

Unofficial Minutes of September 16, 2025

The Miner County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 16, 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 Clary, and carried to approve the agenda, with the addition of adding an executive session, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (4), to the end of the meeting. The minutes of the September 2nd meeting were reviewed; it was discovered that edits that were supposed to have been made prior to publication did not get saved in the copy that was sent. Changes to the official minutes are as follows:

Highway portion:

- Remove *“The truck and box won’t be ready until the end of the year or the beginning of next year”* and replace with *“The truck may be here by the end of the year, but the box may be 30 weeks out.”*
- Add *“department”* between *“highway”* and *“continues gravel and blading work.”*
- Add *“positive”* between *“Carlson informed Krempges she’s received”* and *“comments on the Carthage Oil.”*
- Remove the word *“by”* and replace with *“leading to”* in the sentence that previously read *“the road by the Dairy Operation north of Carthage was discussed.”*

Planning & Zoning Portion:

- Remove *“due to it being Power of Attorney for an individual that is now deceased. There is a specific acknowledgement for a personal representative of an estate”* and replace with *“due to Jeff Albrecht not appearing in person. Tamara Albrecht signed as his POA, but the signature line is also not correct. Now that Jeff Albrecht is deceased, the personal representative of his Estate will have to sign in that capacity with a proper acknowledgement for a personal representative.”*

After making the above edits, Commissioners approved the minutes of September 2nd.

Carlson reported on attending the September Canova Fire Department meeting. No one appeared for public comment.

Motion by Clary, seconded by Neises, and carried to pay the following claims: Alliance \$150.00, Santel \$30.00, Triotel \$187.53 **911 CHARGES**; Greenlee Appraisals \$1,300.00 **APPRAISAL**; SD Dept of Legislative Audit \$4,230.00 **AUDIT**; ICAP \$796.09 **COMMUNITY ACTION PAYMENT**; Elan Financial \$70.00, HFCA \$10,261.13, Auto Value \$140.77 **FUEL**; Christy McMullen \$320.00 **MOWING**; Miner Co Treasurer \$32.05 **POSTAGE**; Lake Co Sheriff \$90.00 **PRISONER CARE**; SD DOH Lab \$40.00 **PRISONER MEDICAL**; Office Ally \$44.95 **PROCESSING FEE**; A-Ox Welding Supply \$371.50, Dust-Tex \$180.48, Microfilm Imaging Systems \$470.00 **RENT**; HFCA \$71.61, Microfilm Imaging Systems \$150.00, Office Peeps \$78.65, Shane’s Hardware \$49.99, Tritech Software \$1,659.17 **REPAIRS**; Jebro Inc. \$31,424.94, Rusty’s \$28.88 **ROAD MATERIALS**; Amazon \$162.32, Bound Tree Medical

\$267.46, Elan Financial \$265.13, Home Service Water \$29.40, Istate Truck Center \$118.47, Krug Products \$476.85, Mcleods Printing \$284.01, Miner Co Treasurer 36.10, North Central Int'l \$58.44, Office Peeps \$1,010.07, RDO Equipment \$568.86, Rusty's \$106.98, Shane's Hardware \$52.43, Sunset Law Enforcement \$348.48, Auto Value \$783.01, Transource \$543.80 **SUPPLIES**; Alliance \$997.55 **TELEPHONE**; Joe Bechen \$50.25, Jillian Calmus \$1,305.26, Elan Financial \$208.00, Kathy Faber \$84.42, HFCA \$23.10, Miner Co Treasurer \$41.00, Cheryl Moore \$128.22, Tim Neises \$8.04, Tim Reisch \$557.52, Safety Benefits \$75.00, SDSU-SDLTAP \$125.00 **TRAVEL**; Central Electric \$130.00 **UTILITIES**.

Highway Superintendent Ron Krempges gave an update on highway matters. Chip-sealing and paint-striping have been completed. The removal of the steering box from the damaged freightliner was again postponed and is now set for October 21st. Krempges will be attending the Local Road Conference in Sioux Falls Oct 20-22. The replacement cost for the truck is \$255,996.00. Krempges received a quote for \$74,000-\$75,000 from Sanitation Products for a replacement pup trailer, but he is checking into other options. On the bridge west of Carthage, the west wall is being worked on, and they should be starting on the deck soon. Nolz Dragline out of Sioux Falls won the bid for the City of Carthage park bridge; Krempges gave Faber a copy of the plans. Fall mowing is ongoing; the notice to remove hay bales from Miner County rights-of-way will be in the paper for the next two weeks. Krempges also reported on gravel crushing in the Ecklein Pit and highway gravel work starting at county line and working south to Fedora.

The public hearing for the Miner County 5-Year Highway Plan was held as advertised at 9:30am in the Commission Room of the Miner County Courthouse. Those in attendance were Commissioners Bechen, Faber, Neises, Carlson and Clary, Auditor Mommaerts, Director of 911 & Dispatch Services Cora Schwader, Sheriff Rob Eggert and Highway Superintendent Krempges. Krempges gave an overview of the plan. No public comments were made. Information will be forwarded to First District of Local Governments for the final plan that will be considered at the October 7th meeting.

Schwader reported that the Notice of Intent to Terminate Miner County Dispatch documentation was received back from the City of Carthage, the Town of Canova and the Howard School District. Schwader also sent a letter to Sanborn County regarding the upcoming changes to Miner County Dispatch; Miner County will continue to honor the agreement with Sanborn County until other arrangements are carried out. Schwader has requested a ballpark figure cost from Lake County Communications. Bechen received a message from Dawn Niehoff that Sanborn County has indicated they plan to contract with Mitchell Regional 911 Center in the future. Motion by Carlson, second by Clary, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the Notice of Intent to Terminate on behalf of Miner County.

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

Resolution 25-17

A RESOLUTION TO DISSOLVE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR MINER COUNTY DISPATCH SERVICES

WHEREAS, pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-24, Miner County and the City of Howard, the City of Carthage, the Town of Canova, and the Howard Independent School District entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement for the provision of dispatch services, collectively known as the Miner County Dispatch Board, and approved by resolution on August 10, 1987; and

WHEREAS, SDCL 1-24-3 requires action by resolution, ordinance, or other lawful method of the governing body to approve and enter into such agreements; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Miner County has determined it is in the best interest of the County to dissolve its participation in the Intergovernmental Agreement for dispatch services; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement itself provides for termination one hundred eighty days following forwarding of written notice of termination by any party to this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, a signed Notice of Intent to Terminate has been received from each of the other parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement, allowing for the immediate dissolution of Miner County Dispatch;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Miner County Board of Commissioners that:

1. Miner County hereby dissolves the Intergovernmental Agreement for dispatch services with the City of Howard, the City of Carthage, the Town of Canova, and the Howard Independent School District.
2. This dissolution shall be effective immediately upon signing.
3. The County Auditor is authorized and directed to provide written notice of this action to the other parties to the Agreement and to take any further actions necessary to effectuate this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all prior delegations of authority inconsistent with this resolution are hereby rescinded, and all officers, employees, and members are directed to recognize Miner County as the sole governing authority henceforth.

Adopted this 16 day of September, 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chair
Miner County Commissioners

ATTEST: Rebecca Mommaerts
Miner County Auditor

Bechen will inform Dawn Niehoff that Miner County is still waiting on some information from Lake County Communications to make a final decision, but the County should be able to give her a final decision within the month. A deadline for “wish lists” from the emergency responders was set for October 20th by the Commissioners; Schwader will inform the area fire departments and ambulance services.

The 2026 annual budget was discussed. Commissioners instructed Auditor Mommaerts to increase the amount allotted for the county audit to \$12,000 and to increase the election supplies budget to \$8,000 for 2026.

ANNUAL BUDGET FOR MINER COUNTY, SD
For the year January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026

	Tax Levy in Dollars	Tax Levy in \$/s/1,000
COUNTY TAX LEVIES		
WITHIN LIMITED LEVY:		
County Purposes (SDCL 10-12-9)	\$3,519,482	3.653
(Includes \$5,510 to be distributed to the cities.)		

It was moved by Carlson seconded by Faber and carried to pass the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 25-18

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL BUDGET FOR MINER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

WHEREAS, (7-21-5 through 13) SDCL provides that the Board of County Commissioners shall each year prepare a Provisional Budget of all contemplated expenditures and revenues of the County and all its institutions and agencies for such fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners did prepare a Provisional Budget and cause same to be published by law, and

WHEREAS, due and legal notice has been given to the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for the consideration of such Provisional Budget and all changes, eliminations, and additions that have been made thereto;

CHANGES FROM THE 2026 PROVISIONAL BUDGET

REVENUE:	FROM	TO
General Fund		
Cash Applied	\$1,695,317	\$1,703,126
Tax Levy	\$3,521,181	\$3,519,482
EXPENDITURES:		
General Fund		
Commissioners	\$ 214,995	\$ 217,625
Elections	\$ 31,475	\$ 33,475
General Government Building	\$ 238,675	\$ 239,850

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that such provisional budget as amended and all its purposes, schedules, appropriations, amounts, estimates, and all matters therein set forth SHALL BE APPROVED AND ADOPTED AS THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURES FOR MINER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, and all its institutions and agencies for calendar year beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026, and the same is hereby approved and adopted by the Board of

County Commissioners of Miner County, South Dakota, this 16th day of September, 2025.

The Annual Budget so adopted is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the county auditor, Miner County, South Dakota. The accompanying taxes are levied by Miner County for the year January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MINER COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Kathy Faber, Commissioner
Tim Neises, Commissioner
Kari Jo Carlson, Commissioner
Mike Clary, Commissioner

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, County Auditor

Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence: August VSO Report; August Sheriff Report; Response from Tina Titze on LEMPG Agreement for 2026; Delta Dental Renewal Rates.

Emergency Manager Kent Terwilliger and Emergency Management Region 6 Coordinator Adam Frerichs met with Board regarding the LEMPG Agreement for 2026. Terwilliger shared matrix information with the commissioners. Motion by Clary, seconded by Neises, and carried to authorize Chairman Bechen to sign the LEMPG Agreement for 2026.

Custodian Lori Kiehl presented a quote from Climate Systems on another optional fix for the HVAC issues in the courthouse building. Commissioners approved Kiehl moving forward with Climate Systems if working relationships between the other existing contractors are good.

Motion by Clary, second by Neises, and carried to approve the request from Fall Festival Committee to once again have beer and wine consumption on the 4-H Grounds during their annual event on October 11th.

Motion to go into executive session by Carlson, second by Neises, pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (4) at 12:04pm to discuss contract negotiations. Board returned to regular session at 12:29pm.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned until October 7, 2025. Dated this 16th day of September 2025.

Joe Bechen, Chairman
Miner County Board of Commissioners

Attest: Rebecca Mommaerts, Miner County Auditor