

MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL SESSION

MINUTES

MAY 15, 2006

NORTH CAROLINA

MITCHELL COUNTY

The Mitchell County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on May 15, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Superior Courtroom located in the Courthouse Bakersville, NC. Those present for the meeting were: Ken Hollifield, Vice-Chairman; Phil Byrd, Member; Mike Hensley, Member; and Kathy Young, CMC to the Board. Members absent were: Keith Masters, Chairman; and Jim Saylor, Member. County Manager Whitson was also absent. Also present were Nathan Hall, Reporter with the Mitchell-News Journal; Ed Greene, Doug McNeal, Gabe Johnson, Wade Tate, Scott Killo, and David Chrisawn all from the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice-Chairman Hollifield called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **INVOCATION** – Vice-Chairman Hollifield led the invocation.
3. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS**
 - A. **NC DOT Secondary Road Hearing** – Vice-Chairman Hollifield stated this meeting is being held in compliance with General Statute 136-44. It is a pleasure and honor to have Mr. Doug McNeal and Mr. Ed Greene with us here tonight. I will turn the meeting over to them.

Ed Greene – We are here to hold this public hearing in accordance with General Statute 136-44.8. We are required to present to the County Commissioners the proposed expenditure for our secondary construction funds for Mitchell County for the period of July 1, 2006 till June 30, 2007. We expect to receive approximately \$1,168,188 for this period. At this funding level we would finish paving all the roads in about sixteen years. Hopefully, this will change and it will increase a little bit. Currently there is approximately 48 miles of unpaved roads in Mitchell County. We have about 96 roads that those represent. The number of miles to be paved will depend on the amount of funds received and the increase of the price of construction. Hopefully, we will be able to pave right down the priority list that Doug is going to present. If we should not we will skip over what we are not able to get the right of way and go on to the next one. We have a safety project this year and that is to improve the alignment on SR 1320, which is Sam's Branch Road. A couple of things we should point out. These allocations are anticipated amounts only. The amount will be decided by the legislature. The amount for each priority is an estimate only. That is what we think it is going to cost. The paving of all these roads

is subject to the availability of funding, right of ways and environmental impact. This current list was compiled last year. This is the first year on this priority list. We do those every four years that allows us to pick up new road that may have been added. Also evaluate any changes to existing roads. I am going to turn it over to Doug and let him present the program and we will answer any questions that any one might have.

Doug McNeal – I am a District Engineer based out of Marion. The 2006-2007 Paving Priority is as follows:

Rural Roads – Herb McKinney for a length of .50 miles.
Raccoon Branch for a distance of .74 miles.

Subdivision Streets – Tanglewood Road for a distance of .26 miles.
Cleve Silvers Road for a distance of .25 miles.
Azelea Drive for distance of .16 miles.
Relief Road Ext. for a distance of .13 miles.
Chet Burleson Road for a distance of .25 miles.

Safety Project – Improve Alignment on Sam's Branch Road SR 1320.

In total we are proposing to do 2.29 miles of new roads for \$938,000. In the event that any roads in priority have to be placed on the "hold list" due to right of way or environmental review, or if additional funds becomes available, fund will be applied to the roads listed in priority order as shown on the attached paving alternate list. Again the program is subject to availability of funding, right of way and environmental review. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Commissioner Hensley – All the right of ways have been signed on all these roads

Doug McNeal – Not all of them. We are in the process of surveying and acquiring right of ways of on a few of the roads.

Commissioner Hensley – Do you have a list of those?

Doug McNeal – Herb McKinney and Raccoon Branch we have right of ways for. Tanglewood has an existing right of way. We've located and approached the property owners on Cleve Silvers Road. We have existing right of way on Azelea Drive. We have right of way on Relief Road Extension and we are soon to start Chet Burleson Road. We have right of ways on the improvement alignment on Sam's Branch Road.

Commissioner Hensley – So you are not 100% sure on Cleve Silvers or Chet Burleson so far.

Doug McNeal – In the event we are not able to acquire the right of way we will move on to the next one.

Commissioner Byrd – On the safety project it is about a half a mile in to Sam's Branch Road – the Hensley property?

Doug McNeal – Yes.

Commissioner Byrd – It is very much needed there. I am just glad to see you all back.

Vice-Chairman Hollifield – Two years ago, we approached the State for a signal at the Greenlee School. The County Commissioners

signed a resolution addressing our concern for the safety of our school buses there. We would appreciate you taking a look at that and see what we can do toward getting that signal put in place there. We feel for the safety of our children it is necessary.

Doug McNeal – I am not over the signal department and I do not know the status of that traffic signal at this time.

Vice-Chairman Hollifield – Who do we need –

Doug McNeal – Mark Teague is over our traffic unit. We will certainly pass on your concerns and we will get back to you on that.

Stephen Snyder – I live on Swofford Road and I thought it was on the priority list and I didn't hear it mentioned.

Doug McNeal – We did not have funds to complete those. Once those roads on the list are completed Swofford Road will be the next one on the list. It will be the fifth one in rural roads and if funding stays the same it should be on next years program.

Clayton McKinney – I have a petition for Emanuel Church Road dated 01-17-05 and a letter concerning the cost of the road. This is the old 221 road to Spruce Pine. If I could make a suggestion to do those two break aways.

Doug McNeal – When every we look at a road that is to be added to the system we are currently allowing \$5,000 per home and business to get it to the level that we can take it on. We can't spend money on a private road unless we can take it over. I will be happy to take a look at it to see what we can do.

4. **RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ORDINANCES**

A. NC DOT Secondary Road Improvement Resolution - Commissioner Hensley moved to adopt the NC DOT Secondary Road Improvement Resolution (a copy is hereby attached and becomes a part of the minutes). Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** – Commissioner Hensley moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Keith Masters, Chairman

Ken Hollifield, Vice-Chairman

Phil Byrd, Member

Mike Hensley, Member

Jim Saylor, Member

ATTEST:

Kathy Young, Clerk to the Board