



Lawrence County  
**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**DATE:** Monday, May 5, 2025 | **TIME:** 5:00 – 5:39 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Wayne Yocom, **Commissioners:** Denny Gillespie, Barry Luffman, Steve Hagan, Phillip Heatherly, Rick Skillington, Tim Clifton, Sandy Newton, Chris Sutherland, Dave Ray, John Bradley, and Shane Eaton. **Road Superintendent** Ryan Krick, **Assistant** Patsy Lee, **County Attorney** Charlie Holt

**ROLL CALL:** Chairman Wayne Yocom, Denny Gillespie, Tim Clifton, Barry Luffman, Sandy Newton

Chairman Yocom called the meeting to order.

**DISCUSSION ON ROAD SPECIFICATIONS:**

Krick noted that current road specifications need updating due to recent issues with roads being built in natural drainage areas or near creeks.

Lee distributed photos of a newly constructed road submitted for county approval that had flooded during recent rainfall.

Skillington questioned whether the specifications require the county to accept all submitted roads.

Krick replied that, in his experience, the department has only rejected one road. The current issue involves a road that meets technical specifications but is poorly situated.

The subdivision owner has proposed raising the road by two feet, but Krick stated this will only make flooding worse for nearby homes. The road will serve 7-8 houses.

It was noted that the Highway Committee previously agreed to add “fuel” and “labor” costs to the specifications.

**Motion to also add these changes, plus language specifying that roads located in flood plains or next to creeks will not be accepted, pending approval by the County Attorney.**

**Motion:** Luffman; **Second:** Gillespie

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- **Lee** reported the department will be in a better financial position by June 30 than originally expected.
- \$675,000 in bond money was spent in the fall; billing will resume with upcoming tar and gravel work.
- Approximately \$400,000 has been spent on water damage repairs, not covered by bond funds.
- Two new trucks have arrived; two more are still in Nashville.

## **BRIDGE NAMING PROPOSALS:**

- **Sutherland** read a letter from State Rep. Clay Doggett recommending that the Shoal Creek Bridge on Busby Road be named the Mary Todd Bridge. He also requested it be named in memory of Janet Gieske, with two different signs.
  - **Mr. Gieske** addressed the committee and expressed appreciation. He will cover the cost of the memorial sign.
- **Yocom** requested the vote include signage for the Bluewater Creek bridge on Beartown Road, historically known as Yocom's Ford. He will personally fund the Yocom's Ford sign.

### **Motion to approve two signs at Shoal Creek Bridge and Yocom's Ford.**

**Motion:** Gillespie; **Second:** Luffman.

**Vote:** Unanimous, 5/0.

## **POLICY ON NAMING ROADS AND BRIDGES:**

- **Skillington** suggested the Highway Committee should formally review and approve all road and bridge naming proposals.
  - **Gillespie** noted this is already the informal process.
  - **Eaton** added that naming proposals usually come through a Commissioner first.

## **WATER LINE EASEMENTS:**

- **Heatherly** discussed water line placement and the scope of county easements.
  - **Holt** stated that the county generally owns the easement from "ditch to ditch."
  - However, **Krick** noted that CTAS guidance says the county lacks easement authority unless a formal resolution states otherwise.

- **Holt** and **Krick** will draft a resolution granting Krick authority to approve utility line placement within ditches. This will be reviewed by the Highway Committee and presented to the full Commission.

- **Holt** suggested that a formal permitting process is needed for utility line installations.

- **Luffman** proposed that property tax forms might include a statement clarifying county easement rights.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion to adjourn**

**Motion:** Clifton; **Second:** Gillespie.

**Vote:** Unanimous, 5/0

**Minutes Submitted By:** Nancy Brewer