

**Morton County Road Commission Meeting**  
**Morton County Highway Department, 2916 37<sup>th</sup> St NW, Mandan, ND 58554**  
**January 21, 2026**

Commission members Present: Paul Tokach, Kyle Kirchmeier, Roger Hille (telephone)

Commission members Absent: Jackie Buckley, Steve Tomac

Others present: John Saiki, Chad Schneider, Gordon Schoonover, Brad Darr, Craig Faul

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chair Paul Tokach

Roger made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The changes amendments made were removal of item 3, Discuss planting shrubs on county property – Anthony Rhoden. Anthony asked to be removed and said he will let us know when he has his plan ready for review. Under Other add update of Dept of Ag Grant for CR 82 and Proposed Purchase of Kalberer land. Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

Roger made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with the addition of the price of the gravel trailer in the last paragraph. Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

1. Discuss NDDOT 129,000 lbs. Large Truck Network – State DOT is in the public input phase. They have received a permit request for certain routes to allow 129,000 lb. trucks with an annual permit. They have received two applications. State law allows with a permit and a maximum length of 110 ft. State has designated highways on the state system. They are advising Counties since some of the operators may be using county routes. The weight per axle allowed will not increase, so the existing pavement shouldn't be a concern. The bridges will be the primary concern. Roger is not concerned with CR 139 to Hebron, but other routes with longer bridges would be a concern. The question was asked if there would be additional enforcement for financial assistance to counties to handle enforcement. The answer was no. Roger asked what other counties have been saying. Morton has had to the questions and detailed concerns. Roger moved we do not have any exception to these permits on state roads. We reserve the right to restrict county roads and require the use of single trip permits. Paul 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call vote: Roger - yes, Paul - Yes, Kyle – Yes. Motion carried.

2. Discuss Youngtown Bridge Update – Todd Norton – Not many remaining options. Funding is good until September 1, 2026. After that another application will have to be submitted. Although future funding may be possible it is not guaranteed. Commission was against spending more money than allowed by our policy and setting a precedent. We will allow Steve and Jackie one last opportunity to meet with the land owner before sending formal written correspondence. Roger, Paul, Nate and John scheduled a meeting for February 3, 2026 at 9:00 am to further discuss the problem and possibly formulate a plan. Discuss paving land fill road – this road has the highest traffic counts in the county, both automobiles and trucks. The County has invested in this road, but due to the traffic the maintenance will be required going forward. This is not on the Federal Aid System, so any work done will be financed by the County. There will be conversations started with the city in cost sharing and looking at possible grants for upgrades. The life of the landfill is expected to exceed any road improvements.

3. Discuss Consultant – Paul Tokach – Paul presented Gordon Schoonover to the commission and if there were no objections, utilize Gordon as a resource regarding gravel. Gordon will be a non-paid, non-voting advisor to the Road Commission. There were no objections.

4. Monthly Updates – a. Design Projects and Construction projects – Reviewed projects. On System project were the same as last month. Off System projects were the same as last month. The Mork Bridge has been approved for Flex funding. Discussed projects that are being designed and will be on the shelf if funding should become available. Road work projects were the same status as last month. Reallocation of Prairie Dog Funds: in the 2026 budget, the Mork bridge was fully funded using Prairie Dog Funds. This project has been awarded Flex Funding, so this will free up Prairie Dog funds that can be used for other projects. The primary change will be moving the Prairie Dog funding to fund the 3 ton bridge on the frontage road north of Glen Ullin. Paul made a motion to accept the change in Prairie Dog Funding and submit to the County Commission for approval. Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

b. Working reclaiming an exhausted Scoria Pit and moving to a new pit as a source for scoria.

c. Budget Update - Reviewed expenses to date for 2025. Some large expenses such as, match for Summit Ave have not been paid.

d. Hebron Bond Claim Update – Asked the States Attorney to follow up. No updates. Roger made a motion to request States Attorney: Due to non-response from Bonding Company the States Attorney file suite to obtain reimbursement of the amount requested. Paul 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment – Chair Tokach asked for public comment starting at 10:50 ending at 10:52 am. There was no public comment.

7. Other – Update on Department of Agriculture for CR 83. Have executed an agreement with Interstate Engineering to develop a grant application. They have a draft ready that is going through internal review. Purchase Kalberer land – 7 quarters to be sold, first offer will be to the people renting the respective quarters. If the renter does not purchase then Morton County would look at possibly buying the land. Data was presented that demonstrated that purchase and having access to the gravel would be beneficial to the county. We will have to wait for appraisals and if the renter will buy property. We will also require a States Attorney on process before this can go forward. Gordon and Roger both thought it was a good ideal.

Kyle made a motion to adjourn, Roger 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.