

## HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

July 1, 2021

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Sonja Culler, Mark Blevins, Robin McKamey for Kelly Collins, Jerry Proffitt, Mark Tester, Nancy Brown, Gary Bailey and Layla Ward  
ABSENT: None  
CALL TO ORDER: Mark Blevins, Chairman  
ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairman Blevins added Pfeiffer Ridge Road to the agenda. Motion was made by Nancy Brown, seconded by Gary Bailey to approve the agenda with the addition. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.

At this time Chairman Blevins informed the committee that the son of Ray Lyons had passed away and called for a moment of silence and a prayer by Mark Tester for the family.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Jerry Proffitt, seconded by Mark Tester to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2021, meeting. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.

Motion was made by Sonja Culler, seconded by Gary Bailey to approve Robin McKamey's substitution for Kelly Collins at the meeting. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS: Josh Hardin informed the committee the alleyway brought before the committee last month by John Lewis was not on the original plat. He stated it had nothing to do with the County but was a private issue between the property owners.

The drainage problem on Grindstaff Road that has been an issue for some time was brought before the committee once again. Chairman Blevins stated that the property owner had been in touch with Chris Schuettler of the Planning Office and Josh Hardin stated his only communication with the property owner was through Mr. Schuettler. He stated he was led to believe the property owner was going to resolve the issue on his own. Chairman Blevins stated he felt the committee should move forward with action against the property owner. Motion was made by Nancy Brown, seconded by Sonja Culler to have the County Attorney to follow up on this matter in order for the committee to stay updated. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.

The donation to the County of a right-of-way by Mr. Allen to widen/improve Steel Bridge Road was discussed. Supt. Colbaugh stated they were going to try to get a 20 ft. road through there and needed to see how much right-of-way was needed. He stated his department had been extremely busy the last few weeks and would try and meet with Mr. Allen in a couple of weeks. Jerry Proffitt asked if a survey was necessary and if so would the County have it done. Mr. Hardin stated he did not think it would be necessary as long as Supt. Colbaugh gave him the accurate measurements and it would be up to the Commission as to whether or not they would have it surveyed.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Blevins stated the public had requested the bridge on Blue Springs Road at Jerry Weavers be named in honor of Reverend Homer Salyers. Motion was made by Nancy Brown,



seconded by Robin McKamey to approve their request. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.

John Lewis questioned whether the Forestry Service would be held responsible for damage to the Lewis Cemetery Road. He was told it was a County Road but if they caused extensive damage they would be contacted by the County to resolve the matter.

Chairman Blevins stated the dedication of the Big Sandy Bridge in honor of Billy Cole would be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. He told them as Mr. Cole had donated the land for the bridge and the fire station they were also having a cookout in his honor at the fire department.

Due to the fact that mail boxes can only be installed on County owned roads, the resident's of Pfeiffer Ridge Road filed a petition requesting the County to adopt said road. Supt. Colbaugh stated he had looked at it and saw no problem. Motion was made by Nancy Brown, seconded by Mark Tester to adopt Pfeiffer Ridge Road as a County road. As there was a need for a Public Hearing regarding Ms. Brown rescinded her motion. Motion was then made by Mark Tester, seconded by Nancy Brown to advertise for a Public Hearing on this matter at the next meeting. By a voice roll call vote, motion carried. Petition on file in the Clerk's Office.

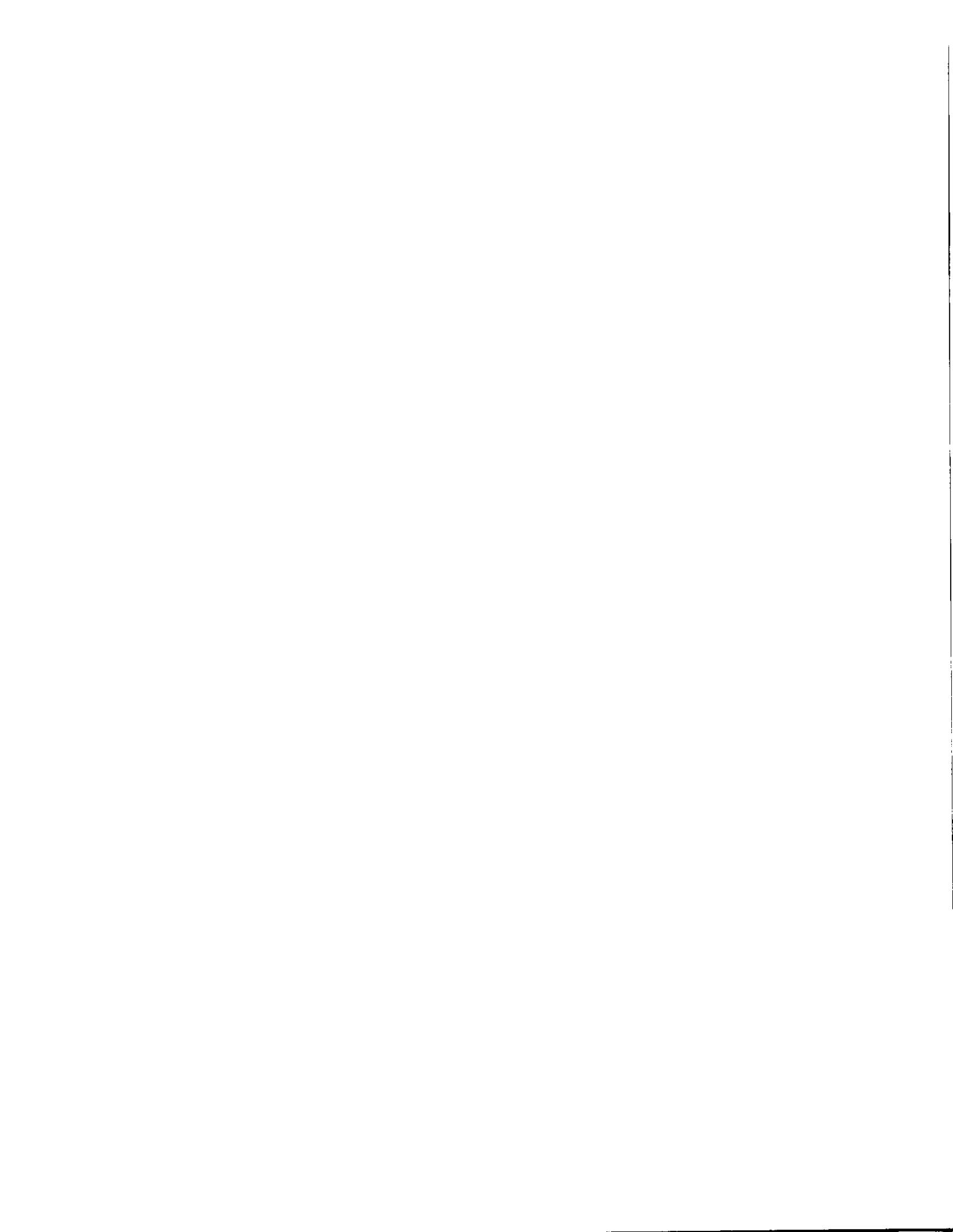
ROAD SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Supt. Colbaugh passed out a list of the Highway Department's June Activity Report attached to minutes. He also informed the committee of his concern about a "hole" he recently noticed that had come into the deck of the bridge off Dennis Cove Road on Estep Road. He explained it was a metal structure and had rusted out. He said he had contacted Permatile and was given a quote for the repair materials of \$30,400. He stated it could become a real safety hazard at any time and he wanted them to be aware he may have to make an emergency purchase. Motion was made by Gary Bailey, seconded by Nancy Brown to allocate \$34,000 should it become an emergency with the funding to be discussed with the Finance Director.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Chairman Blevins stated he had been contacted by Valley Forge Christian Church regarding the installation of a crosswalk. He said they had a handicapped parking lot and the members had to walk across a County road to get to the church. He stated they were also interested in putting up "Caution Pedestrian Crossing" signs. Supt. Colbaugh said in the past when a request of this nature was made, the Highway Department would "permit" the project and the church would have it installed by a qualified installer in order for it to be done properly. This was also done at the expense of the church.

Mark Tester stated he had been contacted by Jim McGee of Dave Buck Road concerning the issue that had been going on for years. Josh Hardin said to tell him the lawsuit was dismissed and the matter was over. He also stated he was called by Mark Banks to inform the committee how pleased he was with the results of his ditch and water issue.

Chairman Blevins informed the committee he had an upcoming meeting with Jenny Brock concerning the Oscar Banks Road project. Supt. Colbaugh stated Johnson City was suppose to hire an engineer to figure out what could be done to fix the problem. Chairman Blevins stated he hoped their meeting would speed up the progress.

Nancy Brown stated there were complaints in Roan Mountain regarding missing stop signs. She further stated her appreciation for all the work the Highway Department had done in her district.



Gary Bailey complimented the paving at Happy Valley School and the work ethics displayed by the Highway Department employees during these hot months.

On motion by Jerry Proffitt, seconded by Mark Tester and by a voice roll call vote, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Wallace

Approved for entry:

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Mark Blevins, Chairman

