

Carter County Highway Committee
November 13, 2017
Carter County Highway Department

As voted by the committee in October, members of the highway committee met briefly at 126 -127 Ridgecrest Drive to assess an alleged encroachment in the county right of way. Commissioners present were Hill, Ward, Peters, and VonCannon. Sheriff Lunceford also was present. After a brief discussion between the residents, Mr. Taylor agreed to allow Mr. McGee to park on right of way frontage located adjacent to his property, but was unwilling to relocate any portion of his decorative fencing. It was noted that both parties had erected mailboxes, fences and decorative planters that were potentially county right of way encroachments, and if any enforcement were to occur, all encroachments would have to be removed or relocated. The residents went on their way, and the committee members proceeded to the highway department conference room.

Meeting convened promptly at 2:00pm.

Commissioners present: Carroll, Dietz, Hill, Peters, Ward and VonCannon.
Commissioner Lewis sat in for Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner Simerly was absent.

Motion was made by Ward, seconded by Dietz to approve minutes of previous session, which passed unanimously by acclamation.

Motion was made by Dietz, seconded by Lewis to approve the meeting agenda as submitted, and also passed unanimously by acclamation.

Old Business:

The Ridgecrest Drive issue was brought up for discussion. After a brief statement by Mr. McGee, the Chairman asked the county attorney if there was anything further within the scope of the committee that could be done to accommodate Mr. McGee. County Attorney Hardin advised the committee that there was no legal course of action that could be taken by the committee, and any action at all would be at the discretion of the road superintendent. The Chairman then asked Superintendent Colbaugh if there was any action necessary by the Highway Department. Colbaugh stated that county action would only be required in the event that the alleged encroachment posed a public hazard, which it does not. Motion was made by Peters and seconded by Carroll to set the matter aside permanently and take no action. Roll call vote Carroll, Dietz, Hill, Peters and Ward voted aye, with Lewis and VonCannon voting no. Motion carried.

Action on a Resolution to approve paving for the Siam Academy parking lot was postponed until the January meeting when cost estimates will be finalized and presented to the committee.

Echo Drive speed limit reduction is complete and signage is installed.

Charity Hill stop sign is installed.

The requisite survey has not been submitted for further action on the proposed closure of a portion of Lick Branch Rd. And the matter will be revisited in January.

The proposed closure of a segment of Carter Street for parking conversion in the Roan Mountain Community Park is to be brought before the full commission for approval at the 11/20 meeting.

The adoption of Rhododendron Lane will move forward once one remaining contiguous landowner signs off. This matter will be revisited on the January agenda.

Superintendent Colbaugh gave his positive recommendation to the committee regarding the proposed adoption of Hidden Oak Lane. Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Ward to accept the proposal and move forward with road adoption process. Under discussion, Commissioner Peters brought up the fact that roads were required to be paved to county standards before adoption could occur. The Chairman read from the procedure adopted by the commission and included in the current policy manual. Voting for: Hill, Lewis, Ward. Voting against: Carroll, Dietz, Peters, VonCannon. Motion failed. Commissioner Ward then moved to have Attorney Hardin research the matter and revisit the adoption in January. Motion was seconded by Dietz and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Mayor Humphrey, who was in attendance, admonished the committee for voting against the elected official's recommendation. Chairman Hill replied that extra diligence was never a bad decision, especially in light of Mr. Carroll's recent addition to the committee and possible unfamiliarity with the county road adoption procedure. Hill then assured Ms. Winfrey, the petitioner, that it wasn't a 'no' forever and that the matter would be revisited at the January meeting.

Superintendent Colbaugh informed the committee that curbing repairs requested by Steve Bailey for the intersection of VonCannon and Blevins was scheduled for completion on Tuesday 11/14.

Superintendent Colbaugh informed the committee that requested ditching on Laurel Avenue in Roan Mountain had not been assessed, and he would report back at the January meeting.

New Business

Chairman Hill shared with the committee the comments from Tom and Linda Holt, residents of 295 Ingram Branch as follows: "best experience dealing with a government agency ever", and "Shannon is a rock star". Great job!

In response to a river bed issue resulting from the recent Roan Mountain flooding, Mr. Colbaugh informed the committee that the county would be working to correct the flow of the river in spots where the problem could be accessed from the county right of way. TDEC has been contacted but is not going to be of much help in the matter. The residents in the vicinity are advised to contact Tom Isaacs at TDEC to register

*Co Comm
See
Dec 11, 2017*

complaints and see if leverage can be applied.

Ms. Karen Collins brought an erosion issue to the attention of the committee. Mr. Colbaugh will assess the damage and see if there are corrections that can be made within the highway department's authority.

Michael Presnell's request to rename Bulldog Hollow was forwarded to January due to no-show.

Rhonda Sawyer-First Tennessee Development District: request for donation of "Pike Street", an unopened county Right of Way prior to city annexation was forwarded to January because she failed to appear.

Wanda Marlow petitioned the committee to request an memorial naming of the bridge on Highway 19E crossing Laurel Fork Creek after Sergeant Major James Carroll Gilbert who was KIA in the Vietnam conflict. The signatures on the petitions were voluminous, and Commissioners Hill and Ward added their signatures as well. Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Ward to hold a public hearing on the matter at the January meeting. Motion passed unanimously on roll call vote.

Commissioner Ward presented a petition from residents in the River Valley Meadows Subdivision to reduce the speed limit to 25 MPH and post the area. Motion was made by Ward, Seconded by Peters and passed by unanimous roll call.

County Attorney Hardin presented the committee with an offer from the US Forest Service to donate a 60' right of way to Carter County in order to accommodate the replacement of the Dennis Cove Bridge which has been rated "poor". Motion was made by Dietz, seconded by Ward to accept this donation. Motion passed by roll call vote, with Lewis being the only "no" vote. This matter will be brought forth at the 11/20 full commission meeting for approval.

The Church family presented a petition to name a bridge across the Elk River on Poga Road between Ted Potter Road and Atlie Brown road be named in memory of SP-4 Owen Ray Church. Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Carroll to hold a public hearing on the matter at the January meeting. Motion passed unanimously on roll call vote.

Linda Johnson petitioned the committee for a memorial naming of a bridge at the intersection of Gap Creek Road and Morgan Branch Road as "Gary D. Murray Memorial Bridge". Murray was KIA in Pleiku Provence South Vietnam. Motion by Ward, seconded by Lewis to hold a public hearing on the matter at the January meeting passed on unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioner Hill reported washing out of Orr Street at the edging of the new pavement on Cloudland Drive. Superintendent Colbaugh will assess the matter and report back.

Superintendent Colbaugh had no report, since everything was covered under old and new business.

Under public Comments, Tommie Morgan requested road striping on Ripshin and Tiger Creek roads in Roan Mountain district. Road striping costs \$900 per mile and must be contracted out because the county has no striping equipment. The committee was made aware that the road striping/guard rail line item is woefully underfunded compared to actual costs involved, and county budget cuts this year have only exacerbated the problem. Also, the county budget for asphalt to maintain non-state-aid roadways is \$740,000. Paving costs \$100,000 per mile. There are 700 miles of county road, which means that it would take 100 years to repave everything at current funding levels. Commissioner Hill got chuckles when he asked if it were possible for the the public crowd funded road striping for specific roads by holding bake sales. Commissioner Hill is entertaining. Ms. Morgan, along with Mr. John Seward and Mr. Ray Arnett, the other two residents of Hogum Hollow Road requested to rename their section "Old Mountain Road" to improve safety and security due to GPS maps sending emergency and service vehicles through an impassable portion of the road in attempt to access their residences. Motion was made by Ward, seconded by Lewis to hold a public hearing on the matter at the January meeting. Motion passed on unanimous roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35pm