

APPROVED

CARTER COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 13, 2014 10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Buford Peters, Charles VonCannon, John Lewis, Robert Gobble, Sonja Culler, Joel Street, Bobbie Gouge-Dietz, and Tom Bowers for Steve Lowrance

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Lowrance

Chairman Peters called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A motion was made by John Lewis to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Robert Gobble gave a second to the motion and it was approved by all ayes.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Peters read a letter from County Attorney Keith Bowers regarding the right-of-way on John Taylor Road. This issue was brought to the committee in November by Mark Watson. Attorney Bowers stated in the letter that the county does not have any obligation to take action on the issue. (A copy of the letter is attached to the official minutes.) A motion by Charles VonCannon and seconded by John Lewis was made to let the involved parties solve the problem and the committee would not get involved. The motion passed with all ayes.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner John Lewis discussed the need for guardrails on a section of Poga Road at Nowhere Mountain. He stated that the committee had discussed the need for the guardrails last year, but it had not been forwarded to the commission for action. Chairman Buford Peters said that the Commission would want to know the cost to the county for the project and if the highway department had the equipment to install the guardrails. Commissioner Lewis said he could check into the cost and report to the committee at the next meeting.

The Highway Department was asked by the committee members to take action on several problems of public concern. Commissioner Bobbie Gouge-Dietz stated that citizens were concerned with standing water and low visibility caused by shrubbery at the Old Lewis Road and Pansy Street intersection. Commissioner Joel Street stated a problem regarding some evergreen trees blocking visibility at the intersection of Matt Jett Road and Powder Branch Road. Chairman Peters said that trees and shrubbery are becoming a big problem and becoming a road safety hazard to the county. Commissioner Culler asked whether the county has a right to cut trees and shrubbery that obstruct motorists view. Highway Supt. Perkins said the county does have that right.

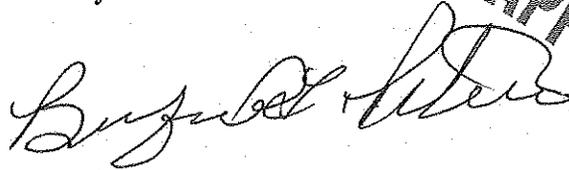
PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Marlow asked Highway Supt. Perkins if he agreed to a request to place a water line along the county road running to a new mobile home being established in Hampton. Supt. Perkins stated he had agreed and that he didn't want to deprive anyone of water if he could help it. Supt Perkins said that there are plans to repair Browns Branch Road. He also stated that he had no information on the new Rittertown Bridge because the county attorney was still working on the project.

Wayne Bocker expressed his concern that traffic lights on Elk Avenue in Elizabethton should be synchronized.

COMMISSION MEMBERS COMMENTS: Commissioner VonCannon said the county needed to do an assessment of all county bridges. He stated that 50% of the county bridges are more than 50 years old. Commissioner Street reported that the state had installed flashing caution lights on a curvy section of U.S. Highway 19E near Roan Mt. Also a TDOT project on US321-US 19E intersection and traffic concerns near Hampton High School have been approved. The projects are scheduled to be bid out and completed this year.

Commissioner Culler made a motion with Commissioner Lewis giving a second to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with all ayes.

Bobbie Gouge-Dietz, Secretary



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