



HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

December 3, 2020

5:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Sonja Culler, Gary Bailey, Kelly Collins, Mark Tester, Layla Ward, Jerry Proffitt, Mark Blevins and Nancy Brown

ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Mark Blevins, Chairman

ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

MINUTES: Motion was made by Mark Tester, seconded by Nancy Brown to approve the minutes of the November 2020 meeting. By a voice roll call vote, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

AGENDA: Jerry Proffitt asked that three (3) items regarding road conditions on the Steel Bridge Road, Grindstaff Road and Wilbur Dam Road be added to the agenda. Motion was made by Nancy Brown, seconded by Gary Bailey to approve the agenda with the amendments. By a voice roll call vote, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Sonja Culler reported the large ditch on Ripshin Mountain Road had been looked into last month.

Attorney Hardin updated the committee on the purchase of the land off Minton Hollow Road and restated the appraisals he had received from Randall Birchfield Real Estate in the amount of \$25,000, William Miller in the amount of \$35,000 and Ronnie Taylor, Tas Assessor, in the amount of \$32,400. He stated those figures were from a few years ago and several improvements to the property had been made since that time. He said he had spoken with Mr. Pleasant, the current owner, who had told him he would not entertain a motion to sell the property without being able to secure another storage building sufficient for his needs. He said in order to do that, he would have to price his land in the \$130,000 range. He stated the County would not get anywhere close to the proposed dollar amount unless they could find another storage building in the County suitable for Mr. Pleasant's needs and swap it with him. He stated he was unaware of any such building. He stated if the County condemned the property as being a safety hazard, then the County would be liable to pay whatever amount the Court deemed was the property's value regardless of what their thinking was. Attorney Hardin stated Mr. Pleasant was willing to sell part of the property if the County could figure a way to fix the curve and leave his storage building intact. Mr. Hardin stated that taking the bank out, putting up some sort of retaining wall and reconfiguring the road may be helpful but that would be the decision of Supt. Colbaugh. Sonja Culler mentioned the property on the other side of Minton Hollow Road Supt. Colbaugh had referred to at one time. She questioned whether or not the property on the right side of the road could be used to widen the road. Motion was made by Sonja Culler, seconded by Nancy Brown to have Supt. Colbaugh to check into the situation to determine if there was a possibility the property could be made suitable for the needs of the County to widen the road at the site of the dangerous curve. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Next on the agenda was a Public Hearing for the name the new bridge on Tom Birchfield Road the Dillard Street Bridge. As there was no opposition from the public, Motion was made by Gary Bailey, seconded by Nancy Brown to name the new bridge in honor of Dillard Street. By

a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

The matter of the road being closed on Dayton Hayes Circle due to the flooding by Gap Creek was next on the agenda. Sonja Culler informed the committee that due to the waterline/meters being exposed in the recent cold weather, the waterline had frozen. Supt. Colbaugh stated he had put rock to cover the lines down today to keep them from freezing. He stated earlier this week he had spoken with the Army Corps of Engineers' office at the State and was told they were waiting on two (2) more reports before they would be able to give the County the permit to enter into the river to rebuild it. He stated this also was a Natural Resources project with 80% reimbursement for labor and they were the managers. He said there was a possible estimated time of February 2020 for the project but the County could do no work until the permits were acquired.

Gary Bailey made the committee aware of a flooding issue on Dennis Cove Road. He stated that sometime in the 1950's, the Forest Service had built a big drainage pond that it has since filled up and every time there is a hard rain it floods down the middle of Dennis Cove Road and into the yards/houses due to the fact there are no ditches. He stated he had been told by Supt. Colbaugh the County would have to acquire an "off right-of-way" easement from the property owners to go in and try and cleanup the area. Supt. Colbaugh stated if they could obtain a permanent drainage easement, which would involve consultation with the property owners, the County would be allowed by State law to get on the property and clean it out. Supt. Colbaugh and Gary Bailey agreed to consult with the property owners and present their findings at the next meeting. Supt. Colbaugh explained with some sort of easement to the river, they could put in ditches and pipes to the river and have a better way to clean the pond that would not interfere with people's properties.

Jerry Proffitt brought up a drainage issue in Siam on Grindstaff road between the Allen & Hazelwood properties. When asked by Chairman Blevins if he was familiar with where Mr. Proffitt was talking about, Supt. Colbaugh stated it on Grindstaff Road where the water runs in both directions and runs into a swale and is suppose to drain off into a plowed field. He stated Mr. Hazelwood had built a "berm" on his property inside of the fence which will not allow the water off the roadway to drain. Jerry Proffitt stated he had maps which stated the drainage pipe was not to be blocked. Supt. Colbaugh said his department had taken a grade-all and dug waist deep where the pipe was suppose to be and could not locate it. He went on to say that even if the pipe was there it would be too deep to drain the water off the road. Motion was made by Gary Bailey, seconded by Nancy Brown to have Mr. Proffitt get the maps to Attorney Hardin to review and, if the case was the drainage pipes were not to be blocked per the map, to send Mr. Hazelwood an official letters explaining the issue. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

The next issue brought before the committee by Jerry Proffitt was the deterioration of the road's edge just north of the new bridge on Steel Bridge Road. He stated there was approximately a 9 foot embankment with a 45 degree slope and he considered it a critical situation. He stated Mr. Allen, the owner of the property on the other side of the road, had offered to give the County a right-of-way, he and Mr. Allen determined to be around 6 feet, to relocate the road. Supt. Colbaugh stated that to widen the road and install the necessary ditches would call for a right-of-way of at least 10 feet. Mr. Proffitt stated he felt Mr. Allen would be agreeable to that and Chairman Blevins offered to go look at the situation with Mr. Proffitt and possibly Supt. Colbaugh as soon as possible.

Commissioner Proffitt next informed the committee of a road issue on Wilbur Dam Road, south of the Steel Bridge Road, where there is a stop sign at the intersection. He stated that about 45 feet of roadway going south was in very poor condition. He said it looked as if the road was sinking and the edges were cracking towards the center of the road as well as the asphalt pulling apart for

approximately 9 feet. He was told that he and Supt. Colbaugh would go with him as soon as possible to meet with Mr. Allen to review the problem.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Supt. Colbaugh stated his department had been doing a lot of asphaltting until the weather turned colder. He said the trees on Shenandoah Road the property owners wanted removed had been cut down. He thanked Mark Tester for working with Bright Ridge to get the trees to the power lines cut down making it possible for the County to cut down the trees the rest of the way. He updated the committee on the status of the bridges and stated the new bridge at Dennis Cove was now opened.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None

On motion by Jerry Proffitt, seconded by Kelly Collins and by a voice roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved for entry:

Suzi Wallace

Mark Blevins, Chairman