

Environmental Committee
May 5, 2025 | 4:30 PM
Cumberland Room, Art Circle Public Library

Members Present:

Sue York
Nancy Hyder (A)
Karen Shanks
David Gibson
Jack Davis
Joe Sherrill
Mark Baldwin
Deborah Holbrook
John Patterson (A)

Others Present:

Crossville Chronicle
Torey LaMontagne, Mayor's Office, Minutes
John Wedgeworth, Chair, Planning Commission
Tom Isham, 2nd District
Darrell Threet, 3rd District
Colleen Mall, 9th District
Jimmy Eller, Solid Waste

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Chair David Gibson called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm on Monday, May 5, 2025 in the Cumberland Room at the Art Circle Public Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joe made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Deb, none were opposed, and the motion carried. The previous minutes were approved as presented.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA

No public comment.

SOLID WASTE UPDATES, JIMMY ELLER

Assistant Director of Solid Waste, Jimmy Eller, was present on behalf of Conrad Welch with updates on Solid Waste. Jimmy stated that they are as busy as ever. Upgrades have been installed at various convenience centers, as well as a few equipment fixes and replacements. TDEC is currently working with solid waste to formulate a final plan for a leak that is happening at the landfill. That should be worked out shortly.

REPORT: ROAD GOALS SUBCOMMITTEE

Joe Sherrill, chair of the Road Goals Subcommittee presented findings and recommendations that had been discussed by the subcommittee. Joe noted that currently, Cumberland County roads are on a roughly 20-year, or 5% recycle rate per year, amounting to a cost of roughly 4.8 million dollars per year. If the county wishes to move to a 10-year, or 10% recycle rate/year, the cost jumps to roughly 9.6 million dollars per year.

The subcommittee supported several recommendations for the road department, including:

- Additional one-time funds of 1 million from general fund for '25-'26 budget year
- An additional 7 full-time employees, beginning in 2025, to create pothole and mowing teams

Joe noted the best long-term solution would be for all Cumberland County roads to be paved. The best practical solution is to recycle roads more frequently and fill potholes with hot not cold, mix. Also suggested increasing workforce and implementing teams.

Sue asked if the real-estate transfer tax being returned to Counties had passed. The transfer tax did not pass legislation this year. Sue also asked if Stanley had recently hired anyone, and Joe answered that he currently has a staff of 17 including admin.

Tom mentioned that he talked with the Sheriff, and the Sheriff has offered trustees to the road department for additional help.

Deb asked if we were in such despair that we couldn't contract any of this out, but the issue is that bids were not received on time for the last mowing bid. The department also purchased mowers for department workers to be able to use.

Joe noted that of the 2-million-dollar one-time donation from the commission, around 1.1 million of it has been spent on equipment.

Mayor Foster did not have any further input when asked. He noted that the road department needs help.

SPEED LIMIT DISCUSSION: FAIRFIELD GLADE AND TANSI

Fairfield Glade and Tansi would both like to change the speed limits of their roads that are on the county road list. Currently, law says that roads that are NOT posted are 55 mph. FFG and Tansi have both provided road lists that were cross-referenced multiple times by the mayor and his assistant. The roads on the lists will be added to the list of roads that have changed speed limits. They will be going to 30 mph. Each HOA/POA is responsible for the cost of the signs. Deb made a motion to approve the speed limit changes for FFG and Tansi, with their respective POAs paying for the signs. Sue seconded the motion, none were opposed, and the motion to approve the speed limit changes carried.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS, IF ANY

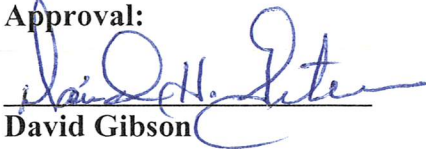
None.

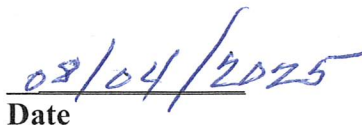
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Mark Baldwin. The motion was seconded by Deb, none were opposed, and the motion to adjourn carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm on Monday, May 5, 2025 in the Cumberland Room at the Art Circle Public Library.

Recorded and submitted by Torey LaMontagne

Approval:


David Gibson


Date