

Minutes of July 15, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 15, 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. The minutes of the July 1, 2025 meeting were approved.

Bechen reported on a telephone conversation he had with Jason Husby, State 9-1-1 Coordinator. Husby is open to meeting with the Miner County Commissioners, as well with local fire departments, if desired. Husby will be asked to attend the next meeting on August 1.

No one appeared for public comment.

Motion by Clary, seconded by Carlson and carried to pay the following claims: Alliance \$150.00, Santel \$30.00, Triotel \$169.53 **911 CHARGES**; ICAP \$796.09 **COMMUNITY ACTION PAYMENT**; Subsurface Inc \$40,375.00, Ulteig Engineers \$38,268.35 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Avera \$36.60 **DRUG TESTING**; HFCA \$20,493.48, Auto Value \$21.99, Wingen's Garage \$1,308.45 **FUEL**; Thomson Reuters \$675.14 **LAW BOOKS**; CLERP \$2,322.00 **LEGAL EXPENSE RELIEF FUND**; Safe N Secure \$179.88 **MISC SERVICE**; Christy McMullen \$640.00 **MOWING**; Miner Co Treasurer \$115.13 **POSTAGE**; Office Ally \$44.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; Dust-Tex \$180.48, Microfilm Imaging \$470.00 **RENT**; Amazon \$72.18, Butler Machinery \$1,000.00, C&R Supply \$225.60, Howard Auto Clinic \$984.44, HFCA \$187.85, Office Peeps \$71.50, S&S Contracting \$204.08, Shane's Hardware \$173.58, Transource \$507.50, Two Way Solutions \$299.00 **REPAIRS**; Commercial Asphalt \$89,700.21, HFCA \$550.00, Jebro Inc \$9,681.90 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Adams Twp \$25,868.44 **RURAL ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE**; Amazon \$67.84, Butler Machinery \$1,083.52, Dakota Data Shred \$108.07, Diamond Mowers \$488.83, Elan Financial \$69.17, Home Service Water \$35.00, HFCA \$6,625.00, Miner Co Treasurer \$7.00, Office Peeps \$531.95, Pheasantland Industries \$184.60, Runnings \$123.52, Rusty's \$50.50, Shane's Hardware \$249.81, SD Federal Property Agency \$142.00, Auto Value \$363.40, Thomson Reuters \$675.14, Transource \$174.76 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance \$1,017.63 **TELEPHONE**; Joe Bechen \$33.50, Mike Clary \$26.80, Kathy Faber \$56.28, HFCA \$30.99, Tim Neises \$57.62, Ramkota Hotel \$136.00, SDACC \$50.00, SDEMA \$150.00, **TRAVEL**; Central Electric Coop \$123.76, Xcel Energy \$9.29 **UTILITIES**; Beadle Co Auditor \$500.00 **VICTIMS ADVOCATE**.

Due to ongoing asphalt work, Highway Superintendent Ron Krempges relayed a report to Auditor Mommaerts to deliver at the meeting. The damaged freightliner truck is back in Howard to avoid storage fees; the insurance will pay for the associated towing costs. They are still awaiting an inspector for the steering box to determine if that had any impact on the accident. Subsurface did the culvert lining job on July 2nd. The box for the culvert repair by Cody Poppen's is awaiting production and will probably be done later this year; installation may be next year. Temporary repairs may need to be made to get by. Miner County's asphalt patching is done, and the highway crew started in Kingsbury County yesterday. After that is complete, the crew will start chip sealing.

Zoning Administrator Tami Severson received a plat request from Clark Farms; taxes have been paid and she recommended its approval, as it met all requirements including setbacks. Motion by Faber, seconded by Carlson and motion carried to approve the following resolution:

Resolution 25-14

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Miner County, South Dakota, that the plat shown hereon and described as LOT 1 OF CLARK FARM'S ADDITION IN THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE1/4) OF SECTION TWELVE (12), TOWNSHIP ONE HUNDRED SIX (106) NORTH, RANGE FIFTY-SEVEN (57) WEST OF THE 5TH P.M. IN MINER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, be approved and accepted by the Board of County Commissioners at its meeting of July 15, 2025 and the county Auditor is instructed to endorse on such plat a copy of this resolution and to certify the same.

Dated this 15th day of July, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chair
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts
Miner County Auditor

Signs identifying the trees planted in memory of former county employees, Tom Reisch and Lanny Klinkhammer, have been ordered and will arrive this week. Commissioners scheduled a short dedication ceremony at 10:30 during their meeting on Tuesday, August 19th.

Carlson spoke with Ben Greenlee from Salem regarding the report he can provide for the Central Electric building, which could serve as a possible site for the relocation of the ambulance barn. Greenlee feels confident the report he can provide for \$1500 will entail everything the Commissioners need to know for the purpose of bidding on the building. This report could be upgraded to an appraisal later, if desired. Bechen has received approval from Central Electric to look through the building.

Treasurer Jessica Charles requested to increase deputy Treasurer Brittany Yanish to Level 7, effective August 1. Motion by Carlson, second by Neises and carried to approve this level raise.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: Carbon Pipeline Safety Letter from Benjamin Elliott, Miner County Sheriff June report, Recognition of Barb Esser as "Certified Appraiser Assessor" by the Department of Revenue and the Veteran Service Officer June report.

Motion by Faber, seconded by Carlson to go into executive session for legal matters at 10:07am, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (3). Came out of executive session at 10:21am.

A request was received from Anchor'D Recovery Center, which will be opening its doors in Mitchell on August 1st, 2025, for financial support, endorsement or other opportunities of collaboration with Miner County. Commissioners will monitor their work over the next year.

A request was received from Jeff Bathke, Davison County Emergency Management Director, on behalf of SDEMA for Commissioners to sign a resolution of support to move fulltime emergency managers from Class A Retirement to Class B Public Safety Retirement under the South Dakota Retirement System (SDRS). Emergency Manager Terwilliger had reported to Auditor Mommaerts that this change would not affect him, and Mommaerts reported other counties have opted not to sign the resolution. Due to the email stating it was an “all or nothing request,” Commissioners chose not to sign the resolution at this time.

The Lake County dispatch advisory board was in favor of continuing discussions with Miner County. They will be taking this consideration to the Lake County Commissioner board meeting on August 5th. Jason Husby believed Lake County to be a better fit than other potential locations. Commissioners were informed that Miner County is the only county that hasn’t moved to CAD (computer-aided dispatch); this would come at about an \$80,000 cost. Neises reported that he has had Miner County citizens inquire about Davison County as an option for 911 consolidation. The one disadvantage would be that Davison County has its rules completely set, whereas Miner County would have a seat for decisions with the Lake County 911 board. Gibi Page mentioned the Fedora Fire Dept. is having issues with radio calls coming into Miner County; this will need to be addressed with Emergency Manager Kent Terwilliger. A repeater will need to be put up between Howard and Madison if Miner County consolidates with Lake County for 911 services. After-hours nonemergency calls are another big consideration to factor in. Clary believed it was the duty of the Commission to investigate other options for consolidation before making any final decisions. Clary will visit with Cora Schwader before the board reaches out to Davison County for discussion.

The budget for 2026 was discussed. Motion by Carlson, seconded by Clary, and passed to raise board member payment from \$25 to \$45, effective January 1st, 2026. Motion by Clary, seconded by Carlson to change coroner payment from \$75 to \$100 per callout as of January 1st, 2026. Motion passed. Auditor Mommaerts will make the instructed changes to the provisional budget and send it to the paper for publication.

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

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor