

**WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE**  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Thursday, August 24, 2017 - 9:00 a.m.**

**ORIGINAL**

**Public Works Committee Members Present:** Commissioners James H. Westbrook, Jr., Jack Vincent, Dennis Doster, Eric Owen, Tommy Jones, and Dale Overton

**Public Works Committee Members Absent:** None

The Public Works Committee met on Thursday, August 24, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room at the Department of Finance/Board of Education in Dresden. Others present were Director of Finance John Liggett, Roads Supervisor Charles Ross, Mayor Jake Bynum, Property Assessor David Tuck, Lisa Odle from the Property Assessor's Office, Zayo Group Director of Operations Artie Debons, Zayo Group Projects Manager Justin Clary, and two representatives of the media.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairperson Westbrook called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and called for the approval of the minutes from the June 23, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Jones made the motion to approve the minutes and with a second by Commissioner Doster, the motion to approve passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Discussion of Zayo Group Corporation Right-of-Way Usage**

Chairperson Westbrook recessed the meeting and for information and project explanation from the Zayo Group, as well as a question and answer session. Mr. Artie Debons, Zayo Group Director of Operations, explained that his company is part of a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contract in the midst of a long haul project to install fiber optic cable from Nashville to Fulton, Kentucky, with sections of the installation running through Weakley County. Chairperson Westbrook asked whether the company was familiar with Weakley County's regulations outlined in Resolution 2015-23 [Regulations Governing the Use of the County Right-of-Way in Weakley County, Tennessee], and Mr. Debons stated that they are familiar and assured the committee that his company would make sure that all work is done according to plan and prints, and in compliance with Resolution 2015-23. There was some discussion about past issues with contractors, responsibility, the sections of Weakley County where the fiber will cross, and the colors of the fiber conduit. Road Supervisor Ross said that he had reviewed the specifications and everything looked good, and provided a back-story and cautionary tale about impulsive digging without checking. He asked the Zayo Group representatives to provide assurance that if any damage occurred by the Zayo Group crews, Weakley County would not be liable, and Mr. Debons agreed that Weakley County would not be liable or responsible. Mr. Debons suggested a pre-construction meeting to discuss standards and expectations of all parties and Supervisor Ross agreed that it would be a good idea. Chairperson Westbrook reconvened the meeting from recess.

**B. Discussion of Opening and Closing of Spur Between Area South of Martin and Sharon in District 7**

Supervisor Ross passed out two maps to the committee that showed a section of road between Old Highway 45 and Summer Road in Martin's District 7. He explained that the land around the area is owned by Mr. Bob Busby, who requested that the section of road be closed due to it being his land on either side of the road, and for that reason is receives scarce public traffic. Supervisor Ross went on to say that the road was not actually on the County Maintenance Road List, and that the county has been asked to close a road that is not technically a county road.

Discussion commenced at length about where the road was exactly situated, the entity responsible for the road, past maintenance, and residents and homes on the road. Chairperson Westbrook recommended that Supervisor Ross contact the regional board about the road, and stated that no actions could be performed by the committee at this point.

**C. and D. Discuss Changes in State Bridge Grant Program and Discussion of Bridges on Old Highway 22 Between Dresden and Gleason**

Supervisor Ross said that a portion of Governor's roads repair legislation includes a high priority bridge replacement program. He said that ten (10) Weakley County bridges had been identified, with eight (8) being county bridges and two (2) being technically owned by the City of Dresden, but that the city had apparently de-annexed. He said that Tennessee Counties participating in the program have been asked to give one third (1/3) of their bridge grant funds over to the next 14 years to supplement the program, and in return, all of the bridges on the list will be repaired at no cost to the county. Supervisor Ross continued by saying that Weakley County gets \$115,000 to \$120,000 per year in bridge grant funds. He went on to talk about some specific bridges around the county that were in poor shape and stated that the program would help take care of those bridge repair projects. He said that the two bridges that the state has listed as belonging to the City of Dresden could be repaired at no cost at all to the county or the city, due to the fact that the City of Dresden's population is under 5,000 people, if the City of Dresden claimed them. Chairperson Westbrook stated that he and Supervisor Ross would talk to the Mayor of Dresden about the bridges.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Other Discussion**

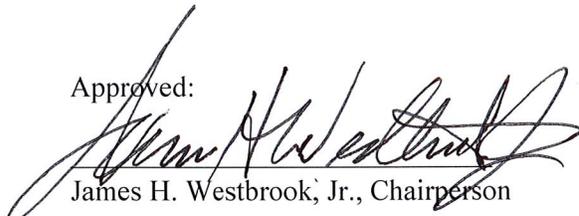
Having no other business, Commissioner Owen made the motion to adjourn and with a second by Commissioner Jones, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erica Moore, Secretary  
Public Works Committee

Approved:



James H. Westbrook, Jr., Chairperson  
Public Works Committee

Date: 9-8-17