

Morton County Road Commission Meeting
Morton County Highway Department, 2916 37th St NW, Mandan, ND 58554
October 16, 2024

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

Commission members Absent: None

Others present: John Saiki, Chad Schneider, Greg Petrick, BNI Coal, Mark Isaacs

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

Steve made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Added Greg Petrick to the agenda as Item No. 1. Added Shop Policy Review as Item No. 4 and 2025 proposed schedule, Michael Fetch – Section Lines and Matt Pazdernik – mowing were added to Other. Roger 2nd. Motion carried.

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

1. Greg Petrick – BNI Coal, Greg provided information regarding future expansion of the coal mine, which involves petitioning to close some section lines and a County Road in Oliver County. He wanted to advise Morton County of their plans and what potential impact there could be to Morton County. No action was taken by the Commission, information only.
2. Discuss Right of Way along County Road 85 and County Road 139 in New Salem – Mark Isaacs, City of New Salem want to install a sign east of CR 85 and south of CR 139 by the bank. The County Right of Way is wider in this area than west of this location and 3 blocks east of this location. Discussion involved possible vacating the Right of Way, obtaining a variance for the sign or issuing a permit. All of the items discussed carry consequences that have to be considered. No action was taken by the Commission. Mark will go back to the city and bank for further discussion before proceeding.
3. Discuss Policy 7007 – Weight Enforcement – Sheriff Kirchmeier, Sheriff's Department has obtained scales from McClean County. This will need to be certified. Kyle is still working on the policy and said to put the policy on next months agenda. Steve stated he would like to see an education program, for example announcing that the County will be weighing trucks with no penalty at first. This will get the word out and introduce the policy. The others concurred.
4. Shop Policy – Policy was reviewed. No changes were recommended. Kyle made a motion to approve. Steve 2nd. Motion carried.
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. Schmidt Bridge is being designed by Ulteig Engineering. They have completed the Class III Environmental Investigation. Starck is open, old bridge removal will start in November. Youngtown bridge is

scheduled for December 2024 bid opening. Will be issuing an RFP for Construction Engineering. Construction Engineering will be funded 100% by NDDOT, therefore we will be following the NDDOT process for selection. Graf bridge Box Culvert Pre-Construction Conference is scheduled for October 17, 2024. Sauber Engineering is handling the Construction Engineering. KLJ has completed survey, working permitting for the Mork bridge. Roger stated there is potential for the Legislature to provide additional funding for Counties for bridges. We should get more bridges under design. Northern Improvement is paving the Frontage Road, CR 139A. Fisher is mobilizing to start crushing gravel.

- c. Culvert Replacements – Chad reviewed the work completed.
 - d. Budget Update – No large overages like last year. There appears to be an excess of money, but we still have a portion of the match for Starck Bridge, Gravel Crushing and the Graf Bridge to pay, in addition to operation costs.
 - e. Update on Bid Bond Graf Bridge – Submitted the required released and advised the attorney to send the check to the Auditors Office. Have not received confirmation that the check has been received. Received a letter from the NDDOT that the Haul Summaries submitted with the final paper work for the two Hebron bridge replacement did not meet specifications and are ineligible for Federal Aid and that portion will have to be reimbursed to the NDDOT. This is the Quality Dirtworks project and they went out of business and ignored all communication in an attempt to resolve the deficiencies. Attempts to contact Quality Dirtworks, their attorney, and the aggregate supplier were unsuccessful.
7. Other – 1. Proposed 2025 meeting dates. Dates were reviewed. Roger made a motion to approve, Kyle 2nd, motion carried.
- 2. Michael Fetch – Section Lines, he was asking if a particular Section Line was legally closed. No one in the meeting was aware if it was closed. We will do some research and follow up with Jackie.
 - 3. Matt Pazdernik – mowing, called since the road by his place had not been mowed. Chad stated that mowing was complete in the Flasher and New Salem areas was complete. Mowing is going slow since it so dry and so windy. We have not mowed for several days for fear of starting a fire.

Kyle moved to adjourn, Roger 2nd. The meeting was adjourned 11:20 am.