

**CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2018**

PRESENT AND ACTING:

**DANNY RAY WISE, CHAIRMAN
GENE BAILEY, VICE-CHAIRMAN
DARRELL MCDOUGALD
DENNIS JONES
JERAL HALL**

**CARLA A. HAND, CLERK OF COURT AND COUNTY COMPTROLLER
SARAH WILLIAMS, CLERK ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

The workshop was called to order by Chairman Wise at 5:00 p.m., CT.

Ms. Snowden stated she and Mr. Justin Ford would be discussing different projects the Board might be interested in submitting applications for regarding the FDOT SCRAP (Small County Road Assistance Program), SCOP (Small County Outreach Program), and CIGP (County Incentive Grant Program) programs for the 2018 funding cycle. Ms. Snowden stated the due date for applications is March 15. Ms. Snowden stated last year FDOT allowed five (5) applications to be submitted, but this year the number has been reduced to three (3) applications due to the volume of good applications the department was receiving, and the increased costs of the projects submitted. Ms. Snowden stated one (1) SCOP, one (1) SCRAP, and one (1) CIGP project application would be allowed this funding cycle. Ms. Snowden stated this reduction of allowed applications is not concerning; in the past the County has been generally been awarded funding for at least one (1) or two (2) of the five (5) applications that have been submitted. Ms. Snowden stated the department has mentioned in the past that they have pulled back on funding unpaved roads, but this does not mean they would not fund an unpaved road if there were a good application submitted. Ms. Snowden stated the SCRAP program is strictly a re-surfacing program for roads that have been on the County road system before June 10, 1995. Ms. Snowden stated the SCOP program is for unpaved roads, bridge repair, and also re-surfacing. Ms. Snowden stated the CIGP program is focused on connecting two (2) State highway systems, and the program only funds projects at 50%. Ms. Snowden stated Mr. Ford would speak with the Board further about roads to submit for this funding cycle, and also Mr. Tim Keiffer, a resident on Porter Grade Road, would like to discuss with the Board why he believes Porter Grade Road should be submitted for funding.

Chairman Wise asked if the roads from the previous funding cycle that did not get selected would be resubmitted for funding this cycle. Ms. Snowden stated this would be strictly up to the Board as to which roads are selected for submittal. There was further discussion about previously submitted roads.

Mr. Ford provided the Board with a handout containing a map with previously funded roads and potential roads that could be funded this cycle, and also a list of the funded and potential projects. Mr. Ford referred to the list and map in the handout and went through the roads listed as potential projects for submittal. Mr. Ford stated Porter Grade Road has been applied for two (2) different times in the past five (5) years but FDOT has not selected it for funding. Mr. Ford stated this road is a lime rock road, and FDOT has been more focused on roads that are already paved and need to be resurfaced. Mr. Ford stated the road would be a good project, aside from the fact it is an unpaved road. Mr. Ford stated

Highway 73A has poor pavement condition and is extremely narrow. Mr. Ford stated if this road were to be pursued for funding, widening and resurfacing would be a priority. Mr. Ford stated the condition of Jim Pickron Road is not terrible all together, but there are areas where the road is in bad shape. Mr. Ford stated when the road was paved the pipe material that was used was not good quality and they have now deteriorated, causing the road to sag in those areas. There was further discussion about Jim Pickron Road. Mr. Ford stated Monroe Johnson/Land Road was submitted for funding last year, but was not selected for funding. Mr. Ford stated the road is a lime rock road, so would probably be of low priority to FDOT. Mr. Ford stated Lola Road is not in terrible condition as far as the pavement goes but there is a section of the road where there is a very deep ditch, which causes safety concerns. Mr. Ford stated safety funds could be pursued, but there have not been many car accidents on the road. Mr. Ford stated if there were a crash in that area, it would be severe, so safety improvements related to the drainage on the road would be beneficial. Mr. Ford stated Cooper Road is a narrow road and in poor pavement condition, but does not have a high traffic volume. Mr. Ford stated the road is not very long and would not have a very high cost associated with resurfacing and widening. Mr. Ford stated the West End Paving is a cluster of roads on the west end of town that are in very poor condition. Mr. Cliff Edenfield stated the road department has patched the roads numerous times. Mr. Ford stated these roads were submitted last year, and if selected the application would be easy to put together since it was submitted last year. Mr. Ford stated these roads are the projects they have come up with, but he is open to any other road suggestions from the Board. Chairman Wise stated he would like to see the West Blountstown Paving be submitted again for funding. Mr. Ford stated a decision does not have to be made tonight; the Board could review the list and make a decision at the second Board meeting in February. Ms. Snowden suggested the Board think about creating a capital improvement plan, and list roads in need of improvements from high priority to low priority. Mr. Ford stated many counties have capital improvement plans, and it could be helpful when determining what roads to submit for these programs. Mr. Edenfield stated at the end of the fiscal year he would pull the top ten roads money has been spent on throughout the year so the Board could look into improving the roads so money could be saved by the county. Mr. Ford stated there are other opportunities for funding other than FDOT programs to pave and resurface roads such as LAP (Local Agency Program) and CDBG (Community Block Development Grant). Mr. Ford stated the Board should not be discouraged that FDOT is not funding many unpaved roads; the county may have to be creative with how these projects are funded. Commissioner Jones stated he likes Ms. Snowden's idea about a capital improvement plan, but the list would have to be fair to each district. Mr. Edenfield stated he would like to make the capital improvement plan more of a community effort, with two (2) citizens from each district serving on a committee to help with the list instead of the decision of which roads to add to the plan lying solely on the Commissioners. Commissioner McDougald stated he likes Mr. Edenfield's idea of coming up with a maintenance list of which roads are high priority in regards to cost to the county. There was further discussion about funding road improvement projects in the county. Commissioner McDougald asked how FDOT determines which roads are funded and which are not. Mr. Ford stated each program has different requirements, but the number one (1) criteria generally is existing pavement condition. There was further discussion about funding. Mr. Edenfield stated he would like to see Porter Grade Road selected for funding because on the amount of time that has to be spent grading the four and a half mile road. Mr. Edenfield stated County Road 1, County Road 5, and County Road 10 are also roads that are going to need to be addressed in the future, and they are long roads as well. Mr. Ford stated these roads would have to be broken down into phases because of the amount of money it would cost to pave all at once. Mr. Edenfield stated the County might need to look into funding for soil injections, which make a dirt or lime rock road almost like concrete, if funding from FDOT or other sources cannot be obtained for paving. There was further discussion about road improvement funding.

Mr. Tim Keiffer addressed the Board regarding Porter Grade Road. Mr. Keiffer thanked the Board for submitting Porter Grade Road for funding twice in the past. Mr. Keiffer stated in the last two and a half years Porter Grade Road has had about \$19,000 worth of maintenance costs, and since lime rock has been placed on the road the road has cost about \$60,000 in maintenance costs. Mr. Keiffer stated this is money that could be used for other services in the County if the road were paved. Mr. Keiffer stated Porter Grade Road is highly used, and it is his understanding the road was initially phased for paving but currently only about four (4) miles has been paved. Mr. Keiffer asked the Board to consider pursuing Porter Grade Road for funding.

Ms. Snowden asked the Board if they would like to make a decision at the next Board meeting. There was consensus to discuss the projects and decide which to submit at the next Board meeting on February 27.

Chairman Wise asked if there are any FDOT specifications for road width when paving. Mr. Ford stated there are no specifications from FDOT on road width. Mr. Ford stated depending on what kind of road is being paved and where the road is located, road width may vary. Mr. Ford stated high traffic roads need to be wider than lower volume traffic roads. Mr. Ford stated there are some standards they would encourage the County to meet. Chairman Wise stated that on some of the roads in his district the citizens are just happy to have asphalt even if they are not very wide. Chairman Wise asked if just paving a smaller road would help with maintenance costs on some roads throughout the County. Mr. Edenfield stated it would absolutely help. Mr. Edenfield stated on high traffic roads, such as Porter Grade Road, ten (10) foot lanes could be installed initially and then the County could apply for the road to be widened at some point. Mr. Ford stated this could work, because the road would then be eligible for paving under FDOT programs. Mr. Ford stated on small capacity roads smaller lanes are acceptable, but on larger capacity roads he would recommend wider lanes. There was further discussion about road lane width.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m., CT.


DANNY RAY WISE, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


CARLA A. HAND, CLERK OF COURT