



Board Meeting Agenda Abstract

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Location:

Agenda Item

Employee Recognition - Public Works Department - (Stephenson) - Item 4.B

Item Explanation

The purpose of this agenda item is to recognize Public Works - Streets Department staff members for achieving the NC State Institute for Transportation Research and Education's Roads Scholar and Master Roads Scholar Certifications.

Staff Comments

The Public Works Department engages the NC State Institute for Transportation Research and Education for ongoing training and professional education for its employees. The Roads Scholar program includes courses like Asphalt Maintenance, Traffic Control, Employee Management and other topics that are important in the management of street maintenance activities and projects. There are three levels of Roads Scholar certification: Basic Roads Scholar, Advanced Roads Scholar, and Master Roads Scholar.

The previous year's training resulted in numerous Public Works - Streets Department staff members achieving either Roads Scholar, or Master Roads Scholar status.

Raul Feliciano achieved his Roads Scholar certification. He has been working on this for approximately 2 years. Roads Scholar certification requires seven 1 to 1.5 hour courses. The Roads Scholar coursework included Asphalt Pavement Maintenance, Basic Drainage, Chainsaw Certification, Flagger Training, Intro to Computers, Soil Fundamentals, and Basic Concepts of Supervision. These topics directly improve the ability of these employees to handle daily tasks they encounter.

Master Roads Scholars must first become Roads Scholars and Advanced Roads Scholars. Becoming a Master Roads Scholar requires 21 classes and a case study. The director of the roads scholar program reviews, provides feedback, and approves the case study topic and final document. Jerry Burch chose the stormwater program for his case study. It outlined his assistance with getting updates to correct the GIS data for stormwater pipes and structures that he has helped identify and inspect. Earnest Cash's case study focused on intersection improvements and how they have helped alleviate traffic issues around Judd Parkway. Both men have been working on Master Roads Scholar certification for approximately 2 years. Some of the classes they completed included Asset Management, Emergency Management, Effective Leadership Skills and Pavement Preservation. These courses directly benefit the

Town as they are topics that the Streets Department encounters frequently.

Earnest and Jerry are the first two Town employees to reach the Master Roads Scholar certification.

Management and staff are pleased to honor these employees for their dedication in educating themselves to improve their service to the public.

Fiscal Note

Yes

The Town Board has historically invested in the training and development of Town staff. Roads Scholar classes typically cost \$150 each and are budgeted annually in the Public Works Department training budget.

Recommendation

No Action Required

ATTACHMENTS