

July 29, 2008

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Roads Board of Caroline County, Maryland convened at 7:00 p.m. on July 29, 2008 in the hearing room, Courthouse, Denton.

Attending: Jefferson L. Ghrist, Board Chairman
John W. Cole, Member
Roger Layton, Member
Richard P. Barton, Acting County Administrator
Harry T. Cole, Roads Superintendent/Acting Director

On motion by Mr. John Cole, the Roads Board minutes of the June 24, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. Harry Cole reported the paving of **Frazier Neck Road** was completed today. The crews would then continue with the 21 miles on the resurfacing program. As time allows, dirt roads would be scraped.

On July 27th, an accident at **Garland Road Bridge** damaged the wing wall on the northeast corner. The wing wall prevents dirt from running into the creek. The guardrail was also bent, and would probably have to be replaced. The County's bridge engineer has assessed the damages to be around \$10,000. The claim would be submitted to the driver's insurance company for reimbursement to the County.

Mr. Harry Cole asked for permission to do RFP's (Request for Proposals) for repairs to the **Garland Road Bridge**. Most of the work should take place out of the travel portion of the roadway.

On motion by Mr. Roger Layton, seconded by Mr. John Cole, the Board unanimously authorized sending Request for Proposals for the repairs to **Garland Road Bridge**.

Mr. Harry Cole reported that in order to cut back on fuel costs, mowing would be delayed until September. He has found that taller grass prevents people from running off the edges of the road tearing it up. The Public Works Department is 100% oil driven.

Mr. Harry Cole reported on the ditch problem at 4639 **Bethlehem Road**, which was previously discussed during the Roads Board meeting on June 24th. The property owner, Mr. George Peugh, was concerned with the electric lines becoming exposed in the future. Mr. Harry Cole contacted Choptank Electric and learned they bury their electric cable 40 inches in the ground, so there should be no chance of the lines ever becoming exposed. The national code is 30" in the ground. If anything else was done to the ditch, it would only be for the ease of maintenance. There are several hundred other people in Caroline County that have the same situation. Some of those have taken it upon themselves to either pipe the ditches, or seek some other alternatives to taking care of the grass. If the County treats any one of these differently, they would be setting a precedent.

Mr. George Paugh stated the crews dug out the ditch, cut the slope off, and now the ground behind it is falling in. With every rain, the ditch is getting smaller; then the crews come out and dig again. He was concerned that it is just going to keep getting further back in the wire. Mrs. Peugh stated they did not create the ditch. There were no problems until the road crews came out and re-dug the ditch. They didn't start complaining until they had problems.

Mr. Roger Layton informed Mr. & Mrs. Paugh that he saw photos when the house was for sale, and it looked like the ditch embankment was the same steepness.

After discussion, the Board unanimously agreed they couldn't set a precedent since it wouldn't be fair to the taxpayers of the County; there is nothing else they can do for the Paugh's.

Mr. Charles Dean requested to have the dirt section of **Ninetown Road** privatized and closed to the public. They own the land on both sides of the road, and would like to take back control of the roadway. He stated they are the only people that live on that portion of **Ninetown Road**.

Mr. Harry Cole stated that if the Board decides to close the dirt section of **Ninetown Road**, a public hearing would have to be held.

On motion by Mr. Roger Layton, seconded by Mr. John Cole, the Roads Board unanimously agreed to hold a public hearing on the closure of the dirt portion of **Ninetown Road**.

Mr. Harry Cole stated that he received a letter from **Mr. Robin Eaton, Jr.**, Director of Public Works for the Town of Ridgely stating that before Ridgely takes ownership of **Seward Road**, a section of **Hog Lot Road**, and a section of **Race Track Road**, they would like the roads, where Mike Davidson worked, improved. He stated that he has the manpower and equipment to do the tar and chip paving, and the chip stone in stock. Funds are needed for the tar to surface the roads, and the money to pay a contractor to patch the area in front of the school parking lot with hot mix asphalt. The cost for this would be approximately \$21,000. Once the roads have been improved, the Town of Ridgely would take over maintenance.

Mr. Rick Barton, Acting County Administrator, explained this has been an ongoing issue. In looking at a funding source, Barb Spicher, Accountant II, found there would be funding available in the FY2009 Capital Reserve Account.

Mr. John Cole commented the roads are being properly transferred to the Town of Ridgely, and they should be in good condition when accepted.

On motion by Mr. Roger Layton, seconded by Mr. John Cole, the Roads Board unanimously agreed to authorize the resurfacing of **Seward Road**, and a section of **Hog Lot Road**. The \$21,000 would come from the FY2009 Capital Reserve Account.

Mr. John Cole commented that he wanted to thank Mr. Harry Cole by leading by example after a recent storm.

There being no further County Roads Board business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Diane F. Pippin
Roads Board Clerk