

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MAY 03, 2016 AT 6:30 PM IN THE
BEN HILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Philip C. Jay III	Chairman
Daniel Cowan	Vice-Chairman
Bennie Calloway	Commissioner
John Mooney	Commissioner
Frank Feild	County Manager
Donna Prather	County Clerk
Toni Sawyer	County Attorney

Public Hearing: Closing Snipe Road & Portions of Oriole Road

County Manager Frank Feild stated the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners is considering closing Snipe Road and the Oriole Road Crossing of the CSX Railroad Line. Both Snipe Road and Oriole Road are County roads that have been maintained by the Road Department and are on the inventory of roads that we annually provide the Department of Transportation.

Snipe Road is 0.3 mile unimproved dirt road that runs north and south; connecting Owl Road with the Jacksonville Highway. It is located about 50 yards west of, and runs parallel to, Peachtree Road in the Industrial Park. It runs across private farmland and does not provide access to any homes. There is very little traffic on this road. If the Commission closes this road, it would do so by abandoning its prescriptive rights and the right-of-way would revert to the adjacent property owners.

The Oriole Road Crossing of the CSX Railroad Line is located east of the Industrial Park, and lies between the Dave Bishop, Sr. Road Crossing and the Pine Level Church Road Crossing. Oriole Road is an improved dirt road that has moderate traffic and provides access to several homes and farmlands.

This project involves the County improving the approaches to both the Dave Bishop, Sr. and Pine Level Church Road Crossings. We will build-up, level and pave the approaches like we did at the Lilac Road Crossing; and improve the drainage. DOT will add these two crossings to the State Transportation Improvement Program for Federal funding of Active Warning Devices (which are train-activated, signalized, guarded crossing devices with flashing lights). These devices cost about \$350,000 each, and are installed by CSX. DOT and CSX have offered to help reimburse the County for some of our costs of upgrading the approaches; which we estimate will cost about \$65,000. Once the Active Warning Devices are installed at the Dave Bishop, Sr. and Pine Level Church Road Crossings, the County will close the Oriole Road Crossing and 0.6 miles of Oriole Road; from its intersection with Dave Bishop, Sr. Road to its intersection with Pine Level Church Road.

This will also be done by the County abandoning its prescriptive rights, and the right-of way will revert to the adjacent property owners.

Public Comments

No Public Comments

Commissioner Bennie Calloway made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Commissioner John Mooney seconded the motion; which passed with Commissioner Bennie Calloway, Commissioner John Mooney, and Vice-Chairman Daniel Cowan all voting for the motion.

Meeting adjourned

_____ Philip C. Jay III, Chairman

_____ Donna R. Prather, County Clerk