

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 12, 2007
NCDOT SECONDARY ROADS HEARING/MEETING
MINUTES

Chairman Leatherman convened the meeting at 3 p.m. as noticed. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, DOT Board Member Conrad Burrell, DOT Division Engineer Joel Setser, DOT District Engineer Wesley Grindstaff, various other DOT staff, members of the news media and interested citizens were present. Chairman Leatherman introduced NCDOT Board Member Conrad Burrell and turned the meeting over to him. Mr. Burrell introduced DOT staff members and stated the purpose of the meeting was to hear public comments on secondary roads in Macon County and to adopt a resolution approving expenditure of secondary roads funds.

Mr. Setser and Mr. Grindstaff discussed paving priorities, formulas and DOT requirements before opening the floor for public comments/questions.

Susan Strain stated she was a resident of Horse Cove and expressed opposition to paving of Whiteside and Horse Cove Roads. She expressed concerns about slashing of hillsides and cutting of trees when roads are paved. She also expressed concerns about safety, speeding and cost of paving the road. Mr. Setser responded that the contract on the road has already been awarded and the road would have already been paved if it had not been for environmental problems especially with the Indiana Bat. He added a lot of time had been spent doing animal and plant studies.

Beth Greenlee stated she wanted to reiterate Ms. Strain's concerns. She stated all the plants, trees, shrubs, etc. were scraped off Whiteside road when it was paved and some type of control over the contractors should be in place to ensure this doesn't happen.

Richard Melvin stated he lives in the Whiteside/Horse Cove area and the road does not serve but a few citizens, probably not more than six or eight citizens per day, and he felt it would provide more public service to put the funds into Chestnut Street. He added that most of the property is U.S. Forest Service property and it would just be paving through USFS lands.

Luther Turner congratulated NCDOT on the condition of US 64 from Cashiers to Highlands and stated his family has owned property on Whiteside Cove for 68 years. He expressed opposition to paving of Whiteside and Horse Cove Roads.

Narrell Kirkland expressed appreciation to DOT for what they do and the paving they have done in the past. She expressed opposition to using oil and gravel on roads and asked that the safety of the intersection at Phillips and Wayah Street be looked at.

Catherine Robb expressed concern that there were no lines painted after Leatherman Gap Road was paved. Mr. Setser stated he would check on the status of lining the road and explained the paint is temperature sensitive.

Dave Johnson questioned if there would be "zero" spending if no work was done in 2007.

A lengthy question/answer session on paving of Horse Cove and Whiteside Roads followed with DOT officials explaining adoption of the proposed resolution will have no impact on paving the Macon County portion of Horse Cove Road because it was approved in a prior year and is not included in the 2007 project money. Mr. Setser explained right-of-ways have been obtained for the Macon County portion and the contract let. Mr. Burrell stated since right-of-ways have been granted, funds allocated and the contract let it would be a legal question as to the obligation of DOT. The general consensus of the Board was that Macon County property owners had granted right of way for the project.

Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson and seconded by Commissioner Beale the Board voted to accept the resolution as presented appropriating \$8,949,075 for the secondary roads program in Macon County for 2007. (Note: After the meeting NCDOT contacted the County stating there was an error on the resolution and a new resolution would be presented at the March 5, 2007 board meeting. Refer to those minutes for final resolution.)

Dave Johnson requested the Board to prevail in changing the priority of Goshen Road off Leatherman Gap Road.

Being no further comment the meeting was adjourned.

Sam K. Greenwood, County Manager
Clerk to the Board

Charles D. Leatherman
Board Chairman

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