

Scottsville Planning Commission

Regular Meeting

Monday, August 3, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Victory Hall

401 Valley Street

Scottsville, Virginia

Members:

James V. Kerlin, *Chair*

Jaclyn Garet

William S. Hyson

Stuart C. Munson

Ronald L. Smith

Minutes

1. Call to order – Mr. Kerlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Establish a quorum – Mr. Kerlin and Mr. Smith were present. Mr. Munson and Mr. Hyson arrived shortly thereafter. Also in attendance was Town Clerk Amy Moyer.
3. Review and approval of meeting minutes of June 1, 2015 – This item was deferred, as a quorum was not yet present.
4. Matters not on the agenda from the public – No one from the public wished to speak.
5. TJPDC – Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Will Cockrell and Chip Boyles of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission gave an overview of changes in the way that VDOT funds road improvements under HB2. Mr. Cockrell explained that the state wants to be more strategic in how it expends funds. Whereas in the past localities used to simply contact the local VDOT office to submit a project, capacity-building projects now fall under a more formal and paperwork-intensive application process requiring plans, cost estimates, and schedules.

Mr. Munson asked who funds the front-end work. Mr. Cockrell replied that the central office says that district offices will provide this, but the district offices are already stretched.

Mr. Boyles commented that each district has a finite amount of money, and the town would need to seek county support for its projects and then compete with other projects in the Culpeper district. Mr. Cockrell said that the current allocation for the Culpeper district is \$31 million.

Mr. Munson asked about the scoring system. Mr. Cockrell replied that scoring includes factors such as economic development, accessibility, safety, congestion mitigation, and environmental impacts. Once projects are scored, the Commonwealth Transportation Board

makes the final decisions regarding project funding.

Mr. Hyson asked about VDOT studies for projects. Mr. Cockrell noted that VDOT hired a consultant for the 151 corridor study in Nelson, and this resulted in three projects funded for construction. Mr. Cockrell said that other funding programs such as revenue sharing, safety projects, and bridges are separate.

Mr. Cockrell explained that TJPDC is updating the rural regional transportation plan. The plan was adopted in 2010. With this update they hope to make it a better tool for localities to identify transportation needs, prioritize these needs, and show a path to completion. As a first step, they are meeting with all area Planning Commissions. They hope to have a draft by Fall 2016.

Mr. Hyson asked how to provide input, commenting that the town's needs could be pretty small compared to a highway. Mr. Cockrell replied that they will send out a survey on needs for the document and the types of projects. September is the launch of the new VDOT process, and he has invited George Goodwin to a HB2 meeting on August 13.

Mr. Munson asked about the process and the meaning of the scoring criteria. Mr. Cockrell said that it can be confusing; for example, economic development used to be job creation, but now it includes proximity to shopping centers. Mr. Cockrell noted that this document will not be just support for HB2 projects, as needed projects may not qualify for HB2 but still need to be in the plan. Mr. Boyles added that they want to sit down with central office and figure out what the projects qualify for. Mr. Cockrell explained that by picking two or three priorities, they can be shovel-ready if a funding source comes available, like the ARRA.

Mr. Smith commented that the problem is the town does not have the money to hire a consultant, and he noted the need for a path from downtown to the uptown shopping center. Mr. Cockrell said that this does not require engineered documents, as VDOT has documents and guidelines for cost estimates, they can go to county staff to study, or VDOT can fund the PDC to study.

Mr. Hyson asked about plans to pave gravel roads. Mr. Cockrell replied that the rural rustic program has 40 projects on the list, and some may take five years as funding is limited.

Mr. Munson asked about something like a stoplight at Valley and Main Street, commenting that the pedestrian line-of-sight is restricted by parked vehicles and logging trucks do not stop, and as Scottsville grows a stoplight will be needed. Mr. Cockrell said that the current plan document includes intersection improvements marked for further study, and VDOT has traffic thresholds for what measures are appropriate. Mr. Cockrell said it is good to identify priorities now and find funds for analysis before there is an immediate need.

Members briefly discussed potential improvements, such as a walkway along Route 20 and improving sightlines at the intersection of James River Road and Route 20.

6. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.