

**CARTER COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**

The attendance was established by a roll call from the Education Committee: all members present.

The minutes from the August meeting and this September 6, meeting agenda were approved via a voice vote.-All ayes

**OLD BUSINESS:** Chairman Hill recessed the meeting and re convened as a Public Hearing on the Lynn Valley Baptist Church request to re-locate a road on their property. No one showed up representing the church, so the item was set- aside and the regular meeting re convened.

Ms. Barbara Moffett again came to the meeting requesting an upgrade to Marlow Road so she can add more mobile home units to her existing property. County Attorney Joshua Hardin read his letter outlining his findings and his ruling. Non-compliance of Zoning Regulations as outlined by the Carter County Planning Department is the reason for denying her request to add more units at her property. Once Planning approval is established , the committee can consider road issues. Letter attached!!

**Blevins Bridge Proposed Dedication:** Commissioner Von Cannon provided a report concerning the ET&WNC Railroad along with comments on the Blevins Bridge which stood on the western entrance to tunnel # 5. The bridge was moved to the present site on Bear Cage Road. ET&WNC owned 16 steam locomotives during the life of the company and all but 1 were built by Baldwin Co. of Eddyville, Pa. Locomotive # 12 was delivered new to ET&WNC in 1917 and at nearly 100 years of age, still operates at the Tweetsie railroad amusement park, Boone, N.C. Chairman Hill stated that due to recent graffiti problems, it might be better to delay the dedication. No date for the dedication was established.

A resolution was developed by County Attorney Joshua Hardin for full Commission consideration. During the August meeting Mr. Keith Kelley and Ms. Alice Cohen of the U.S. Forestry Service had requested the help of Carter County to hopefully correct a parking problem at the Dennis Cove Park. The resolution addresses this problem.

The 4 way stop sign at Dawn and Sunrise was re-visited. During the August meeting Mr. Jason Smith had very vocally opposed the signage which was already in place. Since it was obvious that no one was in the audience to oppose the signage-no action was taken, since the highway department had already spent approximately \$1,000.00 on this project.

Brandywine is mis-spelled on the current road list. This mis-spelling can be corrected before the January 2017 due date for approving the next Carter County Road listing.

Mr. Shannon Burchett outlined measures being taken to correct washing and undermining asphalt on Laurel Avenue in the Roan Mountain area.

A request by Commissioner Randall Jenkins to name the proposed new bridge over the Laurel fork branch of the Doe River, near the Dennis Cove Park for John Paul Mathes. The request was deferred due the fact that funding for the project isn't firm and the project is months away. No action was taken at this time.

Commissioner Acuff and Superintendent Colbaugh will visit and advise the committee as to the need for signage and a speed limit reduction on Lena Harvey Road.

The Park and Rec. has requested stencil paint to be used for marking the Tweetsie trail south (beyond Hampton with safety graphics.

Superintendent Colbaugh reviewed current projects such as work on the Rittertown bridge. He also shared a proposed idea to bid on mowing some state road right of ways. He believes the project can lead to better utilization of personnel plus make money for the department. This is a time sensitive issue and a decision will need to be decided within the next two or three months. The safety problem at Landfill road and the Minton Hollow road was discussed. A plat and a letter from the land owner was presented for committee review. The asking price for the property which would allow widening of the entrance and especially the exit of Landfill road, was \$35,000. Commissioner Von Cannon suggested looking into a land swap of a piece or pieces of unencumbered land owned by the county to avoid outlay of money. Mr. Colbaugh will develop some idea of the cost of correcting the safety problem.

Mr. Connie Williams brought to the attention of the committee numerous problems he has encountered on Old Clarktown Road. He showed many photographs of many problems near and at his residence. These include a stolen vehicle, vehicles parked on private property, bullet holes, and a flatbed tractor trailer off the narrow gravel road. The tractor flatbed had unloaded a partial load near the Simerly Creek end of Clarktown road. The driver via GPS decided to continue to the Tiger Valley Road and due to narrowness and curves, left the road. The road was blocked for over 4 hours. Mr. Williams indicated he just wanted to point out how difficult it is to live in remote parts of our county.

Chairman Hill voiced his approval of the committee work for the past two years and expressed his desire to see the A team stay together. Seeing no further business, a motion to adjourn was in order-All eyes

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