

Morton County Road Commission Meeting
Morton County Highway Department, 2916 37th St NW, Mandan, ND 58554
May 18, 2022

Commission members Present: Ron Leingang, Roger Hille (telephone), Kyle Kirchmeier

Commission members Absent: Jackie Buckley, Steve Tomac

Others present: John Saiki, Chad Schneider, Mark Isaacs, Lee Rebenitsch

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Vice-Chair Ron Leingang

Kyle made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Added Lee Rebenitsch to the first item. Added Kaelberer Gravel discussion and Cotton Tail Way. Roger 2nd. Motion carried

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

6. Lee Rebenitsch - Lee asked if the culvert under the County Road could be moved so that it would be easier to make right turns out of his property with his semis. Currently it is very difficult to make a right turn to the south than the north. Later this summer the pipe will be replaced, since it is silted in. The replacement pipe will be located further south. Lee was also advised that a culvert is needed in his current approach. If he has a culvert ready, the Highway Department will install it since we will be working at that location. This is a one-time event and not a policy change. The Highway Department will not be installing culverts for property owners.
1. Revision to the Morton County Right of Way Acquisition Policy – two options for the proposed revision to the policy were proposed. The portion of the policy to be changed will be the first paragraph under the “Policy” heading. The second paragraph starting with the word Appraisals will be unchanged. One of the proposed options is recommended. Option 1 (Compensating Land Owners for only ROW in excess of prescriptive or statutory ROW) or Option 2 (Compensating Land Owner for all ROW to be acquired). Morton County pays using option 2 for acquisition at bridge replacement projects. This is required to qualify for Federal Funding. In the past ROW was acquired to the Section Line, but the compensation is not known. Roger presented a motion to adopt Option 2, purchase to centerline, price will be 1.25 x assessed value. Kyle 2nd. Roger and Kyle voted for, Ron against, motion carried.
2. County Policy for Opening and Closing of Roads and Section lines - Morton County cannot deviate from the Century Code due to Home Rule Charter. The proposed policy follows Century Code, but it is written in plain language. After review and discussion, there was a consensus that the proposed policy be sent to the State Attorney’s office for review. Once an opinion is received, the proposed policy will be revisited.
3. a. Monthly Updates - Design Projects – Youngtown (AE2S Engineering), Youngtown work is progressing on getting this project ready for bidding through the NDDOT system, currently under

review by SHPO. Little Heart Bridge is out for bid. Bid opening will be Thursday, May 19. Bridge north of the Truck Stop (Sauber) design is complete. Waiting for the Level II Cultural Survey. The bridge on County Road 80, Design is complete. PS & E plans have been received. The 2 bridges SW of Fort Rice survey is complete, design started. Bridge North of Mandan (KLJ), alignment alternatives are being investigated and Hydraulic Design has started. Bridge W of Vern Leingang (Moore Engineering), under contract. The bridge near Danzig Dam (SRF), survey is complete. Hydraulic Design started. Cultural and Wetland field work is complete, awaiting reports. Bridge North of Glen Ullin on the frontage road, survey scheduled.

- b. Construction Projects – Bridge project near Hebron, contracts have been signed. Waiting for schedule from contractor. Two Park Projects are under way. Paving on Sweet Briar Lake, 37th St. is being completed this week, Little Heart, 16th Ave will be completed next week.
 - c. Culvert Replacements – completed shoulder pull along the fertilizer road. Will be removing a bridge south of CR 135 and west of CR 86. This will be replaced with a low water crossing. This will be a similar design to what was completed last year north of New Salem.
 - d. Budget Update – Reviewed expenditures. Fuel costs are currently the main concern.
- 4. Discussion on updating County radios - the Highway Department will have to replace 85-90 radios. Kyle estimated the cost per radio and installation would be \$2,000 per unit. Budgeting may be over the next 3 years, perhaps purchasing 1/3 of the needed radios each year then install them in 2025. The radio representative will be invited to the June Road Commission meeting to answer questions. No action was taken.
 - 5. Kaelberer Gravel – Kevin Kaelberer called Chad and said a representative from the Wind Farm had contacted him about building some Wind Turbines on their property. If the wind turbines are built, then Morton County would not be able to crush gravel. One option would be for Morton County to purchase the quarter section of land. This purchase could possibly be funded through ARPA funds. A consensus was reached that this will require additional discussion. In the meantime, Terracon will be contact to perform additional gravel exploration, so we have a more accurate quantity of available gravel.
 - 7. Cottontail Way – speed bump is still there. Adjacent property owners would like to have it removed. The property owner who placed it says he owns the road. The County does not maintain this road. Kyle will go down there to look at the situation. Natalie will be contacted regarding ownership.

Kyle moved to adjourn, Roger 2nd. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.