

DRAFT

CARTER COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

APRIL 15, 2014 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Buford Peters, Charles VonCannon, John Lewis, Steve Lowrance, Bobbie Gouge-Dietz, and Russell Kyte for Sonja Culler.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Gobble, Joel Street and Sonja Culler.

Chairman Peters called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A motion to approve the minutes for the March meeting and the agenda for the April meeting was made by John Lewis and seconded by Steve Lowrance. The motion passed with all ayes.

Chairman Buford Peters introduced the candidates for road superintendent. The candidates are Ricky Guinn, Jason Shell, Roger Colbaugh, Hubert Lewis and Steve Pierce. Commissioner Steve Lowrance complimented the candidates for running for the office and wished them all well.

The committee's main topic was the bill sponsored by Representative Timothy Hill. The bill will free-up funds in the Tennessee Department of Transportation's State Aid Grant Program. Local match money would be lowered from 20% to 2% and can be in "in kind" support rather than cash. This could help the county replace or repair old bridges. Adam Wallen, TDOT Building Inspector, was invited to attend the meeting but he could not attend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Commissioner John Lewis wanted to know why no progress had been made on his suggestion that guard rails be placed on a section of the Poga Highway near Nowhere. Assistant Road Superintendent Shannon Burchett said that the county does not have the equipment to drill the holes in solid rock on the cliff. The job would have to be bid out. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to request bids on the project and to accept the lowest bid and begin the work. Commissioner VonCannon seconded the motion. Chairman Peters stated that would not be legal since the committee cannot order the highway superintendent on how to spend his money. After discussion John Lewis altered his motion to state if Supt. Jack Perkins so desires, he may begin the project once the bids have been received. The motion passed with 5 ayes and Dietz voting no.

Commissioner Lewis asked about a ditch around Brown's Castle that has grown up and causes a water problem. Part of the property is on the county and part on the state. A report from the surveyor is needed before work can be planned. Chairman Peters said he would check with the planning department to see what can be done.

Mayor Leon Humphreys said progress has been made on a project in the Hampton area to correct the flooding problems in Brown's Branch. The federal permits have been completed. Federal funding will pay for most of the \$100,000 project. The bid process will begin in about two (2) weeks. Once the project has been awarded it should take about 45 days to complete.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Peters said work is still stalled on the Rittertown bridge project. The attorneys are negotiating with some citizens over the property claims along the approach right of way. Also he suggested that maybe steel cables could be used in areas where guard rails would be too expensive.

Commissioner VonCannon told the committee about logging trucks causing problems traveling on Greenley Road.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS: Charles VonCannon presented the committee members with a list compiled by the Dept. of Transportation in 2012 that reported 114 Carter County bridges that were inspected. He also complimented the employees of the Carter County Highway Department for placing guard rails along the approaches to the Smalling Bridge across the Watauga River.

Commissioner Lowrance said that the state has already dedicated \$1.9 million toward the Carter County bridge projects. That should be enough for one major bridge or two small bridges. He said the state will determine the bridges that will be repaired.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Paul Campbell complained about the time it has taken to get some projects completed. Rick Jessie said a road sign was needed on a lane off Price Road. Chairman Peters will investigate to see if the committee can help.

John Lewis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Russell Kyte. Motion carried all ayes.

Buford Peters, Chairman

Bobbie Gouge-Dietz, Secretary