

February 26, 2008

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Roads Board of Caroline County, Maryland convened at 9:00 a.m. on February 26, 2008 in the hearing room, Courthouse, Denton.

Attending: Jefferson L. Ghrist, Board Chairman  
Roger Layton, Member  
Harry T. Cole, Roads Superintendent  
Bryan C. Ebling, Acting County Administrator

Absent: John W. Cole, Member  
Charles Cawley, County Administrator

On motion by Mr. Roger Layton, the Roads Board minutes of the January 29, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. Harry Cole reported the maintenance crews would be limbing/bushing, machine ditching, grading dirt roads, and conducting flagger recertification. Visual inspection of the roads is being conducted to check for cracks and other conditions. He stated that some roads have to be resurfaced more often than scheduled due to being built prior to having any kind of standards. The requirement for placing hot-mix overlay is having an average daily traffic count of 1,000 vehicles per day.

Mr. Harry Cole commented that staff is working on the operating budget. Most of the increases would be in energy costs directly related to oil prices. The budget would reflect a 2% increase in salaries for employees.

Mr. Bryan Ebling inquired if there would be a price increase for stone due to transportation costs. Mr. Harry Cole commented that he expects a slight increase in stone prices, but the major cost would be for asphalt. The CIP reflects 60 miles of resurfacing. The resurfacing program is one of the most critical infrastructure maintenance items. The FY09 budget includes \$800,000 for resurfacing. Last year, sixty one miles were resurfaced. Once the bid is accepted, the cost for asphalt is locked in for one year. The budget for FY08 included money to hot-mix overlay some roads, but the program was cut from the budget.

Mr. Jeff Ghrist commented that he understood that it was difficult to plan for the department when they don't know what kind of resources are coming their way.

Mr. Harry Cole presented **Resolution #2008-001, Magnolia Hill Road** for acceptance into the County Road System. **Magnolia Hill Road** is located in the Sixth Election District of Caroline County in the **Magnolia Hill Subdivision**. **Magnolia Hill Road** leads west from its intersection with **Tuckahoe Road** for a distance of 2,700' and terminates at **Magnolia Hill Road**. **Magnolia Hill Road** to be subject to a five (5) year warranty. With the Commissioners signature, the warranty period would begin February 26, 2008.

Upon motion by Mr. Roger Layton, and seconded by Mr. Jeff Ghrist, the Board approved the acceptance of **Resolution #2008-001, Magnolia Hill Road**, into the County Roads System.

Mr. Jeff Ghrist formally introduced the new **Director of Caroline County Public Works, Mr. Richard Barton**. He stated that everyone spoke very highly of him, and he was very impressed with his background, the way he expressed himself, and the tremendous amount of confidence he displayed to lead the department in a good direction. Mr. Roger Layton concurred with the remarks.

Mr. Jeff Ghrist inquired as to who was representing Caroline County on the Board for the **MidShore I** and **MidShore II**. It was noted that Mr. Charles Cawley has been attending the meetings. Mr. Harry Cole stated that he is also involved. He relayed that the access to the homeowners drop off and the main entrance to the **MidShore II** will be located off of **River Road**.

**Mr. David Porter, County Engineer**, stated that he has also attended most of the MidShore meetings, and he would be taking care of the traffic study. Maryland Environmental Service is in the process of trying to schedule a meeting to discuss traffic issues.

Mr. Jeff Ghrist stated the Board is committed to the general public that they would allow them to have some representation in the dialog and the discussion.

Mr. Jeff Ghrist then inquired about the **Supervised Labor Assistance Program (SLAP)**. Mr. Harry Cole informed the Board that Mr. Monty Monteith, Special Services Supervisor, is scheduling the work, coordinating with the Department of Corrections. Mr. Jeff Ghrist commented they were doing a good job of cleaning up the litter along the roads.

Mr. Roger Layton reported the historical marker at the end of **Wilkins Branch Road** and **Rt. 16** was broken. Mr. Harry Cole stated that State Highway handles the historical markers, and he would report it to the proper authority.

Mr. Roger Layton inquired as to how Caroline County compares to other counties as far as the amount of dirt roads or unpaved roadways. He also asked about the standard of 1,000 vehicles per day to hot-mix overlay a roadway. Mr. Harry Cole responded that Caroline County is #1 for dirt roads; they have more dirt roads than any county on the Eastern Shore or the State of Delaware. A tar and chip road should be able to handle up to 5,000 vehicles per day. Only three county roads approach 2,000 vehicles per day; they are **Payne Road, Drapers Mill Road** and **Boyce Mill Road**, the section that goes to **Drapers Mill Road**. Using hot-mix overlay is the quickest way to get a good quality roadway for the most heavily traveled roads in the county.

Mr. Roger Layton inquired about the weight restriction on **Noble Road Bridge**. Mr. Harry Cole reported the weight limit is ten ton, and it is posted. The engineering has begun for this bridge. The next three bridges to be replaced are **Mason Branch Bridge, Legion Road Bridge**, and **Noble Road Bridge**; they will all be concrete structures.

There being no further County Roads Board business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Diane F. Pippin  
Roads Board Clerk