

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

December 5, 2019

6:00 P.M.



RECEIVED
12-11-19 @ 3:30pm

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PRESENT: Nancy Brown, Charles VonCannon, Jerry Proffitt, Layla Ward, Gary Bailey,
Sonja Culler and David Miller
ABSENT: Mark Blevins
CALL TO ORDER: Charles VonCannon, Vice-Chairman
ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

Chairman VonCannon stated the large group in the audience were there regarding Cove Ridge Road and Cove Ridge Circle and placed them 1st on the agenda under New Business. Also a presentation by the Planning Department on the same subject would be give by Chris Schuettler, Planning Director.

- Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Sonja Culler, seconded by Gary Bailey to approve the minutes of the November 2019, meeting. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
- Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by David Miller, seconded by Layla Ward to approve the agenda with the above amendments. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
- Old Business: Vice-Chairman VonCannon informed the committee that Michael Whitehead was potentially willing to listen to an offer from the county to buy 5,500 square feet of his property and George Williams was willing to donate to the county 10,000 square feet of his property in order to straighten the dangerous curve on Sinking Creek Road. This issue has been discussed several times in the past with no progress. He stated if Mr. Whitehead accepted the county's offer, the matter would be brought back to the Highway Committee for approval and passed on to the Budget Committee. He stressed the danger of the curve by stating a car was observed there off the road but was able to stop before going in the creek. VonCannon also stated on Sinking Creek Road he visited the site of overflowing sewage due to a partially covered manhole belonging to the J.C. Sewer system. He said he contacted the Mayor of J.C. regarding the contamination of the creek with ecoli due to the fact it was a sewer main.

Supt. Colbaugh stated he had met with Diana Ford of Chambers Drive in the Keenburg area concerning the excessively deep ditching along the lower portion of Chambers Drive. He said he had agreed to do the work there but it was not yet scheduled.

- New Business: At this time Vice-Chairman VonCannon opened the floor for the resident's of Cove Creek Road and Cove Ridge Circle. They stated they were there in opposition of these roads being changed to "one-way" without any input from that community or its residents. A letter from the Planning Department had advised Supt. Colbaugh these roads had been deemed one-way unanimously by the Planning Dept. and signage to that effect was placed on these roads, but later were removed. The main consensus of the resident's was these roads being one-way was a safety hazard and limited access to their property. When asked for a show of hands of the residents wanting the roads to stay two-way streets, all the hands in the audience raised. Chris Schuettler, Planning Director, presented a video driving these roads with a camera noting the homes/driveways that were accessible. He stated in the future, due to subdividing and development, there would be a greater volumn of traffic and Planning felt one-way the streets would be safer and more secure for the public. Motion was made by Gary Bailey, seconded by Nancy Brown to leave the roads the way they are now, two-way, and have Planning relook at the situation and report back to the Road Supt. and make every effort to come up with a mutual

agreement between the county and the residents of Cove Creek. By a roll call vote of 7 ayes and 1 absent, motion carried. A copy of the letter from the Planning Office attached to minutes.

Vice-Chairman VonCannon informed the committee the Blevins Road access point to the Watauga River now has a concrete deck that is wheelchair accessible and was dedicated on November 22,2019, by TWRA. He stated there were some safety concerns regarding the road going in and felt it would be a good investment to widen the road in places.

- Superintendent's Report: Supt. Colbaugh presented his November 2019 Activity report at this time. The report is attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Culler asked Supt. Colbaugh if he was aware the pavement was coming apart in Gap Creek. He stated before the state turned that road over to the county, they applied a micro thin surface that was now peeling off. He stated the only way it could be repaired is to mill that layer off and pave it.

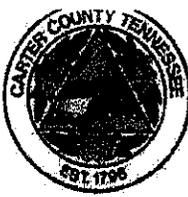
On motion by Gary Bailey, sconded by David Miller and by voice roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved for entry:

Suzi Wallace

Charles VonCannon, Vice-Chairman



Carter County Planning & Zoning
Courthouse Box 14
801 E. Elk Avenue
Elizabethton, TN 37643
Phone (423) 542-1834 Fax (423) 542-3469

November 27, 2019

Roger Colbaugh, Superintendent
Carter County Highway Department
1246 Stateline Road
Elizabethton, Tennessee 37643

Mr. Colbaugh,

Please be advised on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, the Carter County Regional Planning Commission voted unanimously that the roads known as Cove Ridge Road and Cove Ridge Circle shall be considered one way from the intersections we previously discussed, and the signage was previously in place and removed. As evidence shown to Carter County Planning Commission, it is evident that these roads at one time were one-way roads. This area was previously subdivided prior to 1971 leaving only a 20 foot right of way for Cove Ridge Road and a 15 foot right of way for Cove Ridge Circle. As you are aware Cove Ridge Road has an average of 16-foot-wide asphalt which fluctuates from 16 feet down to 12 feet or less in many places. Cove Ridge Circle has an average of 12 feet and fluctuates down to 8 feet wide or less in most places.

Under the authority granted by Chapter 360 of the Private Act for Tennessee dated 1972 gives the authority to the Planning Commission to advise you of such usage of public right of ways. Also considered is Tennessee Code Annotated 13-3-04 which also gives such powers to grant you advisement of situations of county road ways. Whereas, under Tennessee Code 55-8-122 gives the authority to yourself, as Superintendent of Roads, to maintain and control traffic flows in Carter County (i.e. one-way traffic).

I hope this assists you in the endeavor of creating a mutually safe road way within this area specifically for the public health, safety, convenience, order and general welfare of Carter County as set forth by the Board of Commissioners of Carter County Tennessee.

Sincerely,

Jerry Pearman
Chairman

Chris Schuettler
Director
Carter County Planning & Zoning

JOHNSON
COUNTY

SR # 67

CARTER
COUNTY

