.00 **GRANT**; Co Employee \$1,686.29 **INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT**; Christy McMullen \$320.00 **MOWING**; Miner Co Treasurer \$22.90, Stamp Fulfillment Services \$901.65, USPS \$634.00 **POSTAGE**; Miner County Pioneer \$268.29 **PUBLISHING**; Amazon \$21.36, Bau Plumbing \$403.42, Graham Tire \$760.00, James Valley Landscape \$1,522.28, John Deere Financial \$2,479.24, Auto Value \$66.20, Transource \$3,640.00, Twotrees Tech \$1,781.65 **REPAIRS**; Knife River SD \$743.24 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE**; Amazon \$20.98, Joe Bechen \$5.30, Corner Pantry \$103.94, Dust-Tex \$251.40, John Deere Financial \$1,415.69, Karla's Kreations \$64.70, Krug Products \$285.98, Miner County Pioneer \$126.14, Miner Co Treasurer \$213.06, Quill \$142.92, Tim Reisch \$433.33, Safelife Defense

\$142.09, Tami Severson \$20.00, Auto Value \$330.92, Thomson Reuters \$302.00, Transource \$13,028.36, Twotrees 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 \$103.08, Danielle Werkmeister \$30.00 **TELEPHONE**; Julie Lightbourn \$144.32, Cora Schwader \$63.00, SDAAO \$1,000.00 **TRAVEL**; City of Howard \$2,843.71 **UTILITIES**.

After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed to rescheduling the first August meeting to Friday, August 1st at 9:00am, rather than the first Tuesday of the month, due to Miner County Achievement Days taking place at the same time.

Due to ongoing asphalt work, Highway Superintendent Ron Krempges relayed a report to Auditor Mommaerts to deliver at the meeting. The insurance claim for the truck involved in the vehicular accident is still underway. The truck is likely a total loss, but the pup trailer may be able to be repaired. Due to the time of the year, the snow equipment was not on the truck at the time of the accident, so those will not need to be replaced. Possible mechanical issues with the truck will be investigated, but this will not delay the insurance claim payment for Miner County. Krempges has talked to the truck manufacturer, and may have the opportunity to order a truck that is already in production. Carlson also reported that she was made aware that the Mack truck is also having issues again, leaving the highway department down two trucks.

Motion by Faber, second by Neises and carried unanimously to pass the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-12

RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR THE FIRST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DURING FISCAL YEAR 2026

(October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026)

The Miner County Board of County Commissioners, having adopted and signed a Joint Cooperative Agreement on the 28th day of March, 1972, creating the First Planning and Development District, Model Rural Development Program, do hereby agree to renew their participation in the Joint Cooperative Agreement for FISCAL YEAR 2026 (October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026). To support the Joint Cooperative Agreement and the activities of the District staff, the Miner County Board of County Commissioners will provide \$10,282.56 to the First District Association of Local Governments during the aforementioned FISCAL YEAR 2026 period.

Adopted this 1st Day of July, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chair
Miner County Commission

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

Motion by Carlson, second by Clary and carried unanimously to enter executive session for legal matters, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (3) at 9:52am. Board came out of executive session at 9:56am.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: SBI (SDML) Loss Control Survey Results & Recommendations; SD Legislative Audit Results for Fiscal Years 2022 & 2023.

Carlson volunteered to take the Commissioner spot on the Safety Committee for 2025.

State's Attorney Greg Protsch met with the board regarding the former Carthage High School. Neither the County nor the City of Carthage seeks to take ownership of the property, due to liability issues and due to the presence of asbestos in the building. Due to the county holding no ownership interest, Protsch does not see any personal injury liability for the county. The City of Carthage, by the court order issued in 2015, could possibly move forward with the destruction of the building, if desired. Faber will communicate with Tim Nelson of Carthage to see if he has any contacts in the government regarding the possibility of a waiver for the asbestos removal due to the instability of the building's structure or some other remedy to rid the City of this nuisance property.

Director of 911 and Dispatch Services Cora Schwader met with the board regarding the future of Miner County Dispatch. Schwader believes contracting with Lake County for 911 services would be a workable solution, but she has concerns with providing enough time for a smooth transition, concerns for the existing dispatch employees, concerns for the Sanborn County contract, and concerns that a noticeable change in the service provided to the public might occur.

Motion by Clary, seconded by Carlson and carried unanimously to pass the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-13

RESOLUTION TO INVESTIGATE COSTS AND FEASIBILITY OF CONTRACTING MINER COUNTY 911 SERVICES WITH LAKE COUNTY 911 COMMUNICATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Miner County, South Dakota, that the Miner County Board of Commissioners is unanimously in support of moving forward with investigating the costs and feasibility of contracting with Lake County 911 Communications for 911 services.

Dated this 1st day of July, 2025

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

The budget for 2026 was discussed. Motion by Faber, seconded by Carlson, and carried to enter executive session to discuss public officer and employee qualifications in relation to requested salary increases, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) at 11:26am. Board returned to regular

session at 11:50am. The Board instructed Auditor Mommaerts to prepare a couple of potential salary scenarios for review.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until July 15th. Dated this 1st day of July, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor