

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

Commission members Present: Jackie Buckley, Kyle Kirchmeier, Roger Hille, Steve Tomac

Commission members Absent: Ron Leingang

Others present: John Saiki, Chad Schneider, John Sauber, Darin Starck, Mark Starck, Craig Keidel, Wade Bachmeier, Chad Radke, Todd Roth

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Chair Jackie Buckley

Kyle made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Item No. 2, Fencing along CR 137 Starck Bridge was added as was Item 10, Rosemary Dr. Steve 2nd. Motion carried.

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

1. Discuss James Drive – Todd Roth & Chad – Chad Schneider explained process for maintenance. Todd & Chad discussed their concerns as far as lack of maintenance and services in general for the amount of taxes they pay. They thought the County should take over the roads in a subdivision and if graveling or paving is needed, the County should proceed and assess the residents accordingly. Roger stated he didn't think many of the residents would be happy with that. They wouldn't like the County dictating how work in their subdivision. They would lose their say. Steve stated there are a number of arguments; how do we move old subdivisions to a new standard. He agreed a Strategic Plan is needed; Jackie stated the County Commission is working developing a Strategic Plan. Kyle stated that the discussion today is just a start.
2. Fencing Along CR 137 at the Starck Bridge – Discussed the County didn't originally own the property, it was easement. Once the property is no longer used for a public highway, it should revert back to the adjacent property owner. No action by the Road Commission is needed. The fence will be relocated.
3. Discuss Missouri West Water road work – Nygren Dam Area – Involves access to a water tower between St. Anthony and Flasher. There is a long term plan to replace the tower, in the next 2-5 years, in the same location. Missouri West Water is requesting an upgrade to the road leading to the existing tower and the new tower when built. Decided a cost share is appropriate to improve the section line. Steve made motion to complete the requested work with Missouri West contributing \$10,000 for the material. Roger 2nd. Motion carried.

4. Discuss the condition of the walking path from 19th South along ND 1806. The original Grant Application will have to be reviewed regarding how funded and provisions for maintenance and repairs. The Highway Department currently plows snow and seals the cracks. The condition is such that more substantial work will be required. Jackie will work with Tim from the Parks Department regarding the proper course of action.
5. Discuss Over Dimension Vehicle Regulations Policy – Will be put on the August 21th agenda. Kyle will review and provide required changes and the necessary language.
6. Retract CO2 Capture Facility use of County Road 87 – This item was discussed and determined that with the number of trucks hauling water, the portion of the road that will be used for access to the site will require pavement. Roger made a motion that the road will require pavement to a standard approved by the County and maintained by Retract for the life of the facility. The pavement will have to be completed before construction of the site continues. Steve 2nd. Motion carried.
7. Discussed the Speed Limit on CR 139 through New Salem – Current speed limit at this location is 45mph / Trucks 25 mph. Discussed reducing to 25mph and enforcement issues. No action taken.
8. Discuss Culvert Bids – TruNorth Steel submitted bids for culverts. TruNorth was the only Vendor to respond. Prices have increased, but at much lower rate than we have seen in recent years.
9. 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. Swingen Construction poured the concrete for the barriers on the Starck bridge this week. Contract for the Graf Bridge is in process.
 - c. Culvert Replacements – Chad reviewed the plans for the summer. Replacing small culverts.
 - d. Budget Update – No large overages like last year. There is money in the Contractor line item and County Bridge line item, to cover the remaining match for the Starck Bridge, the match for the overlay on CR 139 and replacement of the Graf Bridge, north of the truck stop. We will proceed these two projects. We will be requesting an addition Full Time Employee since so many subdivisions have been added since 2017. Reviewed the proposed 2025 Bridge and Highway Budget. Roger made a motion to approve the 2025 Bridge and Road budget, Steve 2nd. Motion carried.
 - e. Update on Bid Bond Graf Bridge – have received a response from the bonding company. They have requested information, which I forwarded to the States Attorneys office. This information has been forwarded to the Bonding Company, no response at this time.
10. Rosemary Drive Discussion – Item was discussed. Roger made a motion that the plat be recorded with the drive recorded as a private drive and the County will not maintain. Kyle 2nd. Motion carried.

Kyle moved to adjourn, Roger 2nd. The meeting was adjourned 12:00 pm.