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APPROVED

Carter County Highway Committee Meeting of July 6, 2015

Chairman Mike Hill asked for a roll call-Commissioner Scott Simerly was absent due to the tragic accidental burns to his oldest son-Commissioner Ray Lyons was his stand-in. The committee members Acuff, Dietz, Gobble, Hill, Miller, Von Cannon and Ward were Present.

Commissioner Ward challenged the seating of Commissioner Lyons. Commissioner Lyons had been asked by Commissioner Simerly to fill-in for him in his absence while with his injured son. Commissioner Lyons stated that he asked that Commissioner Simerly Contact Chairman Hill. Chairman Hill stated "Welcome to the meeting Mr. Lyons".

Note added by the Committee Secretary-During the Full Commission meeting of July 20, 2015, a resolution concerning a FILL_IN was reduced to writing. This procedure hopefully will lead to a Commissioners Procedures Manual so we will not have to make the rules as we go

Approval of the June 1, 2015 committee minutes-Motion to accept by Commissioner Miller-with a second by Commissioner Dietz-a voice vote produced all ayes.

Chairman Hill recessed the meeting for a public hearing on recommending that the newly completed section of Gap Creek Road be named. The recommendation is to be approved by the Full Commission and a resolution sent to the state legislature to make the choice official.

Mary Jane (McKeehan) Patton had been proposed for naming of the highway in the June Meeting. A public hearing allows for other worthy names to be presented. Mr. Lewis indicated that a worthy military person would be a good choice; however no name was presented. Commissioner Von Cannon stated that Carter County historian and County Mayor Leon Humphrey had presented many reasons for selecting Mary Patton for this honor. The main reason had to do with the fact that Mary Patton as a teenager had mastered the art of making black powder and as an adult moved from Pennsylvania (some say from Pennsylvania via North Carolina) to the Powder Branch area near Michael Hyder another powder maker. She was credited with supplying some 500 pounds of gunpowder to the overmountain men used during the battle of Kings Mountain. This Revolutionary War victory disrupted the southern strategy of British General Cornwallis.

The motion was made to name the new section of Gap Creek Road the Mary Patton Highway by Commissioner Charles Von Cannon with a second from Commissioner Danny Ward. Since there was only one name presented a voice vote yielded all ayes.

Report from Superintendent Roger Colbaugh

The guardrail situation on Riggs Road is still under consideration

Chairman Hill had inquired about an unused pickup(to haul fuel?) to the Elk Mills Convenience Center. The highway department does have a surplus truck with motor problems.

Old business

Dan Vance bridge naming ceremony-Ms. Kappie Vance brought to the meeting a beautifully produced flyer concerning the bridge dedication and reception at the Triple J Farm on Heaton Creek. The ceremony will be at 3pm July 11, 2015 with remarks from Commissioner Nancy Brown and by Mayor Humphrey.

The patrolling of Judge Ben Allen Road by law officers is ongoing. Commissioner Von Cannon witnessed one deputy patrol car relieving another at the mouth of Judge Ben Allen Road.

Chairman Hill spoke with Jim McGill of Aggregates USA about the long delay time on Judge Ben Allen Road and presumably about aggregate spillage on the road. The goal is to shorten waiting time at either end of the short, narrow section of road.

Items brought to the committee by Mr. Ken Arney a member of the Planning and Zoning Committee. Chairman Hill presented photographs showing several potholes at the area described by Mr. Arney.

The marking of all county vehicles and equipment was not addressed; however the subject was addressed in the Financial Management Committee meeting

Commissioner Miller praised Superintendent Colbaugh for his departments work during the several severe rain storms during this month. Mudslides, downed trees across roads, etc., made for a challenging month.

New Business

Missing signs, damaged signs have been reported from the Roan Mountain, Hampton High School, and Watauga Road (Route 400) areas-signs are expensive to produce and the time and labor to replace-

Committee members and citizens are requested to report damaged and/or missing signs asap and call the county sheriff if you see vandalism etc.

Mrs. Cynthia Fritts of 130 Sunview Ln. made the committee aware of a narrow section of road connecting Sunrise Drive with the dead end Sunview Ln. The connecting road is Merrill Cemetery Road which has had many near collisions. The committee now has the procedure for placing a road project on a work list and/or the county road list for future work. Mr. Garry Fritts also pointed out that street signage in the area needs attention, since emergency responders would have a difficult time finding houses in the area.

Mr. Ken Gough, Chairman of the Carter County Parks and Recreation Committee came before the committee to discuss funding and asked for our help in identifying low cost Community projects for the Parks and Recreations consideration.

Tim Decker-crushed,stopped up ditch drainage pipes-Narrow roads = crushed metal pipes and broken clay tiles

Mary Austin-Sinking Creek Road indicates that 1 sign warning tractor-trailer trucks not to use Sinking Creek to Dalewood is missing and a second sign at Smalling Road and Dalewood is also missing.

Commissioner Von Cannon drove to Washington County and found that the two signs placed with the same warning are still in place. The truck destination is Mullican Flooring Flooring on Woodlyn Road.

With no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Acuff followed by a second from Commissioner Ward-the voice vote-all ayes

Approved August 3, 2015

Respectfully submitted by Charles D. Von Cannon