

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

October 1, 2020

6:00 P.M.

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PRESENT: Sonja Culler, Jerry Proffitt, Mark Blevins, Kelly Collins, Mark Tester, Nancy Brown and Gary Bailey  
ABSENT: Layla Ward  
CALL TO ORDER: Mark Blevins, Chairman  
ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

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AGENDA: Commissioner Culler requested that Dayton Hayes Circle be added to the agenda under new business and Gary Bailey requested the road into the landfill be looked at by the Road Supt. regarding the filling of the hole in the curve on Minton Hollow Road. Motion was made by Jerry Proffitt, seconded by Nancy Brown to approve the agenda with the added amendments. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN/VICE-CHAIRMAN: Next on the agenda was electing a chairman for the committee for the upcoming year. Sonja Culler nominated Mark Blevins. Motion was made by Jerry Proffitt, seconded by Gary Bailey to cease nominations and by a roll call vote of all ayes, Mark Blevins was elected chairman of the committee.

Mark Blevins nominated Mark Tester for vice-chairman. Motion was made by Mark Blevins, seconded by Gary Bailey to cease nominations and Mark Tester was duly elected by a roll call vote of all ayes as vice-chairman.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS: Supt. Colbaugh stated he had checked out the large ditch complaint Commissioner Culler had brought before the committee on Ripshin Mountain Road. He said the ditch was deep and needed to be because of the volume of water coming down that road. He stated they had done some paving and ditch clean out the year before and installed a cross drain. Ms. Culler stated she now had the address of the property owner and it was 2471 Ripshin Mountain Road and the owner was Jody Bristol. Supt. Colbaugh stated she may be talking about the cross drain that had been installed but would look again into the matter and asked it be put under Old Business at the next meeting.

Chairman Blevins stated the trees on the right-of-way on Shenandoah Drive had been trimmed back by the Road Dept. as best they could be. Commissioner Culler shared that the property belonged to Tara Moreland and the J.C. Power Board had previously trimmed a couple of trees and then said they could not get the permission of the owner to go further. She stated the owner had paid \$1,700 to Eddie Johnson to remove the trees herself. Supt. Colbaugh said he had seen the contractor removing the tree but before you get to that tree on Shenandoah Drive where it ties into Park Court, there was another pretty large dead tree hanging over the road that appeared to be on the right-of-way and needed to be taken care of. He stated if the J.C. Power Board would trim the tree below the power lines, his department could remove the rest. Mark Blevins informed Supt. Colbaugh he had talked with Tony Woods who is over the tree trimming in J.C. and had given him his number to call and discuss the matter. Mr. Blevins said Mr. Woods stated he would be of help anyway possible.

NEW BUSINESS: As the Public Hearing for the naming of the bridge on Hodge Branch Road the J. N. Taylor/Freeman Taylor Bridge, the matter was postponed until the next meeting.



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10-16-2020  
@ 12:43 pm *AT*

Chairman Blevins stated he had received a letter requesting the new bridge on Tom Birchfield Road be named the Dillard Street Bridge. He said he had received a petition from the four (4) households/residents of the road but at the advice of Atty. Hardin he agreed signatures of residents on adjoining roads and neighbors should be included in the petition. At the request of Chairman Blevins, motion was made by Nancy Brown, seconded by Gary Bailey to have the County Attorney draw up a petition for the naming of the bridge and inform the residents to pick it up to get additional signatures. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

At this time Chairman Blevins expressed the need for four (4) Ford F550,s for the Highway Department quoting an amount of \$285,000. There was much discussion as to the advantages of these trucks compared to other ones and the probable economical value including, but not limited to, tires, maintenance, better snow removal, leasing as opposed to purchasing, etc. Supt. Colbaugh stated that buying these vehicles through the Statewide Contract 209, the bidding process was taken care of and in his opinion the most economical way to purchase the vehicles. Motion was made by Nancy Brown, seconded by Jerry Proffitt to approve the \$285,000 for the purchase of four (4) vehicles for the Highway Department to be funded from the remaining Governor's Grant. By a roll call vote of 5 ayes and 1 nay by Sonja Culler, motion carried. Nancy Brown was offline.

Sonja Culler addressed the committee on calls she had on Dayton Hayes Circle. She stated that it had been closed since the April flood and school busses could not get in, they could not get their mail and water meters that were on the road are now in the creek. Supt. Colbaugh gave an update stating they did the river project off Swimming Pool Road with the National Resources (Department of Agriculture) and were doing the same thing on Dayton Hayes Circle. He stated that Natural Resources gets the permits to set up a contract with the Highway Department where they pay the department for the labor, equipment and materials to do the job. He said the contract to do the job was set up and the permit from TDEC was issued. The only thing they were waiting on was the information from the Army Corps of Engineer to begin the project. Supt. Colbaugh stated the project would be funded by 80% and save the county a lot of money. Chairman Blevins asked Supt. Colbaugh if he would check into the matter further in an effort to speed the process. He stated he would and would report any finding back to the committee members.

Chairman Blevins addressed the safety issues off Hwy 91 going to the landfill. He stated there had been an accident over the summer which was one of many. The committee discussed the fact that the property owner had for many years refused to sell the property needed to construct the road to be less dangerous. It was said that the owner wanted five (5) times what the property was worth and by State law the county could only pay 5% above the appraised value. Chairman Blevins stated that if the present property owner was unwilling to work with the county, it was time to have the County Attorney take whatever measures were available to purchase this property. He stated, due to safety issues and liability for persons lives, the property owner could be taken to court, the property declared condemned and purchased by the county for 5% above the appraised value. Motion was made by Jerry Proffitt, seconded by Sonja Culler to turn the matter of purchasing the property over to the County Attorney to take the required measures to purchase the property. By a roll call vote of 5 ayes and 2 absent, motion carried. Nancy Brown was offline.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT: Supt. Colbaugh gave an update of the activities of the Highway Department which included work in Roan Mountain and the progress of the bridge construction within the county. He stated he would like to have input from each commissioner as to roads in their districts

they or the residents felt needed to be paved. He said he hoped to pave two (2) miles of road in each district.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Chairman Blevins voiced his appreciation to the committee for working with him the last year and placing their support in him to be the Chairman of the committee for another year.

Gary Bailey requested that Supt. Colbaugh look into putting flashing signs/slow down dangerous curve signs or any kind of signs that would slow down the traffic on the road into the landfill as it was a real safety problem. Supt. Colbaugh said he would check into the prices of the signs and Gary Bailey stated if it saved just one life it would be worth it.

On motion by Jerry Proffitt, seconded by Gary Bailey and by voice roll call vote, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Wallace

Approved for entry:

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Mark Blevins, Chairman