

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

June 11, 2018

2:00 P.M.

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PRESENT: Robert Carroll, Mike Hill, Robert Acuff (for Buford Peters), Danny Ward, Bobbie Dietz, Larry "Doc" Miller and Charles VonCannon

ABSENT: Ray Lyons

CALL TO ORDER: Mike Hill, Chairman

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- Motion was made by Danny Ward, seconded by Larry "Doc" Miller to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2018, meeting. It was noted that Cable was misspelled on page two (2) and was corrected in the official minutes. By voice roll call vote motion carried. An abstaining vote by Robert Acuff and Bobbie Dietz was noted.
- Motion was made by Danny Ward, seconded by Bobbie Dietz to approve the meeting's agenda as presented. By voice roll call vote motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- The public hearing on the proposed adoption of River Island Lane was moved to the August meeting as it failed to be advertised.

OLD BUSINESS

- (a) Sonya and Joe Miller addressed the committee stating they resided in the Burbank community and that Jess Jarrett Road and Middle Creek ran behind their property. They presented pictures of the damage to their property during the flooding that occurred on October 23, 2017, which included the creek in the back flowing all the way across Jess Jarrett Road causing the road to crumble and wash away. Ms. Miller stated that enormous rocks had washed down and piled up several feet on the side of the road. She stated she felt the replacement tile was not sufficient to handle heavy water flow as it was smaller than the previous one. She noted a lot of debris still in the area and had to assume when the water gets up the streams would once again be clogged. Supt. Colbaugh informed the Miller's that TDEC would be visiting the site and they would be notified of the time in order for them to be present. Danny Ward asked that once the environmental issues were addressed by TDEC, the Miller's be put on the agenda the following month to report their assessments.
- (b) Supt. Colbaugh stated the Roan Mountain Recreation Foundation needed to set up an account to prepay for the stone for the Happy Trails parking area.
- (c) Supt. Colbaugh said they had worked on the sinking and cracked pavement on Hampton Creek Road just before Teaberry/Dark Hollow.
- (d) Supt. Colbaugh stated that McKinney Lane needed to be rescheduled to be paved.
- (e) Attorney Hardin stated he had looked into the unopened county road right of way near 114 Infinity Lane in the Central Community and with all of the property owners in agreement he saw only one problem with closing it and deeding it back to the property owners. The problem was that one (1) of the property owners had abandoned their property but were apparently still paying the taxes on it. Motion was made by Danny Ward, seconded by Robert Acuff to take no action on this matter until all of the property owners were notified and could be present, instructing Attorney Hardin to send a letter to the owners of the abandoned property using the address on the tax card which is public record. By roll call vote as follows, motion

carried.

Robert Carroll	aye	Bobbie Dietz	aye
Mike Hill	aye	Larry "Doc" Miller	aye
Robert Acuff	aye	Danny Ward	aye
Charles VonCannon	pass		

- (f) John Lewis stated the Gary Murray Bridge dedication went well.
- (g) The Heaton Creek /Burbank area environmental and flooding issues had already been discussed.
- (h) Bulldog Hollow Road/Will Blevins Road name discrepancy postponed until next meeting.
- (i) Guard rails and striping still needed on Dennis Cove Road and Rittertown area. Poga Road was added to that list.
- (j) Petition to adopt Humphreys Lane in the Central Community was postponed until the next meeting.
- (f) Petition for speed limit reduction on Millard Cable Road and two (2) other concerns were postponed until the next meeting.
- (k) Attorney Hardin informed the committee he had received a letter from TDOT dated May 14, 2018, which stated they had received his letter and had forwarded our concerns to TDOT in Knoxville. The letter stated they would do a traffic study for 19E & Gap Creek intersection and report back with their findings.
- (l) Supt. Colbaugh stated he had not yet looked into the issues on Five Sisters Lane.
- (m) Charles VonCannon stated he and Supt. Colbaugh would look into the matter of the drainage problem on Blevins Road that had been presented at the last meeting on behalf of Roscoe Sams.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- (a) A spokesperson for the residents of Gunsmoke Hollow Road asked what it would take the property owners on this road to bring it up to the standard necessary to be adopted as a county road. She stated that due to much erosion, the road was almost impassible. Supt. Colbaugh presented them with a diagram setting out what needed to be done in his opinion. He stated the upfront costs would be the burden of the residents but that once the road was brought up to an adoptable standard and if it was actually adopted as a county road, the future maintenance would fall on the county. (Diagram Attached) The residents presented a petition which requested the county to take over ownership of said road with the understanding a portion of that road would have to be deeded to the county. (Petition Attached) Chairman Hill accepted the petition to be put on file until such time the residents were ready to proceed with the project.
- (b) A Jamison family requested a need for asphalt patching of a hole in the vicinity of Triple J Farm that had gone unattended for years, forcing the residents to attempt to patch it themselves.
- (b) Dr. Acuff presented photos of a two (2) foot deep pothole on Airport Road which was patched within the last six (6) months. He stated the repairs had failed and the issue needed to reassessed.
- (c) Chairman Hill stated numerous citizens had reported they had attempted to call the Highway Department and their calls went unanswered on a weekday during business hours. Supt. Colbaugh reacted by stating his office received an enormous number of calls daily, a lot of which were concerning flooding, snow/ice and directions. He stated his staff was proactive in answering the phone.
- (d) Chairman Hill stated the signage on the Gary Murray Memorial Bridge had his military rank incorrect. He stated Bill Phillips pointed out it should be SPC4 and needed to be corrected.
- (e) Chairman Hill reported he had received multiple complaints concerning the wasteful spending by the Highway Department with a future tax rate increase pending. Supt. Colbaugh stated no revenue was included for the Highway Department in the tax increase primarily because of the

gas tax and was a mistake in the public's perception.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Supt. Colbaugh stated his department had finished the 1st mowing cycle and had started on the 2<sup>nd</sup> one. He said they had been working on the drainage problem in Roan Mountain and the beams were in one the bridge there and stated it was about ½ finished. He said he and the County Attorney had signed letters to TDOT to allow the state to do work on Smalling Bridge and the bridge in Gap Creek.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND NEW ROAD CONCERNS

- Zane Church, a resident of Rittertown Road, stated his property had been flooded five (5) times in the last years. He said the heavy waters come down Browns Branch Road onto his property and presented pictures to support his concerns. After hearing the situation, he was told the matter would be looked into and reported to the committee at the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Chairman Hill stated there was usually not a meeting in July, but due to the fact the Public Hearing on the adoption of River Island Lane was postponed due to lack of publication, there would be a meeting on July 9, 2018, for this matter to be heard.
- Dr. Acuff mentioned , because it was in his district, a drainage problem in and around the airport. Terry Dalton, a resident adjacent to the airport property, informed Dr. Acuff that since the airport had extended the runway 400' his septic system was under two (2) feet of water. He stated they had talked to the City Manager and would be looking into the matter. He further said the airport Manager had stated that they were planning to re-route or move Ron Royce Drive at the expense of the airport. No long term plans were presently available.

ADJOURNMENT

- On motion by Bobbie Dietz, seconded by Danny Ward the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Wallace

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Mike Hill, Chairman