

February 11, 2020

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 11th day of February, 2020; at 5:00 p.m., there were present:

Beverly M. Booth

Pattie Cooper-Jones

J. David Emert

Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.

Robert M. Jones

Jerry R. Townsend

James R. Wilck

Absent: Odessa H. Pride

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; and Scott Frederick, P.E., VDOT Resident Engineer.

Chairman Townsend called the special meeting to order as a VDOT work session on the Six-Year Plan.

In Re: VDOT Six-Year Plan

Mr. Scott Frederick, P.E., VDOT Resident Engineer, stated funding is provided each year to the Six-Year Plan for the County to build roads, and each year the Board needs to add more roads; over time they work their way to the front of the line. He said only the road currently under construction, Dempsey Road, cannot be changed. He said the Board has the ability to adjust, remove or add new roads to the list.

Mr. Frederick reviewed the roads on the Plan.

- Hidden Lake Road
- Copper Hill Road
- Mill Creek Road
- Bolden-Flournoy Road
- Whispering Woods Road
- School House Road
- Old Oak Road
- Falkland Road
- Quail Crossing Road, ¾ of a mile from Route 613 heading east
- Featherfin Road, 0.9 miles
- Route 668, from Route 664, 0.3 miles east

- Route 647 (Rice Creek Road), from Route 630, 0.3 miles east

Mr. Frederick stated that once the surface-treating of roads is complete, they must be posted 35 mph, which is part of the State Code for the Rural Rustic program. He said Traffic Engineering posts the speed limit and reviews all curves to see if they're too sharp for 35 mph, and if so, will put a reduced speed advisory plaque. He said gravel roads are already 35 mph, hard surface roads are 55 mph.

Supervisor Emert stated Oliver Road (Route 649) is full of trash.

Chairman Townsend asked the Board members if they wish to keep the rotation of the roads on the list as in past years; he said Mr. Frederick indicated the County can add three more miles of construction. Chairman Townsend asked if the Board members wish to add that to the funding for the current list.

Supervisor Emert stated it would make sense to continue on the road they are on.

Chairman Townsend then asked how the Board wished to prioritize the list. Mr. Bartlett stated that in the past, the Board looked at the density where more people live; the Board moved the funding to where the people were.

Chairman Townsend clarified the Board's intention on splitting the funding to put on the four roads to take them a little further. The Board concurred.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones said she wished to make sure Supervisor Pride's concerns, Abilene Road and Douglas Church Road, are addressed. Mr. Frederick said different funding will be used to address those roads.

Chairman Townsend asked how the funding can be appropriated on the different roads. Following discussion, Chairman Townsend said the funding should be distributed to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile on each.

Supervisor Gilliam suggested work continue east on Morris Creek Road. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Jones said what happens to funding that is left over from a particular project; Mr. Frederick said the money remains designated to that county and goes to the next project on the list.

In Re: Safety Fund Projects

Mr. Frederick then said the Safety Funding does not have any hard or fast rule on what it can be used for, but may be used for anything justifiable as a safety issue, such as cutting down the knolls as on Abilene Road.

Chairman Townsend said the Board needs to have a say in how the Safety Funds are utilized. He said the Board can prioritize the safety concerns in the County, and will know how the funding is being utilized in the County.

Mr. Frederick stated the County has about \$70,000 a year and he wants to work with the Board on determining which concerns to address. But to be clear, VDOT has the final say as to how the funds are used as they are VDOT, not County, funds.

Supervisor Gilliam stated Supervisor Pride has expressed concern about the hill on Douglas Church Road; he said it is a concern and there have been several accidents there.

Mr. Frederick said Charlotte County put their funding towards Abilene Road (Route 604) to widen each shoulder by two feet and then used the surface treatment schedule to cover everything and make it uniform. He said making Abilene Road uniform from county to county would be beneficial and would probably take two years. Following some discussion, the Board concurred to use two years of safety funds for Abilene Road widening to make it uniform from county to county. Chairman Townsend requested that after the Abilene Safety Project is completed, the Safety Funds next be used on Meherrin Road.

Supervisor Emert asked if widening was considered for Route 649. He said Oliver Road has the landfill traffic and is more heavily used than any of the other secondary roads simply because of the landfill.

Supervisor Gilliam questioned the truck and bus traffic on Five Forks Road. Mr. Frederick said unless it is signed for "No Trucks," they're legally allowed to be on it. Discussion followed.

In Re: Smart Scale Projects

Mrs. Puckett, Assistant County Administrator, stated that there will be a Smart Scale Workshop on March 3, in Lynchburg, and the new Director of Planning and Community Development will be attending. Every locality can submit up to five pre-applications, which have to be screened to make sure they meet the Smart Scale criteria. Then you can submit four final applications. The pre-application process will open on March 5, with pre-applications due April 2. Once a pre-application is pre-screened and validated, the full applications are due in August. For the Lynchburg District, there is a "Top 100" list of intersections with accident data, and the road has to be on the "Top 100" list to score enough points to be eligible. Mrs. Puckett said two that need work are the US 460 and East Third Street Interchange, and the Route 692 and Route 695 intersection at Mercy Seat. She said she questioned the latter and was told there is a tremendous amount of

infrastructure and right of way acquisition issues and utility costs were equal to construction costs. She said the third project would be the Route 15 and Route 628 Safety Corridor, which is from the exit ramp off Route 460 near Lowe's. She said they aren't sure what to do but tell people to be more patient and allow more time at the school. She said people come up the ramp to cross Route 15 to get into the short left-turn lane which causes accidents; it's normally from 7:40 a.m. until 8:10 a.m.

Supervisor Jones said tractor trailers coming off Route 460 to go up to Route 15 will block the road to get across.

Mr. Frederick said a lot of the incidents at the [Prince Edward County] schools are due to impatience and driver error.

Discussion followed.

Supervisor Wilck stated one of the largest property owners, Sunchase, has plans for development and will have a couple of Vice-Presidents in town on March 3-5. He added there are 28 acres nearby that are vacant that the owner will work with the County to help develop the Smart Scale request for the US 460 and Third Street Interchange.

In Re: Storm Summary

Mrs. Puckett stated VDOT was very hard at work handling emergencies; there were 57 calls during the storm, most of which were on Friday, with 25% of the County without power. She said several roads, such as Poorhouse Road and the New Bethel bridge approach were underwater; two bridges in the State Parks low ground at Peaks Road and Featherfin Road, and at the Appomattox River at First Rock, and at the low ground at Worsham were all covered with water.

Mrs. Puckett said Prospect, Hampden-Sydney and Meherrin Volunteer Fire Departments all lost power; they are all on generator. The Sheriff's Communications at the Hampden-Sydney water tower also lost power and is not on generator, but is on battery. She said the County will need to run a line from the water tower Communications Building approximately 100 feet long over to the generator. She said the County will need two 115-AMP circuits, which will not impact the operation of the fire department. She said Mr. Bartlett contacted Creative Electric. Mrs. Puckett said the Sheriff's Office never lost communications as they have a 12-hour battery; the Hampden-Sydney police department did lose all communications because they are in the same building.

Supervisor Emert asked if the fire department cuts the downed trees, what are the requirements for removal. Mrs. Puckett said the fire department is to cut the trees to the edge of the pavement or ditch to get the road open. She said the following day, the right of way is to be cleared. Discussion followed.

Chairman Townsend suggested “Road Closed” or “Bridge Out” signs to be placed when bridges are closed. Discussion followed.

Mr. Frederick stated VDOT has been working on storm damage.

Mrs. Puckett said the bridge inspection is done by VDOT, but if a bridge overtops, it cannot be opened by the local VDOT until it is inspected by an inspector from Lynchburg. Mr. Frederick stated if a bridge is overtopped, the local VDOT will clean it off, check for issues, and create a plan to get it open even before the inspector arrives.

Chairman Townsend asked for an assessment on the property on Rice Creek.

Mr. Frederick stated the three addresses were brought to his attention, two are next to each other. He said there has never been an official driveway to either of those houses. He said they never installed a driveway or a pipe. Mr. Frederick said if the people buy a pipe, VDOT will put it in for them; he said the whole road needs a ditch line. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Booth asked about a ditch on Briarwood Drive. Mr. Frederick said the Permit Specialist has gone out and until they are done grading, it will continue to fill up with silt. He said the contractor stated it will be until springtime and the grass is growing that they will clean it out a final time.

On motion of Supervisor Cooper-Jones, seconded by Supervisor Wilck, and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Beverly M. Booth	Nay:	None
	Pattie Cooper-Jones		
	J. David Emert		
	Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.		
	Robert M. Jones		
	Jerry R. Townsend		
	James R. Wilck		
Absent:	Odessa H. Pride		

the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.