

April 29, 2008

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

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

On motion by Mr. Roger Layton, the Roads Board minutes of the February 26, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. Harry Cole gave an update on the maintenance crews stating they have been cleaning up loose stones at intersections, patching potholes, and scraping dirt roads. The inspection crew has been working with David Porter on the Tech Park. The mowing program is scheduled to begin May 5th. In order to meet objectives and reduce fuel costs, the surfaced roads would only be mowed twice during the season. Mr. Jeff Garrett, Weed Control Coordinator, will be starting a **growth regulator spraying program**, which consists of spraying the sides of the dirt roads. The savings should be considerable. The program will be evaluated at the end of the season.

The resurfacing program has been reduced from 62 miles to 28 miles, due to funding, which represents a 55% reduction. Engineering would continue on the bridge replacement schedule as long as the bond funding continues. The construction of **Mason Bridge** should begin this winter.

Bennett Excavating would be finishing the contract on **Frazier Neck Road**. This would bring the road up to the condition prior to surfacing with tar and chip. **Frazier Neck Road** will not be surfaced until funding is available.

Mr. Harry Cole stressed the importance of maintaining the County's infrastructure. The priorities should be maintaining the surfaced roads, continue the bridge schedule, and seeking Federal Aid. Part of the infrastructure should also be taking care of the employees.

Mr. Roger Layton inquired about the replacement of **Back Landing Bridge**, in Dorchester County. Mr. Harry Cole responded that Dorchester County has started the process. He explained that **Back Landing Bridge** is in Dorchester County's inventory, while **Blades Road Bridge** is in Caroline County's. Caroline has the same agreement with Queen Anne's County, in that **Crouse Mill Bridge** is in Queen Anne's inventory, while **Mason Bridge** is in Caroline's inventory. At one time, inspections were conducted on these bridges by each county.

Mr. David Porter, County Engineer, informed the Board that he met with Mike Mouds, Engineer for Dorchester County, at the **Back Landing Bridge** site. There were some concerns as to right of way acquisition. He acknowledged that **Dorchester County** was ready to move forward, but didn't have a time schedule.

Mr. Richard Barton, Director of Caroline County Public Works, reported that State Highway requested the County consider taking over the responsibility of the service roads to Rt. 404; this would include the current roads, and future construction. The State has also requested Queen Anne's County consider taking over some service roads.

After discussion, on motion by Mr. John Cole, and seconded by Mr. Roger Layton, the Board unanimously agreed that Caroline County would not be interested in taking over the service roads. The Director would be drafting a letter for Mr. John Cole's signature.

Mr. John Cole inquired about the paving specifications in a development off of **Sennett Road**. Mr. Harry Cole, Roads Superintendent, stated the roads were built to County specifications; at that time, the specifications were a tar and chip surface. The road specifications have since been changed for future developments to be hot mix overlay.

There being no further County Roads Board business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Diane F. Pippin
Roads Board Clerk