

**MINUTES FROM A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING RE-PRIORITIZING JOHN SHEARIN ROAD ON THE NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S WARREN COUNTY ROADS IMPROVEMENT PLAN HELD BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF WARREN IN THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM 202 ON AUGUST 27, 2008 AT 6:00 PM.**

The Public Hearing was called to order by Chairman Clinton G. Alston. Other Commissioners present: William "Bill" Davis, Ernest Fleming, Barry M. Richardson and Ulysses S. Ross. Others in attendance: Linda T. Worth, County Manager.

Notice of public hearing was read by the Clerk to the Board. Citizen comments were as follows:

Vera J. Palmer lives on Cole Farm Rd and a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on Pete Farm Road stated her church has been trying for years to get their road paved, with no success. There is a subdivision on Pete Farm Rd and Lake Gaston is in the area, both generate heavy traffic.

Sandra Shearin property owner on John Shearin Rd stated DOT had to develop a method because there was no protocol for the action being taken to re-prioritize a road, we are making history. Questioned why the re-prioritization came about, what was the impetus? Ms. Shearin and her family use the road all the time, travel the road everyday.

John S. Strickland, lives on Florida Farm Rd in Macon, constructed a home 2 years ago, the original DOT survey placed only two homes on the road now there are 4 houses. Florida Farm Road is used year round, roads were good two years ago, but now look like washboards with pot holes every time it rains. This road should be considered for paving.

Richard Miles, resident of Florida Farm Rd, agreed with prior speaker. He inquired what criteria DOT uses to determine road priority. Florida Farm Road is 1/3 the length of John Shearin Rd, the road is 2 years away from receiving public water and should receive road improvements also within that time.

Answer: DOT looks at house count, amount of traffic, and school bus use.

Phil Haskins, Meadows Rd, Norlina off Oine Rd stated his road is ½ mile long and has 5 houses, 16 drivers and school buses in and out. It should be considered for paving.

Sandra Shearin added that not much information was provided the public concerning the re-prioritization of John Shearin Road.

County Manager Linda T. Worth informed the public that it is not the intent of the Board of Commissioners to arbitrarily move another road up in priority to replace the John Shearin Road. DOT already has a listing of roads with priority already established.

Steve Winstead and Brandon Jones, DOT Regional District Engineers were present to answer any questions the public or the Board of Commissioners had. Fifty-seven (57) unpaved roads in Warren County, rating system is approved by DOT Board of Transportation. If Board approves re-prioritizing, the John Shearin Road will move to number 34 on the list and will take approximate 4 years before it is considered again for paving.

Chairman Alston requested DOT officials explain once again the method used in priority rating of roads.

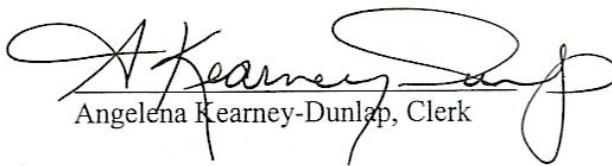
Three letters were received by the County Manager's office in favor of John Shearin Road being paved:

Mr. Chris Sandifer, Trustee for the Adrienne R. Lawrence Family, stated "of course they prefer the road be paved, but neither he nor the Lawrence family live on the road."

Carolyn V. and Jesse Crawford, Jr. two letters in support of paving John Shearin Rd:

“Dear Ms. Worth, my wife owns a small farm on 1533 – The John Shearin Rd. We both are very pleased that this road is being considered for paving. It certainly would make travel to the farm much better especially in the wintertime. We plan to attend the 27 August meeting, but we do have some health problems and wish to make this an affirmative letter in case we cannot attend.” (Second letter expressed the same desire.)

On a motion of Commissioner Richardson, which was seconded by Commissioner Fleming and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 8:00 pm.



Angelena Kearney-Dunlap, Clerk