

## **ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT**

I drive to work every day (almost) on Ernst Road. It has been in bad repair for a long time. Commissioner Perez just shut it down and completely redid it. It is so much better. Sadly, I saw a thread on Facebook recently criticizing the work. There were comments about how “it was done so badly that the potholes will come back, and the people who did it did not know what they were doing,” etc.

I know that the crews for Precinct 3 completely dug up the old asphalt (road topping) and the base and re-laid the base and rolled it. I would like everyone to understand that the county has over 700 miles of “county” roads it is responsible for. We cannot afford to pay firms to dig up and professionally lay asphalt roads like the State does. We use alternative road pavings – such as chip seal, millings (TXDOT gives us their asphalt that they take up when they redo a road), and other methods of sealing base on redone roads. Our methods run about 25% of the cost of the “hot” asphalt paving that TXDOT does. We must do it this way for economy. So, if potholes develop on Ernst Road, they will be new ones, not reconstituted old ones. All roads need maintenance so there will be some problems eventually. I just wanted to say that when you see a county road redone like this, they are most likely “zippered” (which removes the paving and the base and allows it to be reused as base) and the base is re-laid and then topped with chip seal or some sort of seal coat. I am proud of our commissioners because they are working together with our chip seal machine to pave roads and we have seen quite a few miles of formerly never paved roads done in the past couple of years. I hope to see this continue.

I have been driving (almost) daily on Ernst Road for over 4.5 years and this is a dramatic improvement and I appreciate the work by Commissioner Perez and his crew.

This weeks’ quote: “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Socrates.

Thank you for listening. We want you to be proud of your county government.