

MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FEBRUARY 3, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT ON THE CLOSURE OF HIGH ROCKS ROAD.

Those present for the hearing were as follows:

David Brown	Chairman
Jowan Johnson	Vice Chairman
Huck Greene	Commissioner
Lanier Keene	Commissioner
Tracy Tyndal	Commissioner
Paula Jones Ball	County Manager/Clerk

Chairman David Brown called the hearing to order.

Chad Lamb with Rayonier Timber Company was the first to address the Commission. He expressed his concerns on the impact closing the road would have on their property. There is 800 acres with access off High Rocks Road. The closure of the road would adversely affect access and marketability of the property. He requested the road be properly fixed and maintained.

Homer Conner, Jr. stated his desire to close the road.

Rex Bullock stated lots of folks use the road. The road has not been kept up for several years. He also stated the road gave direct access from the fire tower to his property.

Homer Conner, Jr. stated the road had been closed for several months until the barricade was pushed down.

Adam Dowdy, Road Superintendent, stated the barricade was broken off.

Rex Bullock said fix it or close it but he wanted it fixed.

Chad Lamb, Rayonier, added they have one mile of road frontage. Closing the road would lower property values, limit future use and affect logging of the timber.

Rex Bullock added the road was also used by a hunting club.

Adam Dowdy stated if the County had \$100,000 to repair the road, he knew of much better places to use the money. He added the County had been scraping to the rocks, then lifting the blade and going over them for years.

Adam Dowdy stated he had met with Chad Lamb about leaving a portion of the road open for access.

Shawn Rhodes asked Mr. Lamb if Rayonier had considered contributing to the repair of the road.

Chad Lamb responded that he could not answer that but Rayonier paid over \$118,000 in property taxes last year.

Lanier Keene asked Mr. Lamb if they had land in a river swamp, what they would do.

Homer Conner added there is no mail service or school bus that travels the road.

Lanier Keene added that \$100,000 is a lot of money to Wilcox County. He stated if it is dry for 30 years, you can use the road but the first rain we have, you will not be able to use the road again.

Lanier Keene asked Rex Bullock if he could prove a benefit to the county if the road was repaired.

There being no further comments, Chairman David Brown adjourned the hearing.

\_\_\_\_\_ David Brown, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Paula Jones Ball, County Manager/Clerk