

MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 13, 1998

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a special called meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Henderson County Office Building.

Those present were: Chairman Bob Eklund, Vice-Chair Grady Hawkins, Commissioner Vollie G. Good, Commissioner Renee Kumor, Assistant County Manager/Staff Attorney Angela M. Skerrett, and Clerk to the Board Elizabeth W. Corn.

Absent were: Commissioner Don Ward and County Manager David E. Nicholson.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Eklund called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. The purpose of this meeting was a NC Department of Transportation (DOT) Secondary Road Public Hearing.

SECONDARY ROAD PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Good made the motion for the Board to go into Public Hearing. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Chairman Eklund turned the meeting over to Ron Leatherwood, Transportation Board Member for our division (14th division consisting of the 10 most western counties in NC).

Chairman Eklund stated that we would have a break about 10:30 a.m. We had a group of youngsters present observing the meeting.

Mr. Leatherwood introduced the DOT personnel in attendance: Division Engineer Dan Martin, Division Maintenance Engineer Jay Swain, District Engineer Ed Green, County Maintenance Engineer Sam Brittain, Road Maintenance Engineer Bobby Corn, Road Maintenance Engineer Harold Watkins, and Robbie Shelton, Frank Dills, Brandon Bryson with the Right-Of-Way Department.

Secondary Road Paving Program

Mr. Leatherwood explained that the Secondary Road Program is the most fairly distributed funds in the Department of Transportation. It is done on an equitable formula based on the amount of unpaved roads that the county has compared to the entire state. If Henderson County has 2% of the unpaved roads in the State then Henderson County would get 2% of the paving funds.

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This year Henderson County's share of the Trust Fund and the Secondary Construction Money is almost \$3.3 million. Add to that \$755,000 from the bond issue passed last year giving Henderson County just over \$4,000,000 for this year's program.

Dan Martin stressed that this meeting was held for the public's benefit and encouraged the public to participate. Roads are selected for paving by a priority rating system which takes into account all the general traffic use characteristics.

Ed Green is the District Engineer for three counties including Henderson, Polk and Transylvania. Once every four years DOT counts the business, homes, industries, recreations facilities, etc. on each road (anything that generates traffic). This was last done in the spring of 1997. Each road is given a rating based on the numerical criteria.

They come up with two paving priority lists: 1. Rural list which is mainly the longer roads with fewer houses, and 2. Subdivision list. As they receive funds they go down the priority list and pave roads.

Mr. Green briefly mentioned that they have now made a third list which is roads they have not been able to obtain right-of-way on. If at any time the right-of-way becomes available the road will be put in line for funding. It would be put at the bottom of the paving list for the year.

Mr. Green stated that this year they have \$3,395,190 available for paving with a goal to pave 21 ½ miles. Mr. Green then read the priority lists aloud. By law they must go by this list once the list is established.

Public Input

1. Joel Worley - Mr. Worley inquired about a couple of roads as to when they might be paved:

#1288 Ward Road extension (Beddingfield Drive) This road is #141 on the priority list.

#1723 Pressley Road (in Edneyville) This road is #98 on the priority list.

2. Charlene Livingston - Ms. Livingston thanked the maintenance department for keeping her road scraped stating that for the last

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year they have done a good job (John Delk Road). She asked if she could get a list of the non-signed rights-of-way on John Delk Road. She was told that she could.

3. Joan Husni - She asked about the priority of Pace Mtn. Road, the last road on the rural priority list. She was told that it was on the back-up list. It will be two years probably before it will be paved.

She also asked about the priority of Judd's Peak Road (SR#1837). She was told that it was #86 on the subdivision priority list.

4. Sue Hip - Ms. Hip asked about the status of Bald Rock Road. She was told that there are two right-of-way refusals. She also wanted a list of right-of-way refusals on her road.

CONDEMNATION PROCESS

It was explained that if there are up to two refusals along the road, for each parcel NC DOT requires a \$2,500 bond. Residents would notify DOT that they are willing to condemn property for road right-of-way. \$2,500 pays for appraisals, surveys, and lawyer fees. Once they get the appraisal, if DOT feels that there would be no further damage to the property, then DOT would come before the Commissioners to see if they request that DOT condemn the road. If the Board of Commissioners recommends the condemnation, NC DOT begins the condemnation process. They can condemn up to two pieces of property per road.

If there are more than two refusals it would go to the right-of-way refusal list or if no one wants to post bond.

5. Tina Hooks - Ms. Hooks asked about Kyles Creek Road, on the rural back-up list. They pointed out to her on a map where that section of the road was and explained that some of these are not whole roads but sections of road.

6. Larason Lambert - Mr. Lambert discussed improvements to roads. He requested that NC DOT please remember nature and the trees and shrubbery when putting in roads, asking them not to take out more trees than are absolutely necessary.

7. Helen Stepp - Ms. Stepp asked some specific questions relating to the condemnation process and SR#1125 - Walnut Cove Road. They

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have three right-of-way refusals and many of the other (14) residents are elderly widow ladies who cannot afford the funds for the condemnation process.

Charlene Livingston (#2) Ms. Livingston had spoken earlier and came forward again. She asked how long residents have to get rights-of-way before being taken off the right-of-way refusal list. As long as there is some activity the file remains open.

Mr. Leatherwood spoke again stating that the total secondary county construction program is \$197,000,000 statewide. Our division gets almost 12% of that money. Of the monies our division gets, Henderson County gets 17.36% of the funds.

Commissioner Good made the motion to go out of Public Hearing. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

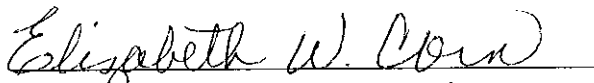
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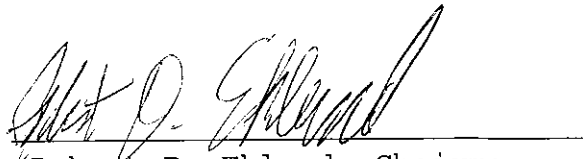
Commissioner Kumor made the motion for the Board to accept the Resolution recommending a program of total needs for Secondary Road improvements in Henderson county. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Chairman Eklund thanked Gwen Thornburg and the students who sat in our meeting today.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:


Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk


Robert D. Eklund, Chairman

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Henderson, North Carolina, met in regular session at 100 North King Street, in

the usual place of meeting, at 9:00 AM, on May 13, 1998

Present: Chairman Robert D. Eklund, Vice-Chairman Grady Hawkins, Commissioner Vollie G. Good, and Commissioner Renee Kumor.

Absent: Commissioner Don Ward

Chairman Eklund, introduced representatives of the Department of Transportation and a resolution recommending a program of total needs for Secondary Road improvements in Henderson County. This program details the proposed expenditure of Secondary Funds for the period July 1, 1998 through June 30, 1999.

The proposed program recommends that the funds be expended in the following

manner.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Paving of Secondary Roads (Bond)	\$ 755,842.00	100
Paving of Secondary Roads (Trust Fund & County Construction)	2,639,348.00	80
Other: Spot Stabilization, Paved Road Improvements, Replace Small Bridges with Pipe, Safety Projects, Widening Existing Curves, Property Owner Participation, Road Additions, Cemetery Roads, Steep Grade Paving, ect.	659,837.00	20
TOTALS	\$ 4,055,027.00	100

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