A Public Hearing was held by the Tattnall County Board of Commissioners on Thursday, January 30, 2020,10:00 a.m. at the Tattnall County Courthouse. Purpose of Hearing was to hear testimony and receive public comments on the following requested road closings and road changes.

Road closing for **District 1:**
Close WE Mulling Road from Live Oak Street to Lynntown Road.

Road closing for **District 2:**
Close Thomas K. Scott Road from Jim Rowe Hightower Road to beginning of State Road.

Road renaming for **District 2:**
Rename Jim Rowe Hightower Road from Doster Hutcheson to Hwy 23. Rename to W.J. Akins Road.

Road closing for **District 3:**
Close Juanita K. Rogers Road from end of Zeddie Smith Lane to end of Juanita K. Rogers Road.

Road closing for **District 4:**
Close a portion of the Laddie Kennedy Road. From Graham Knight Road to right past Kennedy Road.

Road renaming for **District 4:**
Rename portion of closed Laddie Kennedy Road to TJ's/Elegance Way Road.

Road closing for **District 4:**
Close Kennedy Road at the end of Laddie Kennedy Road

The following members were present: Chairman Jackie C. Trim, Commissioners Edward Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy, GW Thompson, Wayne Tatum and Bill Kicklighter.

Staff Present: County Manager Frank Murphy, County Clerk Christy D. McCall, County Engineer Dennis Odom and Road Superintendent Lynn Cribbs.

Others present were Sheriff Kyle Sapp.

Chairman Trim called the Hearing to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed the guests.

Chairman Trim then gave the invocation which was followed by the pledge of allegiance. He then explained the purpose of the hearing is to hear testimony and receive public comments on the above referenced road changes.

1)Road closing for **District 1:**
Close WE Mulling Road from Live Oak Street to Lynntown Road.

A citizen who owns his own business voiced his concerns opposing the road closure as if WE Mulling Road is closed; the alternate route would be a safety issue as his equipment and big trucks would not be able to make the turn safely.

Mr. Rodney Mulling wishes for the road to be closed as he is the only person who resides on the road and has had several items stolen and has complaints of people traveling the road late at night. Mr. Mulling stated that other landowners on the road agree with closing the road.

Another citizen, who showed up later in the meeting, voiced his concerns opposing as the alternate route would not be safe for semi-trucks. He also explained that once the new school is built in Collins, the WE Mulling Road would be a safer route to use.

Mrs. Groover opposed the road being closed also due to safety concerns of alternate route if road is closed.

2)Road closing for **District 2:**
Close Thomas K. Scott Road from Jim Rowe Hightower Road to beginning of State Road.

No one was present to agree or oppose of this request. Mr. Dennis Odom, County Engineer, stated that if the road is closed, he would like to get easement to widen the turn area.

3)Road renaming for **District 2:**
Rename Jim Rowe Hightower Road from Doster Hutcheson to Hwy 23. Rename to W.J. Akins Road.

Mr. Donald Akins wishes for a portion of the road to be renamed after his father, W.J. Akins. He owns most of the land on the road and has four generations of his family who live on the road. He would like it renamed to honor his father.

Mr. Odom stated that he has concerns about renaming a portion as it is a continuous road to Hwy 23 and renaming a portion would cause confusion for emergency services. He also explained that County policy is to get permission from all property owners before renaming a road and he believed there are two property owners that the County has not heard from.

4) Road closing for **District 3:**
Close Juanita K. Rogers Road from end of Zeddie Smith Lane to end of Juanita K. Rogers Road.

No one was present to oppose or agree of this request.

5) Road closing for **District 4:**
Close a portion of the Laddie Kennedy Road. From Graham Knight Road to right past Kennedy Road.

Several citizens opposing and agreeing where present. Those opposing who were present were Jason Carter, Marvin Wynn, Shirley Wynn, Anita Driggers, Wayne Boutwell & Betsy Boutwell.

Mr. Carter stated that he has a contracting company and he has semi-trucks delivering materials, as well as a camper, and kids that ride the bus. He does have other access to his home but due to the surrounding road conditions, the Laddie Kennedy road is his only access at times. Mr. Carter further stated that he and his family ride ATV's on the dirt roads out there but closing the road would not stop them from riding them on their land.

Mr. Wynn and Mrs. Wynn stated that they live on Wayne Boutwell which joins Laddie Kennedy. Due to the road condition of Wayne Boutwell and surrounding road conditions, Laddie Kennedy is their only good access at times. Mrs. Wynn's mother has diabetes and Alzheimer's and Laddie Kennedy is the road used to drive her back and forth to the doctor. Both voiced concerns about emergency vehicles getting to their residence because of the road conditions. Both asked Commissioners to come look at the road conditions after the expected rain this weekend. They also stated that atv's on the road are not a problem but neighbors who have a wedding venue and business state it is a problem because of their business. Mr. Wynn stated that more police presence needed on the road and all neighbors should have respect for each other.

Mr. Boutwell voiced his concerns with ambulances getting to residents quickly if the road is closed.

Those in agreement with the request to close the portion of the road who were present included: Sandra Geordono, Patrick Geordono, Betty Stinson, Timothy Stinson, Megan Stinson, Marshal Stinson, Victor Kenendy and spouse, Kay Logan and Pat Logan.

Mrs. Logan explained that Laddie Kennedy was her father in which the road was named after. She stated that there are three other ways into Laddie Kennedy. She explained that there is illegal trash dumping as well as illegal hunting which results in dead animals in the ditch. She wants the road closed due to ATV's tearing up the road and running her and others off the road. She stated she was begging the Commissioners to close before someone gets hurt.

Mr. Stinson stated he agreed with Mrs. Logan. He stated that Mr. Carter has been terrorizing the neighborhood and shot his shed with a gun. He also stated that Mr. Carter has pulled a gun on him and he will not tolerate any more from Mr. Carter.

Mr. Kennedy stated he had no problem with the road being closed. He just has a problem with ATV's coming onto his property and messing up the roads.

Mr. Kennedy's spouse had complaints of people speeding on the road also.

Mr. Dunnel who also lives on the road, had complaints of trash being thrown out on the road. He stated that the road looks like a dump and maybe if the road was made private, this trash problem would stop.

Mrs. Groover, a citizen present, proposed drones be purchased to watch the road.

Mrs. Stinson stated that she and her family have had problems with Mr. Carter for a while now. She also stated that if anyone in her family rode past Mr. Carter's home, he would send his family or friends to drive fast past her house and send people to terrorize her family.

Sheriff Sapp stated that he has spoke to both parties having disagreement. He explained it is hard to catch people in the act of speeding and throwing out trash. He stated that all dirt roads are a 35-mph speed limit. Sheriff Sapp then explained that he would be cracking down on all atv's riding on any road whether dirt or paved. He then explained he hope both parties could come to a peaceful resolution of the problem.

Mr. Odom, Engineer, stated that if road was closed, additional right of way would be needed to create a culdesac for turn arounds.

6) Road renaming for **District 4:**
Rename portion of closed Laddie Kennedy Road to TJ's/Elegance Way Road.

Mr. Carter opposes as it would create problems for emergency services.

Mr. Logan stated that if Laddie Kennedy could not be closed, she did not want the road renamed.

7) Road closing for **District 4:**
Close Kennedy Road at the end of Laddie Kennedy Road.

Mrs. Logan stated she would like the road closed due to ATV's and vehicles traveling too fast.

Commissioner Bill Kicklighter asked who would be responsible for giving easement for culdesac should Laddie Kennedy be closed. It was determined that Mr. Carter would need to give easement. However, Mr. Carter stated that he would not give easement as he does not want the road closed.

Mr. Odom, Engineer, stated state he would oppose Laddie Kennedy and Kennedy if easement cannot be given as a culdesac is needed for Motor graders and vehicles to turn around.

Chairman Trim stated that he hoped the neighbors of Laddie Kennedy would work through their problems with one another peacefully. He then reminded everyone that the Commissioners would meet on February 3rd @ 9:00 a.m. to vote on each road.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Jackie C. Trim, Chairman

Christy D. McCall, County Clerk