

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

September 5, 2019

6:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Charles VonCannon, Chairman

ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

- Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Sonja Culler, seconded by Robin McKamey to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2019, meeting. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.

- Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Mark Blevins, seconded by Austin Jaynes to approve the agenda as presented.. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.

- As a large group of Earl Avenue residents were present, Chairman VonCannon recognized them at this time. Joe and Margie Valentine presented a petition to the committee which requested Earl Avenue be declared and designated a “No Through Street” and the speed limit be dropped to 20 mph with clearly visible signage to that effect installed at both ends of the street. The petition further requested that installation of traffic calming devices known as “speed tables” or “speed humps” be appropriately researched for possible future installation. Chairman VonCannon allowed the group to voice their issues and concerns and informed the committee the petition filed by the residents of Little Road to lower the speed had been questioned. He stated two (2) residents complained about the method in which the signatures were acquired. Josh Hardin stated the only requirement was the petitioners be interested residents of the road/street named in the petition in order to determine the actual will of the majority of the people. Supt. Colbaugh stated the Earl Avenue petitioner covered the speed limit change and signage but with major projects such as the “speed tables”, a petition was needed as well as a Public Hearing. Motion was made by Sonja Culler, seconded by Gary Bailey to post NO THRU TRAFFIC signs on Earl Avenue as requested. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

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

Ms. Valentine stated their group was not there to argue but simply to ask for help from the elected officials and Road Superintendent. The consensus of the Earl Street petitioners was the only way to solve their problems was the installation of “speed tables”. Austin Jaynes stated the county had an ordinance prohibiting speed bumps, but the group felt the speed tables were not considered the same as speed bumps because they are less abrupt.

In further discussion it was brought out the Sheriff or a representative from the Sheriff's Department was asked to be present at the Highway Committee meeting as speeding was always a topic of discussion. Chairman VonCannon agreed to meet with the Sheriff in an effort to engage him in this problem. Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Gary Bailey to reduce the speed limit on Earl Avenue from 35 mph to 20 mph. Chairman VonCannon suggested the group from Earl Avenue attend the Law Enforcement Committee meeting to urge the Sheriff to better enforce the speed limit in their neighborhood. Austin Jaynes offered to get a list of the Law Enforcement Committee members and the schedule for their meetings to the

group. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

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

- Old Business: The committee was informed a petition was to be presented by Sherman Knaack in the future regarding the three-way stop sign on Herschel Julian and Bear Cage Roads.

Supt. Colbaugh stated the request of residents of Fiddlers Branch Road for a speed limit sign of 20 mph or slow blind/hidden curve had been taken care of and could be removed from the agenda.

Regarding the petition to reduce the speed limit on Little Avenue, Chairman VonCannon stated he had met with two (2) of the residents on that street and he was concerned with the validity of the petition presented to the committee. As there is presently no procedure in place to verify the signatures presented on a petition, he asked the County Attorney's help in coming up with a way to do so.

- New Business: Richard Whitson, owner of two (2) lots in Warrior Estates on Whitson Drive informed Chairman VonCannon there was missing curbing leading to a storm water grate that was damaged between house numbers 146 and 155. Supt. Colbaugh stated he had looked at the situation several months ago and removed some brush with intentions of going back to check the pipe. He stated he had not done that yet but was working on it.

Chairman VonCannon informed the committee the residents of 151 Gun Smoke Hollow Road wish to donate 200+ feet of land to the county. Supt. Colbaugh stated the Highway Department needs a right-of-way there to correct the drainage problem on that road. He stated he received several calls when there was heavy rains as the water comes down from the mountain and travels down that road. He said they had cut a ditch at the end of the county road but it was not working well at all. He stated if they had the right-of-way they could do grading, paving, pipe installation, etc. to control the water situation. Josh Hardin discussed the procedures of "donating" the property to the county or giving the county a right-of-way, stating the county preferred the right-of-way procedure. Motion was made by Mark Blevins, seconded by Austin Jaynes to accept the right-of-way from the Gun Smoke Hollow residents and present it to the full commission for approval. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

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

- Public Comments: Jim McGee gave an update on the handicapped pier at the Blevins Road boat ramp stating the TWRA would be starting the project the next Monday. He said the pier would be wheel chair accessible and TWRA was going to publicize the project as it went along with the American Disability Act. What it would take to widen the road into the boat ramp was also discussed.

Supt. Colbaugh presented a Bid Publication Check List on the Riverview Drive road repair

project for putting in a tieback retaining wall. He stated at this time the amount of the contract or who the contractor will be is unknown until the bids are open on September 16, 2019, at 8:30 AM. In an effort to save time and money, he asked the committee to approve the contract being presented to the Budget Committee without completion as normally required as this was a time sensitive project. He stated he could then go before the Budget Committee on Monday, September 9, 2019, and ask for their approval. He said with the bids opened on the 16th and full commission meeting on the 16th he would then have the contractor's name and the amount of the contract to be presented to the full commission for approval. Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Nancy Brown to approve Supt. Colbaugh's request. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

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

- Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Colbaugh presented his August Activity Report to the committee for review. (Report attached to minutes)
- Commissioner Comments: Ginger Holdren complimented the Road Department stating they were taking good care of Warrior Lane residents. She also said she had talked with Chief Deputy Parrish, who in turn spoke with the SRO's, and they would be running speed checks on Warrior Lane.

Robin McKamey stated she had been reached out to by a resident of Bone Hollow Road. She said she was told when they bought the property there a culvert went out and the property owner closed the road rather than fix the culvert. Josh Hardin stated they would most likely have to sue the property owner that closed the road for a right-of-way as it was not legal to land lock any resident and proper procedures would have to be taken. Chairman VonCannon stated Bone Hollow Road must be a private road as it was not listed on the County Road List.

On motion by Mark Blevins, seconded by Austin Jaynes the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved for entry:

Suzi Wallace

Charles VonCannon, Chairman