

Highway Committee

Minutes

11-05-2020

Present: Mark Blevins, Nancy Brown, Mark Tester, Layla Ward, Sonja Culler, Kelly Collins. Travis Hill sat in for Gary Bailey.

Absent: Jerry Proffitt

Deputy Road Superintendent Shannon Burchett sat in for Road Superintendent Roger Colbaugh.

Chairman Mark Blevins called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Chairman Blevins presented the agenda stating he needed to add two items of business – approval of a resolution for a Tennessee Department of Transportation Project and discussion of the purchase of property on Minton Hollow for the purpose of road improvements to improve the safety of a dangerous curve.

Motion was made by Travis Hill to approve the agenda as amended and seconded by Mark Tester.

Chairman Blevins held a roll call vote to approve the motion with the following commissioners voting yes: Sonja Culler, Kelly Collins, Mark Blevins, Mark Tester, Nancy Brown, Travis Hill, and Layla Ward. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Blevins presented the minutes from the October 1, 2020 meeting. Motion was made by Nancy Brown to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Kelly Collins. Minutes were approved as presented following a unanimous voice vote with Travis Hill noting he was abstaining from the vote.

Public Comments – there were no members of the public who wished to speak.

Old Business:

- Ripshin Mountain Road – large ditch – Shannon Burchett reported to the committee that Superintendent Colbaugh had driven the length of Ripshin Mountain Road and did not see the large ditch issue which had been brought to the committee by Sonja Culler on behalf of a citizen. Shannon Burchett said Superintendent Colbaugh reported that everything on their right of way appeared to be safe and normal so the issue may be off the county's right of way on the road. Sonja Culler stated she would report back to the individual who had brought the issue to her.
- Naming the new bridge on Tom Birchfield Road in Roan Mountain the Dillard Street Bridge – Chairman Blevins stated he had spoken with County Attorney Josh Hardin regarding the request to name the bridge and the county had received the petition signed by all the residents of the road requesting the bridge naming in honor of Dillard Street. Chairman Blevins opened the floor for a motion for the committee to hold a public hearing regarding the naming of the bridge. Motion to hold the public hear was made by Nancy Brown and seconded by Mark Tester. Chairman Blevins held a roll call vote on the motion with the following

commissioners voting yes: Sonja Culler, Mark Blevins, Kelly Collins, Mark Tester, Nancy Brown, Travis Hill, and Layla Ward. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Public hearing on naming the bridge on Hodge Branch Road off of Highway 91 in the Stoney Creek Community the J.N. Taylor and Freeman Taylor Memorial Bridge – Chairman Blevins opened the floor for public comments, but no members of the public requested to speak. Chairman Blevins asked Shannon Burchett for an update on progress on the bridge. Shannon Burchett said there was still some work to be completed but the project is nearing completion. Chairman Blevins opened the floor for a motion to take the bridge naming before the full Commission. Motion to present the bridge naming request to the full Commission was made by Nancy Brown and seconded by Kelly Collins. Chairman Blevins held a roll call vote with the following commissioners voting yes: Sonja Culler, Mark Blevins, Kelly Collins, Mark Tester, Nancy Brown, Travis Hill, and Layla Ward. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Blevins thanked the committee for their vote and spoke briefly about the contributions J.N. Taylor and Freeman Taylor had made to the Stoney Creek community.
- Minton Hollow property purchase – Chairman Blevins asked County Attorney Josh Hardin to update on the community regarding the potential purchase of property on Minton Hollow Road for the purpose of road improvements. Attorney Hardin stated after the last committee meeting, he sent a letter to the new owner of the property Donald Pleasant explaining the interest the county had in acquiring the land at the sharp curve. Attorney Hardin stated a few days later Mr. Pleasant came to his office and stated he was interested in selling the property to the county. Attorney Hardin stated he did some research on the issue. Mr. Pleasant purchased the property from the previous owner for \$28,000. Attorney Hardin stated previously the county had obtained two appraisals of the property from licensed appraisers which came back at \$25,000 and \$35,000 respectively and the current tax appraised value by the Carter County Assessor of Property's Office is \$32,400. Attorney Hardin said he believes the previously acquired appraisals would still be valid for use, but the county could decide to obtain another appraisal if desired. Attorney Hardin said if the Highway Committee or the full Commission had an offer they would like to make or wanted him to enter into negotiations with Mr. Pleasant he would be happy to do so. Chairman Blevins opened the floor for motions regarding the property purchase. Motion was made by Nancy Brown for Attorney Hardin to pursue negotiations for the purchase of the property and seconded by Mark Tester. During discussion Travis Hill asked if the county had any information or statistics regarding the number of motor vehicle accidents that have occurred in this curve and any amounts of damages the county has had to pay out due to wrecks. Chairman Blevins stated he did not have that information, but he knew of several wrecks that had occurred at the location in recent years. Attorney Hardin stated he had spoken with Superintendent Colbaugh regarding potential work to fix the issue and there was no alternative other than buying the entire property due to how the road would need to be realigned for the improvements. Chairman Blevins held a roll call vote with the following commissioners voting yes: Sonja Culler, Mark Blevins, Kelly Collins, Mark Tester, Nancy Brown, Travis Hill, and Layla Ward. Motion passed unanimously.
- TDOT project resolution – Attorney Hardin presented a resolution for the Commission to approve a work project by TDOT to replace a bridge on Gap Creek Road. He stated TDOT will pay for the entire project but TDOT needs an agreement from the county to proceed with work. Sonja Culler inquired about the location of the bridge. Shannon Burchett stated it was a box culvert bridge in an S curve coming down from Coal Chute toward the water plant. Chairman Blevins held a roll call vote to approve the resolution for TDOT to proceed with the project. The following commissioners voted yes: Sonja Culler, Mark Blevins, Kelly Collins, Mark Tester, Nancy Brown, Travis Hill, and Layla Ward. The resolution passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report: Shannon Burchett reported the Highway Department has been working on paving since the Commission approved additional funding from the Governor's Support Grant for the paving of additional roads in the county. Shannon Burchett said so 12 roads have been paved in various areas of the county and between 6 to 8 roads which are ready to be paved and work on those will begin soon. Nancy Brown

praised the work being done by the Highway Department and asked Shannon Burchett to pass along the praise and her thanks.

Commissioner Comments:

Mark Tester asked Shannon Burchett if the Highway was looking at paving Happy Valley Road due to a comment he received from a resident. Shannon Burchett said he would pass the information along to Superintendent Colbaugh.

Motion was made by Nancy Brown to adjourn and seconded by Mark Tester. Motion passed following a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Frye

Approved By: _____

Chairman Mark Blevins

Date: September 8, 2020

To: Carter County Highway Committee

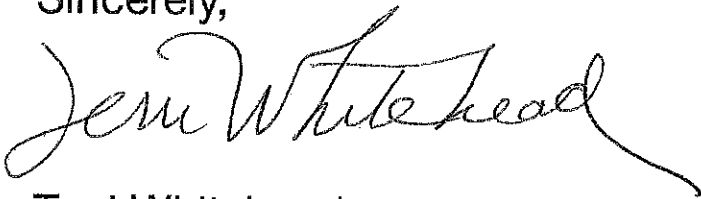
From: All the Residents of Tom Birchfield Road,
Roan Mountain TN

Subject: Naming new bridge on Tom Birchfield Rd

Attached is a petition of signatures from the four families that live on Tom Birchfield Road, in favor of naming the new bridge on Tom Birchfield Road after Dilliard Street, who was a great neighbor and friend. He passed away in June this year after a short illness at the age of 90. He and his wife, Beulah, actually lived on Tom Birchfield Road when they were first married. He was a pillar of this community all his life and is sorely missed. Everyone in Roan Mountain and especially Heaton Creek knew and loved Dillard.

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri Whitehead". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Terri Whitehead
110 Tom Birchfield Road
Roan Mountain TN 37687
423-481-1224

Attachment


September 8, 2020

PETITION TO NAME NEW BRIDGE ON TOM BIRCHFIELD ROAD, ROAN MOUNTAIN TN the DILLARD STREET MEMORIAL BRIDGE after:

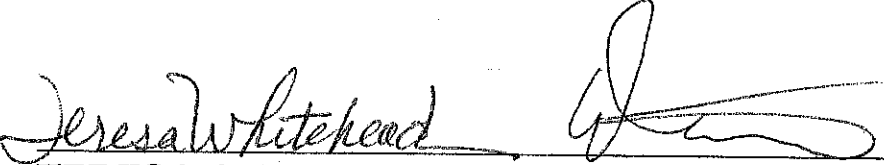
DILLARD STREET

OCTOBER 6, 1929 TO JUNE 14, 2020

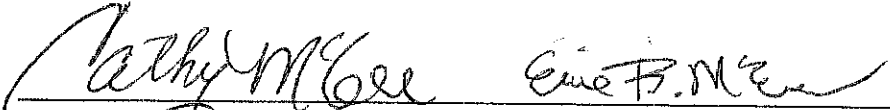
Below are the signatures of the four families that live on Tom Birchfield Road.




TERRI GOUGE
119 Tom Birchfield Road



TERESA AND DAVE WHITEHEAD
110 Tom Birchfield Road



CATHY AND ERIC MCGEE
129 Tom Birchfield Road



THOMAS AND AMBER GUINN
180 Tom Birchfield Road