

Minutes of August 1, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 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. The minutes of the July 15, 2025 meeting were approved, with a correction to the level increase and effective date for Brittany Yanish being changed from "Level 6, effective July 20th" to "Level 7, effective August 1st".

Bechen and Clary reported on their meeting with the Mitchell Regional 911 Center on July 21st. The differences between the Mitchell and Lake County systems were discussed. Mitchell Regional 911 was willing to accommodate Miner County 911 calls and the transition may be faster. However, they would not answer after-hours office calls, and their system runs solely through cell phones – no pagers. Faber mentioned this could be an issue for those in the Carthage area due to cell service dead zones.

Auditor's account with the County Treasurer was \$7,276,006.12 for July 31, 2025 in all state, county, civil, school and trust accounts.

During public comment, Auditor Mommaerts reported to the board that following the concern addressed during the July 15th meeting, Emergency Manager Kent Terwilliger had met with the Fedora fire chief and deputy chief on July 21st, and it was determined that there were no problems with the Fedora Fire Department radioing into Miner County.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Clary and carried to pay the following claims: Road & Bridge \$67,383.87, MERP Fund \$58,207.39, Reliance Standard \$1,408.24, Delta Dental \$500.64, Retirement \$8,616.35, OASI \$12,131.95, Commissioners \$4,795.75, Auditor \$7,829.00, Treasurer \$7,968.50, States Attorney \$6,238.00, Govt Building \$4,008.08, Director of Equalization \$9,418.74, Register of Deeds \$6,736.18, Vet Service \$610.00, Sheriff \$13,235.89, Contract Law \$5,000.08, Welfare \$321.00, Ambulance \$10,567.67, Extension \$1,348.20, Weed \$1,427.50, Dispatch \$14,790.61 (includes Julie Lightbourn @ \$21.84/hr), Emergency Mgt \$2,651.00 **JULY PAYROLL**; Jean Morrison \$100.00 **4-H JUDGE**; Graves Construction \$259,135.54, SD DOT \$461.38 **CONTRACTED MAINTENANCE**; Miner Co Treasurer \$22.50 **DOMESTIC ABUSE ADMIN EXPENSE**; Domestic Violence Network \$101.25, Safe Place of Eastern SD \$101.25 **DOMESTIC ABUSE PAY TO OTHERS**; Redwood Toxicology \$58.00 **DRUG TESTING**; Josh Esser \$60.00, Josh Hahn \$30.00 **EVOC DRIVER**; SDSU Extension \$10,805.00 **EXTENSION 4-H PMT TO STATE**; Jeremy Beyer \$63.68, John Deere Financial \$87.28 **FUEL**; Northwestern Energy \$37.74 **GAS**; PDSAR \$155.00 **IN SERVICE EDUCATION**; Christy McMullen \$640.00 **MOWING**; Miner Co Treasurer \$84.51 **POSTAGE**; Lake Co Sheriff \$630.00 **PRISONER CARE**; Madison Regional Health \$208.00 **PRISONER MEDICAL**; Auto Glass Guy \$377.11, Marshall & Swift/Boeckh \$1,987.45, Fire Marshall \$160.00, Prostrullo \$1,125.00, TwoTrees \$1,781.65, Ultra \$13,775.00 **REPAIRS**; Commercial Asphalt Co \$87,528.46 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Canova Twp \$19,555.20, Bellevue Twp \$11,363.54 **RURAL ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE**; Kristian Ellendorf \$900.00 **STATE'S**

ATTY OFFICE EXPENSE; Amazon \$875.78, Diesel Machinery \$621.70, Dust-Tex \$251.40, Elan Financial \$175.00, Fastenal Company \$3.03, Jack's Uniform & Equipment \$3,161.93, John Deere Financial \$208.50, Mcleod's Printing & Office \$327.62, Miner Co Treasurer \$16.99, O'Keefe Implement \$366.92, Tim Reisch \$433.33, Tami Severson \$20.00, Stryker Sales \$633.78, Auto Value \$25.24, Thomson Reuters \$501.00, TwoTrees \$197.20, Tyler Tech \$475.94, WW Tire Service \$4,427.20 **SUPPLIES**; AT&T \$428.10, 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 \$123.06, Danielle Werkmeister \$30.00 **TELEPHONE**; City of Howard \$3,167.96 **UTILITIES**.

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: Revised Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) for Shannon Hutterian Brethren from the SD DANR.

Welfare Director Cheryl Moore met with the board with a request to change the welfare hours from five hours per week to PRN, as five hours per week is not always necessary for the county caseload. She also mentioned that future cases could require more time, so it made more sense to conserve the budgeted hours for when they were more necessary. Commissioners approved this request.

Highway Superintendent Ron Krempges reported on highway matters. Krempges gave an update on the insurance negotiations following the highway truck vehicular accident. The insurance company is trying to claim the snow equipment for the truck, but the County disagrees, as the equipment was not on the truck at the time of the accident. The steering gear box still needs to be inspected, but that has no bearing on the payment to the county. Clary made a motion to authorize Krempges to purchase a truck, box and hydraulics to replace the truck that was damaged in the accident to minimize delays in operations, seconded by Carlson and carried unanimously.

Krempges gave an update on the bridge project in Carthage, and on the Kingsbury County projects Miner County is assisting with. Krempges will be on vacation Wednesday through Sunday next week. The DOT 5-year plan information has been sent to First District. Krempges will also send a reminder notice to townships regarding RAIF program. Krempges may be out for the next meeting due to chip sealing.

Jason Husby, State 911 Coordinator, met with the board for a Q&A session to help determine the best course of action for the future of Miner County 911 and dispatch services. Husby explained the makeup of the state 911 board and an overview of 911 funding. Husby also explained incentive 911 centers, which have populations over 30,000 or have at least 3 counties involved, or both. The state board does not dictate 911 consolidation, but they are available to help with the process. There are typically upfront costs to consolidate, but the state board can help offset costs, since it will likely be more efficient in the end. Husby emphasized that while cost is always a factor, service and reliability should always come first. The use of the 911 surcharge was discussed; Husby stated it could be used for anything within the 911 center. Husby estimated there would still be some general funds the county will have to pay out for 911 services even with the consolidation. Motion by Faber, seconded by Carlson and carried to table the discussion to allow other agenda appointments to remain on time.

Paul Coughlin, Realty Specialist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, met with the board to discuss the FWS grassland easement program, seeking a "no objection" response to use Land

& Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) for grassland easements. Over 600 landowners are on the waiting list, and the amount of duck stamp funds does not enable them all to participate. South Dakota can utilize the excise taxes on offshore oil and tax drilling (not taxpayer money) to address this backlog. However, FWS must verify local elected officials approve the LWCF being used for grassland easements. Coughlin stated that the money will likely go to other states if the LWCF are not spent in SD. Currently, the LWCF are mainly used annually for public parks and infrastructure. Carlson made a motion to file a “no objection” response for the Land & Water Conservation Funds to be used for grassland easements in Miner County, seconded by Faber and carried unanimously.

Motion by Faber, seconded by Carlson and carried to take the 911 Q&A discussion back off the table for discussion. The board questioned Husby on the Mitchell Regional 911 consolidation option drawbacks. Husby suggested devices that rely on radio and cellular; such a device will deliver the message using whatever network is available. Husby will pass along his contact for Siyata and other similar devices. Putting up a tower would be 4-5 years out, and that’s assuming the funding is available. Husby recommended working on a communications plan in the event that the Miner County dispatch center loses the necessary staffing to continue operations before the consolidation is complete. Sheriff Eggert again stressed that everything the Sheriff’s Office does is already tied in with Lake County; Husby agreed there would be significant cost to move the Zuercher software. Bechen confirmed that Sanborn County has been made aware of Miner County researching consolidation. A meeting will be set up with Husby, the sheriff’s office, and the local fire departments to discuss the future of Miner County 911 and dispatch at 7:00pm on August 26th.

Sheriff Rob Eggert called to order the new vehicle for his department, believing it would be next year before it’d be ready; however, he was told that it could be ready in September. They said they would be willing to hold the vehicle until December, but they would agree to wait until January for payment. Eggert believed the 2021 Tahoe purchase was handled this same way. Auditor Mommaerts will research this. Commissioners told Eggert to make sure the vehicle is a 2026, and if it worked to hold off on the payment until the 2026 budget year, they approved him to proceed.

Motion by Faber, seconded by Neises, and passed to jointly convene as the Planning Commission & County Commission to consider plats from Tom & Patty Hughes and Gregory D. Hanson. Carlson took the position of Chair of the Planning Commission. A call was made to the States Attorney regarding the required signatures on the plats. While this was being researched, Faber made a motion to reconvene solely as the board of County Commissioners, seconded by Neises and passed. Bechen resumed the position of Chair.

Motion by Faber, seconded by Carlson and carried to go into executive session for legal matters at 11:16am, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (3). Board returned to regular session at 11:39am.

After receiving advice from the State’s Attorney, there was a motion by Carlson, seconded by Faber and passed to recess as a board of County Commissioners, reconvening as the Planning Commission. Carlson resumed the position of Chair. Zoning Administrator Tami Severson reported that taxes have been paid for both, and she recommends the plats for approval. Motion by Faber, seconded by Neises and motion carried to recommend approval of the Tom & Patty Hughes plat, Tract 1 of Hughes Addition in the SW4 of Section 24-107-56. Motion by

Bechen, seconded by Clary and motion carried to recommend approval of the Gregory D. Hanson plat, Hanson Tract 2 in the SW4 of Section 25-108-55. Motion to adjourn as the Planning Commission by Bechen, seconded by Neises and passed. Motion by Faber, second by Neises to reconvene as a board of County Commissioners. Bechen resumed the position of Chair.

Motion by Faber, second by Neises, and passed to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-15

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Miner County, South Dakota, that the plat of TRACT 1 OF HUGHES ADDITION IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 107 NORTH, RANGE FIFTY-SIX (56) WEST OF THE 5TH P.M. IN MINER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, as described above and drawn hereon, appears to conform to the system of roads, existing plats, and section lines of Miner County and that adequate provisions have been made for access to adjacent unplatted lands and that all provisions of Miner County Subdivision Regulations have been complied with. Furthermore, all taxes and special assessments upon the Tract or subdivision have been paid and that the plat and the survey thereof have been lawfully executed. Said plat is approved and accepted and the Chairman is hereby instructed to endorse on such plat this resolution and to certify the same.

Adopted this 1st day of August, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

Motion by Carlson, second by Faber, and passed to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-16

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Miner County, South Dakota, that the plat of HANSON TRACT 2, A SUBDIVISION OF THE SW ¼ OF SECTION 25, T 108 N, R 55 W OF THE 5TH P.M., MINER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, which has been submitted for examination pursuant to law, is hereby approved and the County Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to endorse on such plat a copy of this Resolution and certify the same.

Dated this 1st day of August, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor

Commissioners reviewed “Conducting the Public’s Business in Public: A guide to South Dakota’s Open Meetings Laws (Revised 2025)” prepared by the SD Attorney General’s Office, as required by SB 74.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until August 19th. Dated this 1st day of August, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor