

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

March 4, 2020

6:00 P.M.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairman Blevins amended the agenda to include the issue on Dayton Hayes Circle under Old Business and approval of the new County Road List. Motion was made by Gary Bailey, seconded by Layla Ward to approve the agenda with the amendments. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Sonja Culler, seconded by Kelly Collins to approve the minutes of the last meeting on December 3, 2020. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

OLD BUSINESS: Two residents of Dayton Hayes Circle, Patsy Johnson and Sherry Hyder, addressed the committee at this time questioning when the Highway Department was ever going to start the repair work their road. Sonja Culler asked to go on record as telling these residents it was to be started in February, as that was what she had been told, but the Highway Department had not yet received the permit. Supt. Colbaugh informed the committee and the residents he had finally received the permit yesterday from the Army Corps of Engineers and had set up a preconstruction conference. He stated the work should begin the following Wednesday and was to be finished by April 15, 2021. Patsy Johnson stated the county trucks had torn down her mailbox and voiced her disapproval of the mailbox they replaced it with. She stated the replacement was no comparison to the one she had. Supt. Colbaugh stated it was not the responsibility of the Highway Department to replace damaged mailboxes but it was their custom to do so and with the same type of mailbox they had replaced her's with.

Attorney Hardin updated the committee on the expansion of Minton Hollow Road. Supt. Colbaugh stated he had looked at the property the county needed to purchase in order to expand the road and saw no way it could be done without purchasing the entire property. Attorney Hardin said the property's owner had agreed to take \$130,000 for his property which the county was unwilling to pay. Gary Bailey questioned what the county has spent as a result of accidents/serious injuries on this road in the past and Attorney Hardin replied none that he knew of in the last ten (10) years. Gary Bailey made a motion to offer \$100,000 for the property and if an agreement could not be reached, seek legal action. His motion did not receive a second. Next they discussed the placement of flashing "caution" lights on the road. Motion was made by Sonja Culler, seconded by Gary Bailey to have Supt. Colbaugh look at the situation to see if he felt the flashing lights would be helpful and, if he felt they would, to purchase and install them. Supt. Colbaugh stated he could purchase the lights for approximately \$2,900 each and had the money in his budget. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

The drainage issue on Grindstaff Road created when Mr. Hazelwood installed a "berm" on his property causing water to improperly drain and stand on the roadway was next on the agenda. The committee asked Attorney Hardin to correspond with Mr. Hazelwood and ask for his compliance in removing the



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“berm”. They stated if an agreement could not be reached, Attorney Hardin would need to file an injunction for a court order to remove the “berm”.

The deterioration of the road’s edge at the intersection of Steel Bridge and Rittertown Roads was next discussed. This matter had been brought before the committee at the December meeting by Jerry Proffitt who stated it looked as though the road was actually sinking. He stated the property owner where the problem is located, Mr. Allen, had offered to give the county a right-of-way to make the repairs on the road. Supt. Colbaugh agreed to look into this issue and try to schedule work on the road as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS: Attorney Hardin presented a Resolution he had been asked to prepare expressing opposition to HB366/SB 1604 currently pending in the Tennessee General Assembly. This bill would require the county to purchase right-of-ways from project developers instead of them being donated to the county, as was the present procedure, as a condition of plat approval. This would result in substantial mandatory and reoccurring costs to the county. Motion was made by Sonja Culler, seconded by Layla Ward to approve the resolution prepared by Attorney Hardin to be presented to the full commission. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Chairman Blevins informed the committee he had received a request from residents of Shalom Drive asking that their road be adopted and maintained as a county road. Supt. Colbaugh stated he saw no problem with adopting Shalom Drive as a county road subject to the residents donating the necessary right-of-ways and providing a survey if needed. Motion was made by Layla Ward, seconded by Jerry Proffitt to hold a Public Hearing at the April meeting regarding this matter. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Supt. Colbaugh presented a quote from Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and Fiat of Columbia, Tennessee, for the purchase of a 5500 REG CAB CHASSIS 4x4 in the amount of \$66,068.26. He stated the truck would be very helpful with snow and ice removal and requested the committee approve the purchase of two (2) of these dump trucks. He said he would like to replace his entire fleet over a period of time. Motion was made by Gary Bailey, seconded by Jerry Proffitt to approve the purchase of two (2) vehicles in the amount of \$132,136.52 and present that figure to the Budget Committee for approval. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Chairman Blevins presented the County Road List for approval stating two (2) roads had been added, Hidden Oaks Lane off of Tiger Creek Road and Hyder Cemetery Road off of Jim Elliott Road. Motion was made by Sonja Culler, seconded by Kelly Collins to approve the new road listing and present it to the full commission for approval. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Supt. Colbaugh reported on the activities of the Highway Department the last couple of months. These included the project on Dayton Hayes Road, the dedication of the J.N. and Freeman Taylor Bridge, the Dennis Cove Bridge being finished and the sign being purchased by the family for the Tom Birchfield Bridge.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Kelly Collins informed the committee she had received several calls concerning a water leak at the Dollar Store on Hwy. 321. She said the origin of the leak was unknown but the water would freeze in cold weather and cause cars to skid/slide. Gary Bailey said he would look into the matter. She stated she also received calls on a large hole in Watauga past the railroad tracks and quarry. Supt. Colbaugh said he would look into this matter to see if the responsibility to fix the hole was Carter County or City of Watauga. One more item she mentioned was

the fact that a resident in Stoney Creek had their house sprayed by a salt truck. She was told that would be the problem of TDOT.

Gary Bailey brought up the pond issue on Dennis Cove Road they discussed at the December 2020, meeting. He stated the property owner, Mike Nash, was willing to give the county a right-of-way and the committee discussed with Supt. Colbaugh what measures could be taken to fix the flooding issue this summer.

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