

**ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MARCH 15, 2021—2:00 PM**

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Commissioner Jim Kapitan called a virtual meeting of the Road Advisory Committee to order at 2:00 PM on Monday, March 15, 2021. Members were present as follows: Duane Breitling, Blaine Laaveg, Chad Peterson, Scott Saewert, Jason Benson, Mary Scherling, Rick Steen, and Jim Kapitan. Also present were Tom Soucy, Robert Wilson, and Kyle Litchy. Bill Hejl and Keith Monson were absent.

2. UPDATE ON 65 MPH

Mr. Benson discussed raising the speed limit to 65 MPH on certain county highways and said that it was a big project for the Highway Department but has received positive comments from the public and Sheriff's Department. Mr. Benson said it has been suggested that Highway 11 also be changed from 55 MPH to 65 MPH. Mr. Litchy added that Highway 11 is being repaved this construction season and suggests making the speed limit increase after the paving is complete.

Mr. Peterson said that he is most concerned about safety and was glad to hear that there have not been any issues. He requested the board be notified if there are any changes.

3. 2021 CONSTRUCTION UPDATES AND CHANGES

Mr. Benson said that the county received an additional \$4.7 million in federal funding for projects this year. Of the \$4.7 million, \$3.6 million will be spent on additional road projects and \$1 million will be spent on additional bridge projects. From the original 2021 budget Mr. Benson said the new budget will include higher costs for bridges than anticipated due to geotechnical challenges. However, the new budget total is projected to come under budget by \$406,072.

Mr. Benson also talked about improvements in the Horace area that are taking place over the next four years totaling \$12.1 million. Mr. Steen asked if the Horace projects are related to the Flood Diversion project. Mr. Benson said that all the projects would still need to be done with or without the diversion project.

MOTION, passed

Mr. Peterson moved and Mrs. Scherling seconded to approve the amended the construction budget. On a roll call vote, the carried unanimously.

4. DAVENPORT SHOP UPDATE

Mr. Benson said that the new shop out in Davenport is set to be completed late this spring or early summer. He said that last fall the concrete fittings were poured and the water and sewer lines were completed. Last month the steel framework was completed and in the last few weeks the steel walls and roof were installed. The next step is to pour the concrete floors, but this cannot be finished until the frost clears up.

Mr. Benson said that a few nearby townships have expressed interest in purchasing the old shop. The committee agreed to hold off on selling the building until the new shop is complete and functioning.

5. 2000-2020 ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

Mr. Soucy gave an in-depth report on road and bridge projects completed by the Cass County Highway Department between the years 2000 and 2020. The report split the county into four quadrants: northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest. Over the 20-year period, the county spent \$19,054,572 on bridges and \$54,867,887 on roads in the northeast quadrant; \$6,074,217 on bridges and \$31,537,762 on roads in the northwest quadrant; \$12,582,921 on bridges and \$34,904,685 on roads in the southeast quadrant; and \$9,388,468 on bridges and \$30,821,379 on roads in the southwest quadrant. The total cost of all bridge and road projects over the 20-year period was \$199,231,891. Mr. Soucy said nearly all paved roads in Cass County have been repaired and maintained during this time.

Mr. Soucy reported that the funding for the projects are dependent on the combined populations of townships and cities in addition to federal funding, ND Fuel Tax, and property taxes.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55PM.

Minutes prepared by Taylor Albrecht, Commission Assistant