

## HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

August 1, 2019

6:00 P.M.

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PRESENT: Mark Blevins, Nancy Brown, Charles VonCannon, Austin Jaynes, Ginger Holdren, Gary Bailey, Sonja Culler and Robing McKamey

ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER: Charles VonCannon, Chairman

ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

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- Approval of Agenda: Chairman VonCannon added a speed limit request in the Hampton area at Fiddlers Branch and also a speed limit request on Earl Avenue in Valley Forge to the agenda. Motion was made by Nancy Brown, seconded by Austin Jaynes to accept the agenda with the two (2) additions. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
- Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Ginger Holdren, seconded by Robin McKamey to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2019, meeting as presented. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
- Old Business: Chairman VonCannon had added a note to the agenda at the last meeting regarding a blanket speed limit being posted on roads branching off of the old Bristol Highway. He stated he felt if a 20 mph speed limit sign was posted on Taylor, Commodore, Captain and Admiral Avenues as well as Reynolds Road it would take care of the problem on 30-35 smaller roads in that area. He also stated he had been asked if any commissioners would want to perform marriage ceremonies to which they replied "NO".
- New Business: Sherman Knaack was recognized at this time regarding the crushed/plugged tile on Bear Cage Road left on the agenda of the last meeting. He stated the tile was simply deteriorating and needed to be replaced. He explained the problems caused by the broken tile and said it needed to be replaced with a larger one. Supt. Colbaugh agreed to look into this matter to determine what could/should be done.

Mr. Knaack also addressed a safety issue on Bear Cage Road. He read a statement saying it was approximately a two (2) mile stretch of road with about 25 residents. He stated it was a heavily traveled road that was extremely narrow and had multiple winding and twisting curves. He said a three-way stop sign needed to be placed at the intersection off Bear Cage Road heading to Hampton. He explained his concerns were for the safety of motorist, horseback riders, cyclist, pedestrians and children walking to the river. Due to the fact in the past, interchanges had been upgraded by the Highway Department only to have someone complain and ask for the changes to be removed, Nancy Brown requested Mr. Knaack get a petition of all the residents in favor of the three-way stop and present it to the committee.

Also discussed was the extremely loud noise made by the big trucks when they topped a hill and used their "Jake Brake" to slow them down. Attorney Hardin was asked to write a letter to the State regarding a possible noise ordinance in that area.

Speaking on behalf of several residents of the Earl Avenue/Valley Forge area, Joe Valentine explained the speeding problem there. He said Earl Avenue was a short cut to Hampton and town from the 4-lane, therefore heavily traveled. He stated there were about 26 households in that area and many of them were elderly or disabled. Some of the problems discussed were

how dangerous it was to back out of their driveways and crossing the street to get their mail. Lowell Cable, a visually impaired veteran, stated he was literally afraid to go to his mailbox. After much discussion, the consensus of the residents was that although law enforcement was critical and speed limit signage would be helpful, the only option to remedy the speeding problem was to install speed "tables". These are traffic calming devices less abrupt than speed "bumps". As the county has an ordinance in place banning the placement of speed bumps, Chairman VonCannon suggested that the matter be discussed with the Road Superintendent, the City of Elizabethton and others having speed tables in place. He also suggested the Sheriff's Department have a representative at the Highway Committee meetings as the need for speed limit enforcement was brought up and addressed at nearly every meeting.

A petition of residents of Fiddlers Branch Road, Hampton, Tennessee was presented at this time to the committee. It stated Fiddlers Branch Road is a one lane, unlined road, with blind curves. When vehicles approach others, they need time to stop and back up to a driveway or must go into a ditch to allow for passing. Their request was for 20 mph speed limit or slow blind/hidden curves signs be placed on this road to reduce the risk of accidents. Motion was made by Nancy Brown, seconded by Gary Bailey to post 20 mph speed limit signs on Fiddlers Branch Road. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried. Petition on file in the Clerk's office.

Mark Blevins	aye	Nancy Brown	aye
Charles VonCannon	aye	Austin Jaynes	aye
Ginger Holdren	aye	Gary Bailey	aye
Sonja Culler	aye	Robin McKamey	aye

Motion was then made by Gary Bailey, seconded by Robin McKamey to allow Supt. Colbaugh to place blind curve signs on Fiddlers Branch Road where he deemed fit. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.

Chairman VonCannon informed the committee he had been contacted by several fly fishing guides operating out of the Blevins Road boat landing concerning the odd angle of the road at the turn off to the landing. He stated the road needed rounding off in order for boats to access the landing with less difficulty and not run over the rocks placed there or into people's yards.. He stated the fly fishermen contributed to the economy of the county and he would look into the matter and report back at a later date.

Chairman VonCannon passed around a program for the bridge dedication honoring CMSgt. Mike and CMSgt. Sara (Whitehead) Sellers held on July 27, 2039 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sinking Creek Baptist Church. He stated there were more than 200 people in attendance. Sonja Culler questioned why the present Mayor was not on the program and was told Sara Sellers wanted the previous Mayor Leon Humphrey to read the resolution as it was passed during his administration. Ms. Culler stated the present Mayor should have at least been on the program and felt he was owed an apology.

Chairman VonCannon stated he had been in contact with Mike Whitehead regarding him donating the land to fix the curve on Sinking Creek Road in lieu of a road into the cemetery. He said Mr. Whitehead had backed off wanting the cemetery road but would entertain an offer from the county to buy the land from him needed to fix the curve. Austin Jaynes stated this issue had been on the agenda for months without any resolution and felt it should be removed from the agenda. Motion was made by Mark Blevins, seconded by Gary Bailey to remove the Sinking Creek curve matter from the agenda. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Mark Blevins	aye	Nancy Brown	aye
Charles VonCannon	nay	Austin Jaynes	aye
Ginger Holdren	nay	Gary Bailey	aye
Sonja Culler	aye	Robin McKamey	aye

As a matter of comment only, Chairman VonCannon stated Blevins Road was getting worse and sinking about 100' from the campground. He also asked Supt. Colbaugh how long he thought it would be before Smalling Bridge would be completed. Supt. Colbaugh stated the bridge had not been put on a three (3) year plan as yet and his estimate was 2 ½ years. Chairman VonCannon stated the VFD's and school buses could not access the bridge due to their weight which created problems and expense. He asked Supt. Colbaugh to take any action he felt might fast track the project.

- Public Comments: None
- Superintendent's Report: Supt. Colbaugh passed out July 2019 Activity report answering any questions from the committee. Activity report on file with Clerk's office.
- Commissioner Comments: Commissioner McKamey stated at the last meeting the committee had lowered the speed limit on Little Avenue and she had been approached by a resident from that district asking how they could do that without including all the residents in their petition. She was informed speed limit changes were on the majority rules basis.

Gary Bailey asked Supt. Colbaugh to look into the speed bump issue and see if there was any solution.

On motion by Gary Bailey, seconded by Austin Jaynes the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved for entry:

Suzi Wallace

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Charles VonCannon, Chairman