

Carter County Highway Department Committee Meeting of August 3, 2015

The previous roll call found Commissioner Scott Simerly absent

The minutes of the July meeting were approved

Sheriff Dexter Lunceford appeared before the committee to address our concerns about county wide speeding. Sheriff Lunceford asked the committee if anyone on the committee broke the speed limit on their way to this meeting. Everyone speeds and in their mind , a speed limit is just a suggestion.

Mr. Steve Bailey operates several tourist cabins on Blevins Road beside the ingress point for the Watauga River trophy trout fly fishermen. Blevins road has seen in season traffic increase over 100% in the last two years. In a recent two week period, three accidents have occurred on the first of two narrow and severe curves. Mr. Bailey inquired about speed bumps. Speed bumps are permitted in the city of Elizabethton, but not in the county due to snowplow activity. Sheriff Lunceford concluded by saying "You can't fix it, you can't stop it, plus we all do it. (speeding) The sheriff did suggest a defensive driving course that he teaches. Education may be the answer-more speed limit signs is not the answer.

Commissioner John Lewis (from the audience) suggested welding the signs to the steel post. The present signs are aluminium so there is no welding compatibility.

The Dan Vance bridge ceremony went well with a large crowd in attendance.

Cynthia and Garry Fritts again discussed the narrow section of road in the area of Sunrise, Sunnyview and the Morrell Cemetery Road. Commissioner Acuff will provide his findings and recommendation(s) during the September meeting.

John Crow did not appear to voice his concerns about the Judge Ben Allen road stop/go red light.

Steve Bailey pointed out his rental cabins are undermined by road rain flooding about 6 times per year; however this year the recent heavy rains have exceeded this number with 5 months left in the year.

This problem has been addressed at least three other times in the last 10 years. The curbs placed by the county do not solve the problem during excessive rains. Commissioner Von Cannon at his expense placed a tiling in an effort to reduce the problem. The project wasn't completed as designed; therefore Mr. Colbaugh will visit the site and hopefully agree that this suggestion will help.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Berry of Renfro Road complained about large trucks on the one lane road with 7 or so houses. Commissioner Von Cannon visited the site and can give his findings .Damage to road equipment left on site overnight is becoming a problem. Solution suggestion ??.

There being no further agenda business-A motion to adjourn was presented by Commissioner Dietz and and a second by Commissioner Ward. A voice vote yielded all ayes.

APPROVED Sept 8, 2015
Submitted by C. Von Cannon