

Morton County Road Commission Meeting
Morton County Highway Department, 2916 37th St NW, Mandan, ND 58554
April 17, 2024

Commission members Present: Ron Leingang, Jackie Buckley, Roger Hille, Steve Tomac

Commission members Absent: Kyle Kirchmeier

Others present: John Saiki, Chad Schneider, Allen Koppy, Jim Schwartzbauer

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chair Jackie Buckley

Steve made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The agenda was amended to add Kevin Miller discussion. Ron 2nd. Motion carried.

Ron made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Roger 2nd, motion carried.

1. Tire Bidding – Big O Tire – Jim Schwartzbauer – Big O Tire opened in 2018. They are a full service Firestone and Bridgestone dealer with service trucks. They sell Recaps. They also honor government pricing for new tires. They would like to be included in bidding for new tires for the County. The Commission agreed that we would include them when requesting bids.
2. States Attorney Update – Bid Bond Bridge No. 30-153-04.0 (Graf) – Bid of Quality Dirtworks who then became insolvent, without providing a Performance Bond. The Bid Bond should be used to help recoup some of the cost of the County will incur due to the low bidder not performing the work. Almost a year ago, this was discussed and a copy of the bid bond, letter to be sent to the surety company and other bid documents were forwarded to the States Attorney Office. This commission decided it was appropriate for the communication to be between the States Attorneys Office and the Surety rather than the County Engineer and the Surety. This has been ongoing without communication for 1 ½ years. The Road Commission would like to receive monthly updates on this until resolved.
3. Flex Funding Application Update – Morton County submitted two applications for Flex Funding last December. We received a letter on April 10, 2024 advising neither project was selected. John has a call into Local Projects with NDDOT to find out what we can do better for the next round of funding. In the mean time we are meeting with Moore Engineering next week. They have a Grant Funding Specialist and they may be aware of other grants available to complete the two projects, overlay of the Frontage Road and the Graf Bridge. The Road Commission stated we should talk to the Auditor about funds we can use for a 20% match for the Frontage Road. We could make that our next Federal Aid project.

4. Discuss purchase of Lawn Mower - Flasher is in need of a replacement lawn mower. Chad brought information including prices. He recommended a John Deere. The consensus of the Road Commission is to purchase the mower and use the money from the Shop Maintenance Budget Line Item.

5. Monthly Updates – a & b. Design Projects and Construction projects – Bridges near Flasher and St Anthony are under contract with APEX, bidding in January 2025. Structure type has been selected. Bridge South of Almont (Sauber Engineering) selected Alignment, Bidding January 2026. Little Heart Bridge – Work complete, except for top soil placement and seeding. Completion date is May 18, 2024. Bridge North of Mandan (Mork) with (KLJ), Road Commission agreed to straighten out road. Road Commission agreed that KLJ is entitled to an additional \$35,000, KLJ has agreed and work will continue. The bridge near Danzig Dam (SRF), received information from SRF that the COE will not approve a permit for a project that fills the channel, such as an RCB. The replacement bridge will have to be a bridge that is at least as long as the existing bridge. Design of this project has been paused indefinitely. Bridge North of Glen Ullin on the frontage road, NDDOT working on easement options since a portion of one of the wing walls will be on NDDOT (I-94) right of way. Bismarck District sent the permit to FHWA for review and concurrence. Starck Bridge project is progressing. Swingen Construction is planning on setting the center span girders on April 24, 2024.
 - c. Culvert Replacements – Chad reviewed the plans for the summer, including the bridge in Judson. This bridge will most likely require closure due to the condition, after the current round of bridge inspections. The Commission agreed a low water crossing would be best option to replace the bridge.
 - d. Budget Update – No charges for the match for construction and construction engineering have been billed.

6. Kevin Miller discussion – Kevin contacted Ron and stated he received the letter from the County stating he will have to remove his second, temporary entrance. He would like to remove it himself, but due to his ill health, he may not get it done by the end of May which was the date stated in the letter. It was the consensus that due to his health; it would be acceptable to allow him to remove the entrance himself, even it is later in the year after the May 31, 2024 date.

Ron moved to adjourn, Steve 2nd. The meeting was adjourned 10:35 am.