

ROADS BOARD OF FREDERICK COUNTY
MEETING MINUTES FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

~Approved~

Present were Roads Board members: Paul Fitzgerald, AIA, Acting Chairperson; Stephen Burd; Steve Haller; Barbara Wyatt.

Also present were County staff: Charles Nipe, Director, Division of Public Works; Robert Shen, P.E. Department Head, Department of Engineering and Construction Management; David Ennis, P.E., Department Head, Department of Highway and Facility Maintenance; Jason Stitt, P.E., Chief, Office of Transportation Engineering; Dave Olney, Project Manager, Office of Transportation Engineering; Bill Routzahn, Superintendent, Office of Highway Operations; Michael Ramsburg, Maintenance Section Supervisor, Office of Highway Operations; David Stonesifer, Manager, Office of Highway Operations; Stephanie Richards, Accounting Support, Office of Highway Operations and Leo Davis, District 3 Foreman, Office of Highway Operations.

(Official minutes of the Roads Board meetings are kept on file in the Department of Engineering and Construction Management. To view agendas, approved meeting minutes, and video recorded Roads Board meetings, visit the County's website at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/roadsboard)

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. The Frederick County Roads Board met on Monday, September 10, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. for their quarterly public meeting. The meeting is located in the second floor meeting room of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland. The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairperson, Paul Fitzgerald and was followed by evacuation instructions and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Introduction of the members of the Roads Board was led by Mr. Fitzgerald. Mr. Shen introduced the County staff members.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comment was heard from:

- A. David Hunter, Frederick County Resident ([At 00:03:31 of the video](#)) Mailed in his concerns with Frederick County Rural Road Program since he was unable to attend with the most disturbing aspect being that he feels there is a prioritization of repairing small gravel roads verse rural roads. Example being Carrol Boyer verses Poffenberger. He would like for DPW to create programs and management practices since he feels that the rural roads are important to the county once they are gone, you cannot get them back. Chuck Nipe responded to Mr. Hunter's email correspondence stating that Mr. Hunter's concerns are appreciated. Carol Boyer was a safety concern and Poffenberger is a work in progress. DPW does not have a biased with gravel roads, there is a policy that they adhere to. The weather was a key factor.
- B. Susan Hanson, Poffenberger Road ([At 00:09:00 of the video](#)) DPW has put the gravel roads at the bottom of the repair list. Dahlgren's petition was moved forward without the required number of signatures. Concerning the petition to remove Harley Road, the signatures are from July. Gravel roads will not survive with the current practices. John Thomas requested that

the CIP budget be submitted to the Roads Board for review and she wants to know when this request will be answered. Stephen Burd questioned if it was the authenticity or the procedure she had concerns with. She stated that the procedure was her issue. Dave Onley stated that Dahlgren's road petition, the names and properties, were reviewed. When the staff report was reviewed, the initial property lines were not correct and it was determined that the petitioner was short two signatures. The petitioner was advised of this but had already post in the Frederick News Post. The petitioner did obtain two additional signatures prior to the meeting, making the total approximately 63%. Mr. Fitzgerald advised that the presentation that DPW gave at the prior meeting concerning the maintenance procedures for the counties rural roads was very informative and wondered if there was any additions. Mr. Nipe advised that that was for information purposes per the Friends of Rural Roads complete and there is no further action needed. This is listed on the website if anyone wishes to review it.

- C. Brooks Bagley, Harley Road, Frederick County Resident ([At 01:26:19 of the video](#)) Original petitioner that has lived on Harley Road since 2009 on a 22-acre farm lot. In 2010, Harley Road looked like an obstacle course. Mike Ramsburg has received numerous emails with concerns. When it rains, all the work that was completed is gone. He submitted 9 pages of photos. There are massive ditches along the side of the road, as well as areas that 2 cars cannot pass. He is making the request not because of DPW's response time or because DPW advised that his concerns cannot be addressed unless the road is removed from the Rural Roads Program. Harley Road needs assistance every rain and not just the required two times per a year.
- D. John Shanton, Harley Road, Frederick County Resident ([At 01:43:13 of the video](#)) Has lived on Harley Road for 2 years and feels that it is time to fix the constant problem. It would be safer for cyclists, runners and cars. Severe erosion makes it impossible for 2 cars to pass in some areas. There is excessive runoff into Catoctin Creek. He submitted pictures as well and advised that tar and chip road surfaces do not have constant erosion.
- E. Heather Shanton, Harley Road, Frederick County Resident ([At 01:54:27 of the video](#)) Submitted pictures. Has lived on Harley Road for 20 years. Every rain, the road needs to be fixed. The gravel all washes out. DPW came out in July and fixed the big potholes and the very next morning the work is washed away. This is a bus turn around as well. Would like what was completed on Tower Road to be complete on Harley.
- F. Eric Rice, Harley Road, Frederick County Resident ([At 01:57:13 of the video](#)) He stated that he is a resident on Harley Road since 1985 and is one of the two that doesn't have the answer but thinks there needs to be a comprehensive plan to fix the rural roads without removing it from the rural road. States both problems are engineering problems. The grading needs to be fixed as well as the banking in the curves. The issue in the petition isn't the problem but the necessary road repairs are. The policy needs to be fixed, having a rural road and having it safe.
- G. Bob Kresslein, Dahlgren Road, Frederick County Resident ([At 00:53:53 of the video](#)) A resident of Dahlgren for 28 years and is the petitioner of the petition to remove Harley Road from the Rural Roads Program. Tar and chip is from the top of the mountain and stops at the top of the ridge. The western portion of the road is still gravel. This creates inconsistency with maintenance in the winter because of this. Different equipment and material are needed for one road. The road can be fixed one day and it rains and the road is back to how it was. This is an ongoing issue and not based upon all the rain that was received in May or because DPW's response time. His response time from DPW is reasonable. Mr. Olney stated that he

hasn't looked at other options but this is one of the steepest roads in the county and making changes to the grade or culverts is very challenging.

- H. Bruce Darner, Harley Road, Frederick County Resident [\(At 01:49:20 of the video\)](#) A resident on Harley since 1985. He submitted a picture from 1993 when the culverts were put in and stated he was advised by the County at that time that they were prepping to put hard surface on. It washes out every time it rains. He has taken tons of stone out of his field that has washed out. DPW does everything they can but cannot keep up with the forces of nature. Anything that is done is just a Band-Aid.
- I. Joanne Romella, Harley Road, Frederick County Resident [\(At 02:08:58 of the video\)](#) She has lived on the road since 2005. Scared to have people visit because of the driving hazards. Sometime there is only the width of the car that came be travelled on. Wants it to be safer.
- J. Sam Zigler, Harley Road, Frederick County Resident [\(At 02:13:27 of the video\)](#) He is completely in favor of having the road upgrade. He does not think tar and chip is addressing the originally problem. It's the drainage. It is not clear why you have to take a road out of the program to get it paved.

III. OLD BUSINESS (At 00:21:05 of the video)

- A. Approval of minutes of June 4, 2018:
Mr. Burd motioned to adopt the June 4, 2018 minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald. Motion carried.
- B. Frederick City Water Shed: Frederick City Watershed Road Transfer (Frederick City Staff Presentation) [\(At 00:21:46 of the video\)](#) Dave Onley presented that the County entered into road transfer with the City with a portion that is in the Watershed for better control of activities. A quick claim deed has been finalized and the process is complete.
- C. Roads Board Vacancy [\(At 00:23:57 of the video\)](#) One letter of interest was received and was sent to the Roads Board for discussion. Mr. Haller advised that the applicant is Jim [Louis] Bonneville who is a retired trooper of the Maryland State Police and would make an outstanding member and great addition to the board. He motioned to add Mr. Bonneville and Mr. Burd seconded the motion with the Motion being carried.

IV. NEW BUSINESS (At 00:24:15 of the video)

- A. Roads Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson – Steve Haller recommended that Mr. Fitzgerald take over the Chairmanship with Mr. Burd seconding the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Fitzgerald recommended Mr. Haller take over as the Vice Chairperson and this was seconded by Mr. Burd. The motion carried.
- B. 2019 Legislative Consideration – Mr. Shen asked for the Roads Boards input of anything that they would want to be taken to the County Executive's Office. An example is that in 2017 the highway user revenue had dropped in 2007/2008 from \$13.8 million to and around \$2 million because of the prioritization and allocation. There were no items that the board requested to be submitted.
- C. Petition to Remove Dahlgren Road from the Rural Roads Program (Staff Presentation) – Mr. Onley advised the DPW is seeking the removal of a 1.55 miles on Dahlgren Road per a petition

that was received. 25 parcels are adjacent of the road. Final count is that there are 22 property owners, this gives the total count of 14 participants. Stabilizing the portion of the road is the petitioner's goal. Mr. Routzahn advised that as far as maintenance it is concerned, Dahlgren is one of the most difficult to maintain. Per Mr. Olney, the final outcome would mean that approximately .85 miles to remain gravel. Stabilization is being asked for where there are homes, from 1709 to 1741 Dahlgren Road. Mr. Haller motioned to accept the petition and Mr. Burd seconded and the motion was carried.

- D. Petition to Remove Harley Road from the Rural Roads Program (Staff Presentation) - Mr. Olney stated that Harley Road is a piedmont style road and is approximately 1.35 miles long and is entirely a gravel surface. There are 17 eligible participants with 15 supporting the petition. This gives a total of 88% in favor of the petition. The motion to remove Harley Road ended in a tie vote, the motion was defeated. Mr. Nipe advised that the Road's Board is an advisory committee and per the Counties policy, the Petition will continue on with the petition and the Counties Executive will make the decision.

V. CIP AND OTHER PROJECT UPDATES (At 02:35:06 of the video)

- A. Ijamsville Road Phase II - Completed with the final punch list items and change order work still pending.
- B. Boyers Mill Road/Bridge: Completed with the final punch list items and change order work still pending.
- C. Pavement Management Program:
- o FY18 Surface Coat – Starting in October.
 - o FY18/19 Tar and Chip – Contractor is completing.
 - o FY18 Overlay – Contractor is completing.
 - o FY18 Patch and Repair – Currently being completed.
 - o FY18 Deck Reclamation – This will be advertised in the fall and started in the spring 2019.
 - o FY19 Overlay – Pilot Program with Thin Lift Micro Surfacing in some subdivisions instead of Slurry Seal. This will be advertised in the fall and started in the spring 2019.
- D. Gas House Pike Bridge Replacement – Gas Line relocation work is complete. Bridge construction will start next spring contingent upon completion of the City's Monocacy Boulevard Project.

VI. HIGHWAY OPERATIONS UPDATES (Staff) (At 00:17:38 of the video)

- A. May Rain Event Damage Update – Some areas had 10 inches of rain. At one point there were 46 roads closed with damage. There are still 3 slop failures; Poffenberger Road, Mt. Zion Road and Roy Schaffer Road. 200 complaints were received because of the flooding and there are still 5 issues pending.
- B. Gravel Road Spring Maintenance- Mid-October is the anticipated start day and this should take approximately one month to complete.

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- C. Winter Maintenance Preparation – Salt is fully stocked with 24,000 tons. Salt Brine will be made again this year. Snow contractors are all compliant.

VII. **ROADS BOARD ISSUES** **(At 02:41:31 of the video)**

- A. Mr. Fitzgerald addressed about getting the name changes incorporated.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT** **(At 02:43:08 of the video)**

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held December 3, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. on the second floor Winchester Room of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Richards
Division of Public Works
Office of Highway Operations

cc: All via email:
Roads Board Members
County Staff Attendees