

June 24, 2008

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Roads Board of Caroline County, Maryland convened at 7:15 p.m. on June 24, 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 April 29, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. Harry Cole reported the maintenance crews are working on cutting down the road shoulders in preparation for the resurfacing program. Bid proposals for asphalt were received, but were over the estimated amount. The bid has not been awarded yet. With the escalating asphalt prices, the resurfacing program will have to be reduced.

The crews will be patching potholes, cleaning ditches with the Gradall, and grading dirt roads. Shoulder work would continue on the planned 25 miles of resurfacing in order to preserve the roadways. The County's bridges have been inspected; inspections are conducted every two years. The reports are being evaluated so the essential maintenance can be performed.

Mr. Harry Cole explained the ditch problem on the property of Mr. & Mrs. George Peugh, located at 4639 **Bethlehem Road**. Approximately a year ago, the Public Works Department replaced the damaged pipe with a longer pipe than was originally there. It was replaced with the County's standard size which is 24' in length. When the pipe was replaced, the debris was cleaned out of the ditch to allow water flow; thereby creating more of a slope. The back slope couldn't be cut down because the electric line is located in it. The Peugh's have not been satisfied ever since this was done. He stated that it may take several years before they actually get back to clean out a ditch, and in the meantime the ditch fills in with debris.

Mr. George Peugh commented that an adjacent property owner complained about water standing in the ditch, so Public Works came out and dug out the pipe, cleaned out the ditch, and lowered the pipe. He stated that he is not able to maintain it because of the big back slope. Another concern was the possibility of the electric lines becoming exposed. To resolve the issue, he would like the utility lines moved and the ditch sloped back, or have the ditch piped.

Mr. Harry Cole stated that other property owners have paid to have their ditch piped.

Mr. Jeff Ghrist stated that in this situation, there are other property owners that may potentially request their pipe be ditched. He suggested the Board give this some thought before they decide on a resolution. At the suggestion of Mr. John Cole, the Board decided they would take a road trip to observe the ditch on Mr. Peugh's property.

Mr. Harry Cole reported on **Frazier Neck Road** stating they have spent approximately \$110,000 prepping the road for surface treatment. The contractor has completed his part of the project, and the road is now ready for the tar and chip surface. Before the oil price increase, the cost to pave this road would have cost approximately \$40,000 now; it will be approximately \$55,375. If the road isn't paved, it would cost in the vicinity of \$25,000 just to maintain it for the next two – three years.

On motion by Mr. John Cole, and seconded by Mr. Roger Layton, the Board unanimously agreed to pave **Frazier Neck Road**.

Mr. Jeff Ghrist inquired about the estimates for the 4-H Park building roof. The 4-H Park capital account may have leftover funds from the roof project that may be used for **Frazier Neck Road**. Mr. Rick Barton, Acting County Administrator, stated that some estimates have been received, and would be discussed during the Commissioners Meeting. As far as **Frazier Neck Road**, the financial staff has identified a different source of funding for the paving of **Frazier Neck Road** that would work better.

Mrs. Cathie Moore, Comptroller, stated that Bond money could be used to pave **Frazier Neck Road**. This would be easier to track instead of taking it from another source.

On motion by Mr. John Cole, seconded by Mr. Roger Layton, the Board unanimously approved using Bond money to pave **Frazier Neck Road**.

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

