



County Technical Assistance Service
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

July 22, 2024

Chapter IX - Highways and Roads

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

The University of Tennessee
County Technical Assistance Service
226 Anne Dallas Dudley Boulevard, Suite 400
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
615.532.3555 phone
615.532.3699 fax
www.ctas.tennessee.edu

Chapter IX - Highways and Roads 3
Ferries 3
Public Acts of 1974 Chapter 664 3
Fort Donelson National Battlefield and Cemetery 3
Directional Signs 3
Public Acts of 2001 Chapter 31 3
Road Law 4
Private Acts of 1951 Chapter 171 4
Highways and Roads - Historical Notes 6

Chapter IX - Highways and Roads

Ferries

Public Acts of 1974 Chapter 664

COMPILER'S NOTE: The following act is a public act of special application and is not codified in Tennessee Code Annotated.

SECTION 1. The Department of Transportation is hereby directed to provide for the operation of the ferry now in service at Cumberland City in Stewart County, Tennessee, said ferry crossing the Cumberland River.

SECTION 2. The said ferry shall be operated each day from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., unless the said hours of operation are changed by the direction of the Quarterly County Court of Stewart County.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act there is hereby appropriated the sum of Sixty Thousand (\$60,000.00) Dollars, said sum to become part of the budget of the Department of Transportation for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1974 and ending June 30, 1975.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: March 25, 1974.

Fort Donelson National Battlefield and Cemetery

Directional Signs

Public Acts of 2001 Chapter 31

COMPILER'S NOTE: The following act is a public act of special application and is not codified in Tennessee Code Annotated.

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Transportation shall erect and maintain directional signs for Fort Donelson National Battlefield and Cemetery on Interstate Highway 24 at Exit 4, (U.S. Highway 79) both eastbound and westbound.

SECTION 2. The directional signs provided for in Section 1 shall contain sufficient information, including standard directional symbols, to indicate that U.S. Highway 79 westbound toward Dover is the closest and most direct route in Tennessee to Fort Donelson National Battlefield and Cemetery in Dover, Stewart County.

SECTION 3. The erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the Federal Highway Administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5.

(1) This act shall become operative only if Stewart County, Tennessee, either admits the estimated cost of the erection of such signs to the Department of Transportation within one (1) year of the effective date of this act or manufacturers such signs in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2). Stewart County shall make such payment prior to any expenditure by the state for manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to Stewart County within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, Stewart County shall remit an amount equal to the difference in such costs to the department within thirty (30) days of receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

(2) Stewart County may manufacture and erect such signs provided that such signs are manufactured and erected pursuant to state and federal guidelines and approved by the department. (3) Nothing in subdivisions (1) and (2) shall be construed to preclude the use of grant funding, if available, to manufacture and erect the signs authorized by this act.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.
Passed: March 22, 2001.

Road Law

Private Acts of 1951 Chapter 171

SECTION 1. That, in counties having the population set out in the caption hereto, there is hereby created a County Road Commission to consist of three members. The County Judge and the County Engineer, hereinafter provided for, shall be ex-officio members of the Commission, and there shall be a third member, to be selected by the Quarterly County Court, which member shall be a resident citizen of the County and shall serve for a term of two years. No member of the Commission shall receive any additional compensation for services performed by them on such Commission, the County Engineer shall be Chairman of said Commission. It shall be his duty to call monthly meetings of said Commission after posting notices of the time and place thereof in three public places in said County, one which shall be at the Courthouse door. All meetings of the Commission shall be public and any interested citizens of said County may attend. After the conclusion of the regular meetings of the Commission, any citizen or taxpayer in the County in attendance may lodge complaints, offer advice or make suggestions. Vacancies in the office of County Engineer shall be filled by the Quarterly County Court, the person so elected to hold for the unexpired term of the incumbents. If the office of County Judge becomes vacant, the Quarterly County Court shall select a qualified person to serve on the Road Commission, to hold office only until there shall be elected a successor to the County Judge. In case of a vacancy in the third membership on the Road Commission, the Quarterly County Court shall elect a successor to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. Two members of said Commission shall constitute a quorum and be authorized to transact business. Notice shall be given by the Chairman to the other two members of any and all meetings of the Commission.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1963, Chapter 110.

SEC. 2. That there is hereby created the office of County Engineer in counties to which this Act applies. His term of office shall be for a period of two years and until his successor is elected and qualified and such County Engineer shall be a resident citizen of such County. At the August election 1952 and biennially thereafter the qualified voters of said County shall elect a County Engineer. His compensation shall be at the rate of \$4500 per annum, payable in equal monthly installments out of the county funds of said County. To hold such office until September 1, 1952, W. C. Knott is appointed to fill the vacancy in the office of County Engineer by appointment. The County Engineer shall be required to execute bond in the sum of \$5,000 conditioned to faithfully perform the duties of his office and account for all County property and funds coming into his hands. Provided, however, that at the August general election in 1966, and quadrennially thereafter, such County Engineer shall be elected for a four year term, and he shall take office on September 1, following his election. Effective September 1, 1966, his salary shall be forty five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) per annum, payable as above set out. Effective September 1, 1974, the salary of the County Engineer shall be Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per annum, payable in equal monthly installments. Such County Engineer shall not operate, work at or supervise any business or be engaged in any other employment while serving as County Engineer unless such activity engaged in by the County Engineer shall be approved by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the Stewart County Quarterly Court.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 444,
Private Acts of 1961, Chapter 191,
Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 140,
Private Acts of 1974, Chapter 262.

SEC. 3. That the Road Commission shall have the following powers:

1. To purchase all supplies and equipment of every kind to be used upon the roads of said County, provided however, that purchases of less than \$300.00 may be made by the Chairman or Engineer.
2. To enter into all appropriate contracts with the State of Tennessee or other parties where deemed advisable and to have and possess all powers of the roads of said County not specifically or otherwise provided herein.
3. To establish a wage scale for all employes of said system which wage scale shall not exceed that of the State Highway Department in such localities.
4. To open and close such roads as the Commission may deem necessary for the improvement of the road system of such counties for which purpose the Commission is hereby vested with the power of eminent domain to be exercised in conformity to general law. The actual location of new roads shall be done by the Chairman, or County Engineer.
5. To have jurisdiction and control of the expenditure of all County road and bridge funds, including

that of the gasoline tax allocated to said County by general law. All disbursements of road funds shall be by the warrant of the Chairman of said Commission countersigned by the County Judge and drawn upon the road fund in the hands of the County Trustee.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 140.

SEC. 4. That the Commission shall annually make a report to the Quarterly County Court in detail of all expenditures made by such Commission, which report shall show all sums paid for labor and material, the name of the person to whom paid, the date and in reporting the purchase of lumber or bridge material, it shall show the price per thousand feet for such lumber and the amount purchased. The Quarterly County Court may at its option cause such report to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in such counties, the cost of said publication to be paid as a part of the administrative costs of said Commission.

SEC. 5. That they shall procure by rental or otherwise an office and employ a secretary therefor at a salary to be set by the Road Commission, which secretary shall also be secretary to the Chairman of the Commission, who shall have the right to use the office of the Commission as his office.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1974, Chapter 262.

SEC. 6. That the Commission shall keep a complete and accurate record of all expenditures on the part of the Commission and likewise to keep the minutes of each and every meeting of the Commission, which record and minutes shall be opened during reasonable business hours for the inspection of any interested citizen or taxpayer of said County.

SEC. 7. That the Chairman of the Commission as County Engineer shall have sole power except as hereinbelow indicated to hire all personnel deemed necessary for the better upkeep of the county roads and bridges and for the maintenance of such machinery and equipment as may be owned by the County. Provided, however, that all employes of said County road system in excess of 30 shall first be approved by the Commission and the Commission by a majority vote shall select all such employes in excess of 30. Within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this act, each employee of the Stewart County Highway Department shall be required to furnish a statement or certificate from a practicing physician or the county health officer certifying such employee to be physically able to perform all labor or duties as shall be required of him as an employee of such department. Any applicant for employment after the effective date of this act shall be required to furnish such certificate or statement before being employed by the department. Such statement shall be filed with the Commission. Each employee shall annually furnish such statement or certificate to the Commission. The Commission is authorized to enter into an agreement with the county health officer as to the manner in which such employee shall obtain such statement or certificate from him, and any cost shall be paid by the Commission. The employee or applicant shall have the option of obtaining such statement from his personal physician. The County Engineer shall have exclusive authority over the construction and maintenance of all county roads and bridges and of the repair, upkeep and custody of all road equipment belonging to the County and shall see that the same in maintained in proper condition.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1974, Chapter 262.

SEC. 8. That the Quarterly County Court of counties to which this Act applies is hereby vested with authority and they are required at the time of making the regular tax levy, to levy a tax for road purposes of not less than 20¢ nor more than 50¢ upon the hundred dollars worth of property in said county on its assessed valuation, which tax shall be collected by the County Trustee as are other taxes and he shall be allowed the same compensation for receiving and paying out the same as is allowed him by general law on county funds. Out of the funds raised from such tax levy, there shall be paid the administrative costs of the Commission, including the salary of the County Engineer, the compensation of the secretary and the costs of such right of way as may be obtained by the Commission in opening new roads. The remainder of such tax levy after first paying such above mentioned costs shall be prorated to the several districts of such County in proportion to their contribution thereto and shall be used exclusively for the construction and maintenance of the roads and bridges of such civil district.

SEC. 9. That one-fifth of the tax collected by the County Court Clerk on privileges or otherwise, shall be paid to the Trustee of the County and placed with the general road funds. Said taxes shall be paid in money.

SEC. 10. That this Act shall be liberally construed and interpreted and its provisions are hereby declared severable. If any of its sections, provisions, sentences, or phrases are held to be unconstitutional or void, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect, it being the legislative intent now hereby declared that this Act would have been adopted even if such unconstitutional or void matter had not been included therein.

SEC. 11. That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: February 14, 1951

Highways and Roads - Historical Notes

The following is a listing of acts which once had some effect upon the county road system in Stewart County, but which are no longer operative. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Public Acts of 1821, Chapter 6, required the county courts of all the counties to index and classify the public roads in the county. The classifications were three in number and were based upon use, width, and surfacing material. Widths ranged from a stage road down to one which was wide enough to permit the passage of two horses and riders moving in opposite directions on the way to mill or market. This is the earliest act found which started the state on its way to a good overall transportation system bringing into reality the index and classification of roads which are the foundation of transportation networks. Obstructions were prohibited and fines could be levied against anyone violating or not complying with any of the provisions of this act.
2. Private Acts of 1822, Chapter 184, authorized Alexander Brightwell to keep his ferry on the Tennessee River where he now has it, two miles below the mouth of Sandy River, and he may receive such fees as have been established by the county court to be charged by other ferry operators. It is the duty of the said Brightwell to appear before the county court of Stewart County, at its next meeting and enter into such bond and security as the court may require of him.
3. Private Acts of 1823, Chapter 299, was the legislative permission for the quarterly court of Stewart County, a majority being present at the time, to appoint an overseer, and allow him to employ a suitable number of road hands who were to keep the streets and roads in the town of Dover in good repair and service, all of whom would be subject to the general laws of the state governing overseers, road hands, and city streets.
4. Acts of 1853-54, Chapter 180, granted to Stewart County, and to ten other named counties, the same authority and right to take out stock in railroads, and to issue the bonds of the respective counties to pay for the stock, subject to the same restrictions as were previously set up for Lawrence, Maury, Williamson, Davidson and others, passed in an act on February 28, 1852.
5. Acts of 1853-54, Chapter 323, was the Act enabling the counties of Tipton, Dyer, Stewart, and Obion, to subscribe to the stock of, and to issue bonds to pay for it, the Great Central North and South Railroad, or to any other railroad company bringing themselves within the requirements of this act.
6. Acts of 1855-56, Chapter 204, allowed the county court of Stewart County to order an election at any time to ascertain the wishes of the people relative to the subscription of stock in the Louisville, Memphis, and Ohio Railroad, and, if and when approved, the county court may purchase the amount of stock previously agreed upon and approved.
7. Private Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 214, named James E. Price, James Lee, Jr., Christopher Dudley, Nathan Brandon, James M. Scarborough, F. P. Gray, E. S. Winn, Clay Roberts, A. B. Ross, Dr. J. W. Smith, Wesley Brandon, Joseph Satterfield, John H. Lesanby, Samuel P. Gentry, E. T. Bayard, and John L. Evans, as commissioners to open books on the stock subscriptions to the Dover and Lafayette Turnpike Company which was chartered to build and macadamize a road from Dover in Stewart County, to Lafayette in Christiana County, Kentucky.
8. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 89, granted to the U.S. Government a right of way over the public highways leading from the steamboat landing in the city of Dover in Stewart County to the Fort Donelson National Cemetery nearby with the power and the authority to construct and maintain a gravel, or a macadamized road, plus sidewalks, over the above right of way, provided further, however, that the said road shall be traveled free of charge by all persons, and the state and county courts would retain jurisdiction over any and all offenses which might be committed thereon at any time.
9. Public Acts of 1901, Chapter 136, was a statewide road law which applied to all counties under 70,000 in population according to the 1900 Federal Census. The county court of each county in the state, shall elect one road commissioner for each road district, which shall be coextensive with the civil districts of the county, who shall have general supervision over all roads, bridges, overseers, and road hands in that district. The duties of the commissioner are itemized in the act,

his compensation is set at \$1.00 per day not to exceed ten days each year, and his term is fixed at two years. The county court shall fix the number of days of compulsory labor on the county roads at between five and eight for all males outside cities between the ages of 21 and 45. The court shall also levy a tax especially for road purposes not to exceed two cents per \$100 property valuation for each day set for hands to work. The commissioners must name the overseers in their districts who will supervise the road hands and the prisoners who are slated to work on that section of road. The commissioner would also hear and dispose of petitions filed with them by the citizens to open, close, or change roads. Another road tax, not to exceed twenty cents per \$100 property valuation, on all property outside of incorporated cities and taxing districts. This act was cited and discussed by the court in the case of Carroll v. Griffith, 177 Tenn. 500, 97 S.W. 66 (1906).

10. Acts of 1905, Chapter 478, amended Public Acts of 1901, Chapter 136, in several minor particulars but substantially changed, or established additional features, in the method of acquiring rights of way for the county road system, especially when the power of eminent domain had to be exercised.
11. Acts of 1907, Chapter 452, was the first road law for Stewart County. This law allowed the quarterly court to elect at its January term a road commissioner to serve for one year, who would be sworn and bonded, and exercise the entire supervision over all roads, bridges, and culverts in the county. The commissioner must index and classify all the roads in the county and he would decide and dispose of all petitions to open, close, or change roads. Guidelines were provided for soliciting bids, awarding contracts, etc. All males between the ages of 21 and 50, outside of cities, were required to work six days on the roads or pay sixty cents a day as a commutation rate. The trustee would settle with the road commissioner on all moneys and revenues, and the commissioner was allowed to bring suit before any justice of the peace against any person who had not worked on the roads or paid his commutation fees. The commissioner would furnish the county court clerk with a full description of the county roads, would inspect the roads periodically and report their condition to the quarterly court, and would be paid \$500 per year. Penalties were set up for those who violated the provisions of this law.
12. Acts of 1909, Chapter 292, made it the obligation and duty of the quarterly court of Stewart County to elect a road commissioner for one year who shall be a freeholder, sworn and bonded, and who would have supervision over the county roads, bridges, and culverts. The commissioner shall lay out, inventory, and classify roads according to width, use, and surfacing materials, assign work hands to work details, decide on petitions to open, close, or change the roads which were filed by citizens, and could employ the use of the power of eminent domain but must follow the law in that regard very closely. The commissioner could solicit bids and award contracts but again must strictly observe the requirements of the law in these respects. The commissioner must make inspections of the roads at intervals and advise the quarterly court of their condition, keeping adequate records of all phrases of these works. All males, outside cities, between the ages of 21 and 50, must work six days on the roads, consisting of nine hours of work, each year or pay a penalty of fifty cents for each day before the first day of June, and sixty cents per day afterwards. In addition, the quarterly court could levy a road tax of not less than 25 cents per \$100 property valuation on all taxable property in the county. Penalties were prescribed for violations. This act had only a general repealer but it is presumed that Acts of 1907, Chapter 452 was repealed.
13. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 383, contained a general repealing clause and seemed only to be repetitious of prior road laws in 1907 and 1909. The quarterly court must elect a road commissioner for one year to have the supervision of all county roads, bridges, and culverts, who would lay out, index, and classify all roads according to width, use, and surface, who would decide and dispose of petitions to open, close, or change roads, who was permitted to resort to the use of eminent domain when necessary, who could solicit bids and award contracts, who would settle all accounts with the trustee at least once each year, who was required to prosecute all violations of this act before any justice of the peace in the county, and keep proper records of all roads to be improved. The commissioner would further appoint overseers to assist him on each section of road, keep an inventory of all tools, equipment, and materials, and who would draw a salary of \$500 annually. The quarterly court must levy a road tax of 25 cents, or more, to be collected by the trustee. All males between the ages of 21 and 50, living outside of cities, must work six, nine-hour days, on the roads or pay fifty cents for every day missed.
14. Private Acts of 1913, Chapter 166, was the next road law for Stewart County. The act required the quarterly court to appoint an overseer for road sections, not to exceed five miles in length, to supervise and keep the same in repair, to be in charge of all tools and road hands, to be paid \$1.00 per day, and to serve for one year. All males, outside cities, between the ages of 21 and

- 50, must work from 4 to 8 days, as determined by the county court, or pay from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day. Also determined by the court, for each day missed, but may furnish an able bodied substitute, or a wagon and team if the road hand had tools, materials, and equipment, and the overseers would schedule the work but could call the road hands out at any time in an emergency. The quarterly court shall levy a road tax of not less than 25 cents per \$100 property valuation to finance the payment of these funds and to keep the roads in repair, and the court would henceforth decide on the petitions to open, close, or change roads, and prescribe how the work was to be accomplished. The highway commission shall build roads according to standards specified and certify the amounts due to laborers and contractors. All violations, or failures to comply, could be punished by the imposition of fines in any justice's court. This act repealed all conflicting acts enacted prior.
15. Private Acts of 1913 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 29, amended Private Acts of 1913, Chapter 166, in Section 2, by repealing it and inserting a new section to provide that anyone eligible as a road hand shall also be eligible to serve as an overseer and be compensated as any other overseer, but must first be approved by a justice of the peace. Anyone refusing to serve could be fined for not doing so. Section 6 was amended so that petitions to open, close, or change roads would be entertained and disposed of by the highway commission, who, also, by amendment to Section 13, would be paid \$1.50 per day for each day devoted to that responsibility.
 16. Private Acts of 1917, Chapter 298, had a general repealing clause and provided that the quarterly court of Stewart County would elect a road commissioner at its January term who would serve for two years, and if the one elected failed to qualify, the county chairman had the authority to appoint one. The county chairman and the road commissioner were directed to appoint overseers in each civil district who would be in immediate charge of the road work and the road hands, who would be paid \$1.00 to \$1.50 as the court might decide. The road commissioner would also procure all necessary tools and machinery, make contracts under \$100 and could not pay any overseers before they settled up all accounts with him. Mile posts were to be installed, the roads inspected, and reports made to the quarterly court. The county court would fix the number of days for road hands to work which were not to be less than four, and set the price to be paid for not working. The commissioner would be paid from \$500 to \$600 a year, and road hands who did not work must pay \$1.00 for each day missed.
 17. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 58, amended Private Acts of 1917, Chapter 298, in Section 3 so as to allow for more than one overseer in the district and raised the daily pay to \$1.50 to \$2.00 for the overseer. A paragraph was added to Section 12 which required the owners of wagons and teams to work on the roads from two to four days or pay \$3.00 for each day missed by each team and wagon. The overseer shall furnish a list of all in his area who had a team and wagon. People would be assessed \$4.00 for each day due and not worked, and in addition, violators could be fined from \$10 to \$25.
 18. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 225, made it the duty of the county judge of Stewart County to have and exercise all the jurisdiction over the public roads of the county, now or hereafter established, and the office of road commissioner is hereby abolished. The county judge shall appoint one, or more, overseers in each civil district in January of each year who shall supervise and work the road hands, making out and certifying a list of them and the days to be worked to the county judge. Compensation was at the rate of \$2.50 per day, or as it was fixed by the county court. The judge was given the jurisdiction over all roads, bridges, and culverts, which shall be laid out, indexed, and classified, keeping all proper records. The judge shall make an inventory of, and be in charge of, all tools, machinery, and equipment, and may remove overseers from their posts. The county court will fix the number of days between four and eight for the road hands to work, each day being a ten hour day. All males between 21 and 50, outside of cities, must comply or pay \$2.00 for each day missed. The quarterly court must levy a road tax of no less than 25 cents per \$100 property valuation which the county trustee shall pay over to the judge. The county judge may open, close, or change roads, and was required to take them out of creek beds wherever possible.
 19. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 602, gave to the county highway commission, of Stewart County, the jurisdiction over the automobile road funds and all public roads. The present commission shall continue in office until the April, 1927, term of the county court, who will then appoint a five-member highway commission to serve for two years. The commission shall meet, elect a chairman, and a secretary, who shall lay out and assign roads to each commissioner. The commissioner will appoint one, or more, overseers in each civil district, or may serve as overseer himself, who would supervise and work the road hands, keep track of and records on all tools, equipment, materials, and road hands to do their work. Overseers must be bonded, and would be

- paid \$2.00 per day worked. The commission shall lay out, index, and classify, all the roads and provide each overseer with all the necessities for keeping the roads as directed. Road hands must work at least four ten hour days, and the people furnishing teams and wagons must work two days. All males between the ages of 21 and 50 were eligible, or they must pay \$1.50 for each day missed. A special road tax of not less than 25 cents per \$100 property valuation must be levied by the quarterly court and collected by the trustee. Commissioners would pass an applications to open, close, or change roads, and be paid \$100 per year.
20. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 546, amended Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 602, above, to provide that the sheriff is hereby declared to be the ex-officio workhouse commissioner and the county jail is declared to be the workhouse. The sheriff and the jailor shall have the care and custody of all the county convicts committed to that institution, except when they are working on the county roads or going to and from the workhouse to their work. The county judge was directed to appoint a guard at \$1.50 a day when the number of prisoners justified it. This law is intended only to provide a method for working convicts on county roads and bridges, or in procuring the materials to go on them. In all other respects the general law of the state prevails.
 21. Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 231, stated that the county court of Stewart County was authorized, empowered, and directed to divert from the road bond sinking fund an amount sufficient to pay some debts still owing on some road projects. The act allocated \$5,000 to the Bumpus Mills Bridge, \$5,000 to the bridge across Standing Rock Creek at Parker's Ford, \$1,000 to Caldwell and Company for their debt on other bridges, \$250 for the bridge across Ginger Creek in the eighth civil district, and \$4,000 to retire some due and unpaid bonds in various banks. The steps to be followed in making these payments are detailed in the act.
 22. Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 931, was the next road law for Stewart County with only a general repealing clause. The act created a county highway commissioner, appointed by the quarterly court for a two-year term, who must be sworn and bonded, and who would have control over all county rural road funds which would be dispersed only on his orders. The county judge must keep a record of all the expenditures. The commissioner must appoint overseers in each civil district to work the road hands which overseers must work the time required by law and then would be paid \$2.00 a day for each day over that period. Overseers must be bonded, must furnish the commissioner the names of all the road hands in his district and of those who own wagons and teams. The commissioner must catalogue and classify the public roads, and be in charge of all the tools and equipment. A work day must be 8 hours long but no longer than ten. All males, 21 to 50 years of age, outside cities, must work 6 days, and wagons and teams must work two days, or pay \$2.50 per day or commutation for each wagon and team not worked. Road hands could commute by paying \$3.00 before June 1, and \$4.50 afterwards. The court must levy a road tax of no less than 25 cents per \$100.00 which the trustee would collect and which would be spent as the act specified. The commissioner would handle the applications to open, close, or change roads, exercise the power of eminent domain when needed, and see to it that all roads came out of creek beds whenever possible. The commissioner would report to the county judge and be paid \$800 a year, plus \$30 a month to employ clerical help in keeping the records.
 23. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 3, only had a general repealer but was the next road law for Stewart County. This act established a county highway commissioner for each civil district, or road district, as afterwards designated, who would be appointed by the governor to serve until their successors could be elected in the general August election of 1932. The commissioners must be sworn and bonded. There would be two road districts in the county, the First to be made up of the first five civil districts, plus district 13, and the remainder to be second road district. The commissioners would have control of all the road funds in the county. The county judge must keep a well-bound book in which all the records must be entered. The commissioners would appoint all overseers in each district to work at a daily rate not to exceed \$2.00 after they had completed their obligatory days. The overseers would be in immediate charge of the road hands, and must be bonded likewise before assuming their duties which were specified in the act. All males, 21 to 50, must work four, 10 hour days a year, and those furnishing wagons and teams must work two days, or both pay \$4.00 to commute. The quarterly court must levy a road tax of at least 25 cents per \$100 property valuation which would be collected by the trustee and distributed as ordered by the court. The overseers could enforce all the terms of this act before any justice of the peace. Commissioners would dispose of petitions to open, close, or change roads and exercise eminent domain in accordance with the terms and conditions of the general law. The commissioners would be paid \$800 a year, and could be fined up to \$100 for neglect of duty. The county judge would be paid \$2.50 per day for every day devoted to the discharge of his responsibilities under this act. The commissioners were named as the county agency to deal with state authorities.

24. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 249, amended Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 3, by striking out Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 32, and 34 in their entirety. In the place of Section 34 a provision was inserted for two commissioners to be appointed by the county court for one year and whose pay shall be fixed and not changed during the term. Section 32 was changed to provide that no credit against the days he would be legally required to work. Section 23 stated that the commissioners were not authorized to make any future purchases of any kind but the same shall be done under the Purchasing Act by the purchasing commission.
25. Private Acts of 1935, Chapter 548, was a road law for Stewart County with a repealer of all conflicts. The act created a county highway commission composed of one member from each of the road districts hereinafter established, who would be elected by the people of the district. The current commissioners will hold their offices until their successors are elected in the general August election in 1936 and take office for two years after being sworn and bonded. The two road districts were made up of the 13 civil districts in the same way as reported in the acts above. The commissioner must be a resident of his district and will be in charge of all the roads and road funds in his district. The commissioner would appoint the overseers in the area who would be paid \$1.50 per day, worked up to \$52 a year, but the overseer must first work out his compulsory days as others did. The overseer must give the commissioner the names of all road hands in his area and make settlement once a year on all the tools and supplies. The commissioner is responsible for all the tools, supplies, and materials in his district. The same regulations for road hands were repeated in this act, and a special road tax of no less than 25 cents was required. No roads would be allowed to be in creek beds, and the overseers must enforce all the provisions of this law before the justices of the peace. The commissioners would be paid \$600 a year and devote all his time between March 1 and November 1 to the job, and as much as may be necessary otherwise, and they must inspect, examine, and correct all the deficiencies. These two commissioners and the county judge, or chairman, would compose the highway commission.
26. Private Acts of 1937, Chapter 644, did not specifically repeal any prior law but was the next road law for Stewart County. The act provided for a county highway commissioner for each district created herein who would be elected by the people of the district in the August general election of 1938, and succeed the present commissioners in office on September 1, 1938, holding for a two year term, after being sworn and bonded according to law. The two road districts were composed of civil districts, as before. The commissioner would appoint overseers in each civil district who must first work their compulsory road time and then be paid \$1.50 per day up to \$50 a year, but must give bond for the tools and materials furnished during the year, and must furnish the commissioner with the names of the road hands in the area and supervise their work as they perform it. Overseers must also report the conditions in their area to the quarterly court each quarter. All males, ages 21 to 50, must work four days, and wagons and teams must work two days or pay \$4.00 and \$5.00 commutation fees respectively. The quarterly court was required to levy the 25 cents, or more, special road tax. The commission would dispose of all the applications for road changes, and be paid \$600 a year payable monthly, devoted their entire time to their positions between March 1 and November 1. The commission would disburse all state funds allotted to the district and be the agent for the county in its dealings with the state. The commissioner may appoint a general road supervisor who meets the qualifications set up in the act, who would hold office at the same time and receive a maximum salary of \$1,800 a year. No one could be exonerated from road duty. This act was repealed by the one following.
27. Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 82, expressly repealed Private Acts of 1937, Chapter 644.
28. Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 85, created the position of a general road superintendent in Stewart County, who would be appointed by the county judge, or chairman, to serve one year from the July term of court, provided the court confirmed the appointment. The superintendent must be sworn and bonded, keep his office open for the inspection of his records by the public, and be paid \$1,500 a year. Vacancies in the office must be filled in the same manner. The superintendent could employ help and pay them out of the general road funds. Th county court must levy a road tax of no less than 25 cents per \$100 property valuation which would be collected by the trustee at a 2¼% commission. Roads must be classified by the court which will also dispose of applications to open, close, or change roads. The county judge, or chairman, must approve all expenditures from the gas tax fund. The superintendent would be in charge of all the road work, tools, equipment, and materials and could appoint overseers if they were needed.
29. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 1, amended Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 85, by striking Section 2, and inserting a new section which provided that the general road Supervisor would be elected by the quarterly court at its July term to serve for one year, and vacancies must be filled by the same method, or by appointment of the county judge, or chairman, until the July term. A majority

of all the justices, not just those present, is required when the general road supervisor is being selected.

30. Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 444, added the sentence at the end of Section 2 which required the county engineer to execute bond in the sum of \$5,000, conditioned upon the faithful performance of his duties.
31. Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 170, specifically repealed Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 85, as it was amended, which was the road law of Stewart County. Chapter 171, Private Acts of 1951, followed this act and is the current road law for Stewart County with its amendments.
32. Private Acts of 1961, Chapter 191, increased the annual salary of the county road engineer from \$2400 to \$3,000 in Section 2 of the base act.
33. Private Acts of 1963, Chapter 110, deleted the second sentence in Paragraph 1, Section 1, which made the county judge, the county engineer, and the direct representative in the house of the general assembly all ex-officio members of the county road commission and substituted the provision in the act. The second sentence of the second paragraph was also deleted which provided the method of filling vacancies in the ex-officio membership of the county judge, the road engineer, and the third representative and substituted the provision written in the act. This act was properly ratified.
34. Private Act of 1965, Chapter 140, raised the term of the county road engineer from two years to four years and his annual salary from \$3,000 to \$4,500 by adding the last paragraph to Section 2. Section 3 was amended in the first power given to the commission by changing \$200 to \$300 as the same now appears.
35. Private Acts of 1974, Chapter 262, increased the salary of the road engineer to \$10,000 from \$4,500, and prohibited his working anywhere else by adding the last paragraph to Section 2. Section 5 was amended by inserting the paragraph found instead of the original which limited the salary of the secretary to \$140 a month. Section 7 was changed to include the paragraph following the first paragraph and before the third which was a new added segment.

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