

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2014
6:00 PM
MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM

FILED

1-12-2015
MARY GOUGE
COUNTY CLERK

D.C.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Hill

Roll Call: Mrs. Bobbie Dietz, Mr. Robert Gobble, Mr. Mike Hill, Mr. Larry Miller, Mr. Jerry Proffitt, Mr. Scott Simerly, Mr. Charles Von Cannon, and Mr. Danny Ward
All committee members present.

Chairman Hill asked the committee to approve or add to the agenda-

Mr. Von Cannon motioned that item 5 be moved to the top of the agenda due to health issues with one of the speakers. The motion was allowed.

Item # 5-Attorney David Bautista spoke on behalf of the Judge Ben Allen Road residents and their concerns about the proposed re-opening of the Holston Mountain Sand Quarry by Aggregates USA, an Alabama company.

Attorney Bautista spoke about the concerns of a drop in their property values due to the blasting noise and the increased traffic of 70 to 74,000 pound dump trucks on Judge Ben Allen Road. Attorney Bautista stated that the residential area contained housing "of the first order" Attorney Bautista requested that the committee look into alternate exit route(s) for the truck traffic.

Commissioner Ward questioned that any alternate route would cause complaints from those residents. The last meeting of the outgoing Highway Committee explored a route through the Carter County Landfill. Mr. Benny Lyons at that time voiced reservations about this proposed route and cited very valid reasons why this would not be a viable route. The committee was again informed that a road, plus fencing/gating would cost near \$750,000. The outgoing committee voted also against widening the upper area of Judge Ben Allen Road.

It appeared that nearly a dozen residents of the area were at the meeting.

Mrs. Sandy White spoke of the beauty of the area and the number of years she had lived in the area. Mr. Russell Tarvis spoke of the peaceful area and how the noise of blasting and the truck traffic would destroy this peacefulness. Ms. Rose Licata spoke of the dust and mud that would be generated by the truck traffic. Mr. Michael Verbonitz has lived in the area for 18 years and stated that the presence of blasting and truck traffic could reduce his property value by as much as \$100,000.

Commissioner Von Cannon asked Superintendent Roger Colbaugh about the rumored red light on the upper area of Judge Ben Allen Road. Mr. Colbaugh indicated that he found the plans for the 2 red lights on his desk as he took office. One light activates as a loaded truck enters the road stopping traffic at the other end of the road. The red light "waiting time" wasn't discussed. Again Commissioner Von Cannon opinioned that frequent repaving of the road, a possible tax reduction on residents housing values would not yield a positive net gain in revenue for the county tax payers. If tourism is our future a 300 acre scar on Holston Mountain above the Elizabethton airport isn't going to enhance our tourism possibilities.

Commissioner Danny Ward motioned that the issue be referred to Carter County Attorney Joshua Hardin with specific instruction to look into but not limited to:

- the legality of a red light paid for by a private company on county property
- the legality of heavy trucks through a residential area
- the FAA requirement that airport radio frequencies not be interrupted by blasting

The motion received a second by Von Cannon and a voice vote was conducted—all ayes
Commissioner Von Cannon asked for a roll call vote which yielded—all ayes
Mr. Colbaugh gave a very impressive progress report. Secretary's note: I am the only
Commissioner that has been on this committee the full 4 years prior to the make up of the present
Committee and this is the first comprehensive report we have been given.

Unfinished Business

- Speed limit on Runion Street in Keensburg—A signed petition was developed by Johnny Sheppherd of Runion Street which showed 20 mph as the desired speed limit by the residents—a voice vote called for by Chairman Hill yielded all ayes.
- Request by Mr. Stewart to pave Humphries Ln. Mr. Stewart did not return with data from 1988 that might have placed the road on the county road list.
- Pansy Ln. off Old Lewis Road at the Pinecrest Baptist Church was reported as having bushes causing a vision of sight problem, a similar problem exists where Taylortown Road dead ends at Smalling Road.
- Update of guard rails—Poga Road—Superintendent Colbaugh gave the committee A good lesson on guard rail placement and has determined that some areas for safety should not be protected.
- Update on decision to add Blunden Lane to the county road list. Who made the decision? No committee member including the Superintendent knows the location of Blunden lane. Does Blunden Lane, once it is found meet the criteria for being placed on the road list?
- Mr. Colbaugh gave the committee an update on the drainage alley between Dennis Cove road and Melrose Street in Hampton and the survey bill of \$1,600 plus past due charges which are associated with the drainage project.
- Payment of past due bill to Snyder Surveying for the above project. Since the bid process wasn't followed and no purchase order was issued—Commissioner Von Cannon motioned for the Highway Department not to pay the bill. A roll call vote passed 7 ayes -1 no. The vote was taken after Mrs. Dietz read from the minutes of the last meeting of the outgoing committee. For the record—the Highway Committee has no authority to issue a purchase order—nor obligate the Highway Department to pay a purchase order or a bill .Commissioner Ward asked the Planning Director if his department could pay the bill. An affirmative nod was observed.

New Business

Mr. Simms of Carter County 911 requested that the committee vote to change Tee Campbell Loop to Campbell Loop. A voice vote yielded all ayes.

NOTE: this change needs to be made on the master road list!!!

Naming of a bridge over Buffalo Creek near Happy Valley High School.

No other name was submitted so a public hearing wasn't necessary.

Commissioner Jerry Proffitt voiced the details on the military record of Sgt. Billy Joe Ellis.

Since the highway involved is a state route, the county mayor will co-ordinate the request.

Mr. Rickey Harrell of the Rock House Road area requested help in resolving a right of way problem between Jessica Lane and Timbercrest Park #2. The request was denied since the problem seems to be a Civil matter.

With no other business before the committee-meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Charles Von Cannon

