

VIRGINIA: County of Lee, to-wit:

At the Public Hearing of the Lee County Board of Supervisors in the Circuit Courtroom of the Lee County Courthouse on January 19, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. thereof.

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. D. Leonard, Chairman
Sidney Kolb
Larry Mosley
Charles Slemp, Jr.
Robert Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dane Poe, County Administrator
Jeny Hughes, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS ABSENT: Stacy Munsey, County Attorney

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

SECONDARY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Virginia, in accordance with Section 33.1-70.01 of the Code of Virginia, conducted a joint public hearing in the General District Courtroom, Lee County Courthouse, Jonesville, Virginia on January 19, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. The purpose of this public hearing was to receive public comment on the proposed Secondary Six-Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2021/22 through 2025/26 in Lee County and on the Secondary System Construction Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/21. Copies of the proposed Plan and Budget may be reviewed at the VDOT District Office, 870 Bonham Road, Bristol, VA 24201 and in the office of the County Administrator, Room 111, Lee County Courthouse, Jonesville, VA 24263.

All projects in the Secondary Six-Year Plan that are eligible for federal funds will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which documents how Virginia will obligate federal transportation funds.

Jackie Christian, Virginia Department of Transportation, Wise Residency Assistant Administrator, presented information on funding and projects currently on the Secondary Six-Year Plan.

Mr. Christian stated the current project on the schedule is Lynn Flanary Road and the projects scheduled to begin within the next fiscal year being Reed Patch Road, Klondike Road and Maude Harless Road. Upcoming projects include Clear Springs Road and Back Valley Road. Blackwater Road, Seminary Road and Slemo Road are the new projects proposed to be added this year based on discussion at the 2019 public hearing.

The Chairman opened the floor for public expression.

David "Ed" Wampler, Seminary, stated that he will be building a home on Skeens Drive in the future and there are already six homes on that road with one neighbor doing all of the maintenance. He asked about the possibility of this road being added to the Six-Year Plan.

Mr. Poe stated that with the designation of this road as a drive means that it is a private road. This public hearing is for roads already in the state maintenance system. There are only two ways to have roads brought into the system and that would be by Rural Addition or for the property owners to go in together and bring the road up to state standards, and since there is no funding for Rural Additions there have not been applications accepted for several years.

Perry Whitt, Rose Hill, asked what criteria has to be met to get into the Six-Year Plan. He stated that Route 699, Blue Hollow Road, has more traffic than the roads mentioned in that district that are on the plan.

Mr. Christian stated that the hearing tonight is to take input and come up with a plan.

Mr. Kolb also asked about the criteria.

Mr. Christian stated that VDOT does not select the routes; it is up to the Board of Supervisors to come up with a list between now and next year.

Mr. Kolb asked when Seminary Road was added.

Mr. Christian stated it was added last year or the year before.

Mr. Leonard stated that traffic patterns could change on these roads as well and the Board may need to look at the roads on the list.

Mr. Whitt stated that Blue Hollow Road is approximately 3.2 miles long and the road has not been fully graveled in over four years.

Mr. Christian stated he would look into having gravel put on the road.

Carl Orr, Jonesville, stated that half of the hill in Martin Subdivision has been paved by the state and the other side was paved by the landowners, which is getting in bad shape. He asked for consideration in adding this section to the plan.

Jerry Wheeler, Ewing, stated that there are 19 families on Cedar Valley Road, which is a 2-mile stretch of road, and the residents maintain one and a half miles of the road. He stated that the residents are getting elderly now and it is getting harder to maintain. He stated that the community would appreciate any help.

Mr. Smith asked about getting this road on the Rural Addition.

Mr. Poe stated that everything would have to be in place, funding would have to be available and the Board would have to adopt a resolution notifying VDOT of the action.

Mr. Kolb asked who determines how much is put into the Rural Addition funds.

Mr. Christian stated that it is based on 5 percent of the annual construction budget for the unpaved roads and is set by legislature.

Jerry Collins, Blackwater, asked about maintenance and safety improvements on Route 604.

Mr. Christian stated that it is on the plan and will be worked on in about five years.

Karen Anderson, Jonesville, stated that Martin Subdivision Road is in rough shape and that the postmaster has left notes about having the road fixed.

Carla Osborne, Seminary, stated that she feels like there is a lot of need and she is willing to help if there is anything community members can do.

Mr. Kolb asked about Old Friendship Church Road.

Mr. Christian stated that part of that road was paved a couple of years ago.

There was no further public comment.

Mr. Leonard closed the public hearing.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

CLERK OF THE BOARD