

VIRGINIA: County of Lee, to-wit:

At the Public Hearing of the Lee County Board of Supervisors in the General District Courtroom of the Lee County Courthouse on June 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. thereof.

MEMBERS PRESENT: D.D. Leonard, Chairman
Josh Flanary
Mike Kidwell
Brian Shoemaker
Roger Waddell

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Allan Sumpter, VDOT Residency Administrator
Dane Poe, County Administrator
Robby Wright, Assistant County Administrator
Angie Thomas, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS ABSENT: Stacy Estep Munsey, County Attorney

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

SECONDARY SIX-YEAR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN

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 June 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed Secondary Six-Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2025/26 through 2029/30 in Lee County and on the Secondary System Construction Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/25. Copies of the proposed Plan and Budget may be reviewed at the VDOT Wise Residency Office, 703 Hurricane Road, Wise, VA 24293 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.

Allan Sumpter, Virginia Department of Transportation Residency Administrator, presented information on funding and projects currently on the unpaved roads Secondary Six-Year Plan. He stated he will be providing an overview of the plan and an update.

He stated in a six-year period Lee County usually gets around \$3-4 million of money with \$500,000-\$600,000 per year in the plan. This year's allocations are FY25 for \$531,498, FY26-29 for \$596,167 per year, and projected FY30 for \$546,280. He stated they have had to take a hard look at the program due to inflation costs going up. He stated due to having to reassess estimates and costs no new projects can be added this year but is expecting to add one or two roads to next years' plan. Previously the cost per mile was \$250,000 but with the increase in costs now it is estimated at \$385,000-\$400,000 per mile.

He stated the upcoming projects for this year that have been funded are; Route 604, Blackwater Road; Route 708, Seminary Road; Route 805, Slemp Road is scheduled for FY2026, four sections of Blue Hollow Road in Rose Hill, 1.5 miles of Back Valley Road scheduled for later this year, Route 702 Klondike Road is ready to be paved and the Thomas Walker intersection is a SmartScale Project that is expected to be finished in a few weeks. These projects total around \$3.4million. He recommended having a priority list completed for next year's plan.

Mr. Kidwell asked for an update on the mile per hour speed limit change at Thomas Walker.

Mr. Sumpter stated he would have to check on that.

Mr. Kidwell stated he has been getting lots of complaints about the weeds in the median.

Mr. Sumpter stated that is outside of the hearing but advised VDOT has had some contractual issues but they are working strongly to overcome that and will be doing everything with their own state forces for the remainder of the year.

The Chairman opened the floor for public comment.

There was no public comment.

The Chairman closed the floor for public comment.

Mr. Kidwell stated the map he saw at VDOT in Rose Hill doesn't have the 911 information included and asked if Route 604 was Blue Hollow Road.

Mr. Sumpter stated that is the Blackwater Road and they are hoping to begin that road this year. He stated funding comes on July 1 and that's when they can start making charges for Environmental Reviews and typically begin projects in the fall and will be completed in 2025. He stated another section that connects to it is Route 603, Back Valley Road.

Mr. Kidwell asked about Road 669.

Mr. Sumpter stated Route 669 is Blue Hollow Road.

Mr. Kidwell asked about Route 668.

Mr. Sumpter stated Route 668 is not on the plan.

Mr. Kidwell stated those are the two roads he has been asked about.

Mr. Sumpter stated they put about 3 or 4 sections of Road 669.

Mr. Poe stated they started with 3 and one got broken into another segment.

Mr. Sumpter stated anything over \$700,000 has to be put out for contract and if put out for contract the cost goes from \$700,000 to \$1.5 million to \$ 2million. Therefore they try to keep it inside which means splitting up and make them separate projects.

Mr. Kidwell asked what the biggest cost was to pave a mile of road.

Mr. Sumpter stated the asphalt is the biggest cost.

Mr. Kidwell asked who has the mowing contract.

Mr. Sumpter stated Telos in Roanoke and Green View has the secondary contract.

Mr. Sumpter stated getting the mowing contracts allows VDOT to work on other projects. He added they are working on a plan to correct the mowing issue.

Mr. Leonard closed the public hearing.