

Morton County Road Commission Meeting
Morton County Highway Department, 2916 37th St NW, Mandan, ND 58554
December 18, 2024

Commission members Present: Jackie Buckley (telephone), Paul Tokach, Roger Hille, Steve Tomac

Commission members Absent: Kyle Kirchmeier

Others present: John Saiki, Chad Schneider, Jim Vandervorst – Emmons County, Craig Miller - Emmons County, Russ Lawler - Emmons County, Natalie Pierce

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Chair Jackie Buckley

Steve made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The changes were removing 2. Discuss Policy 7007 – Weight Enforcement – Sheriff Kirchmeier and adding Federal Aid Ineligibility under Other. Roger 2nd. Motion carried.

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

1. Discuss New Subdivision Paving and HOA – Natalie Pierce – Morton County has many subdivisions that have gravel roads. Some in the subdivision want the roads paved others want gravel. Discussion has revolved around paving after a certain percentage of lots have been developed. Reluctant to set a minimum number of lots before requiring paving, developers may keep subdivisions below that threshold. Questions are how to tie all phases of a subdivision together for special assessments? If there is a Master Plan, that may take 20 years to develop, like in Morton County, when do you pave the roads? Natalie made the comment that we should get an opinion from the States Attorney if is legal to have a covenant that you cannot protest out when the roads are paved. This discussion will be continued in January. Before then get an opinion from the States Attorney, copy of policies from Burleigh, Ward and Williams County as well as the North Dakota Association of Counties.
2. Monthly Updates – a & b. Design Projects and Construction projects – Bridges near Flasher and St Anthony are under contract with APEX, bidding in January 2025 will have to follow up regarding updates on Bid Opening date. Structure design is progressing. Bridge South of Almont (Sauber Engineering) selected Alignment, submitting information to the Corps of Engineers for a permit. Bidding January 2026. Schmidt Bridge is being designed by Ulteig Engineering. They have completed the Class III Environmental Investigation. Starck is open, old bridge removed. Only work remaining is permanent seeding and Erosion Control. Youngtown bridge is scheduled for March 2025 bid opening. Will be issuing an RFP for Construction Engineering in February. Construction Engineering will be funded 100% by NDDOT, therefore we will be following the NDDOT process for selection. Graf bridge Box Culvert installation is complete. Permanent seeding and Erosion Control is all that remains. KLJ has completed survey, working permitting for the Mork bridge Corps of Engineers stated that it is unlikely that the two bridge concept will be approved, due to significant environmental impact. Their recommendation is to go back to a single bridge. There was concern by

the board that this should have been realized much earlier in the process, before some of the other design work was complete. Fisher is finished crushing gravel.

- c. Culvert Replacements – large pipes were delivered this week for bridge replacement projects in 2025.
 - d. Budget Update – No large overages like last year. Have projected costs for the rest of the year. There will be a surplus at the end of the year, so no budget amendment will be required. Roger made a motion to spend some of the available budget money on items that were removed from the 2025 proposed budget. Steve 2nd, motion carried. The items discussed are two gravel trailers and a pickup. A list of items and the justification will be prepared and presented to the full commission at the December 26th meeting.
3. Federal Aid Ineligibility Update – A meeting was requested with the NDDOT, including manager from the NDDOT Central Office. The meeting included Roger and John and the Bismarck District Engineer and staff, no one from the Central Office. This was discussed but nothing was changed. We will further pursue this. The full commission will be updated on the status of this item. It may be a long process, but we will continue.

Steve moved to adjourn, Roger 2nd. The meeting was adjourned 9:35 am.