Once again, I am quite happy to report that not much is going on in Tennessee. This always means that the Legislature is not mixing in our business.

Things are going well in Tennessee for Land Surveyors. Everyone I know is from one month to six weeks out at a minimum. I don’t want to put too much good spin on it, but in Tennessee it seems even the dude that low balls everyone is charging more than me. I have an estimator that came from an engineering firm and we are finally earning what surveyors should. Each day we receive at least six to ten calls requesting a survey. Subdivisions have picked up. My small company, (nine employees) has three major subdivisions and countless lot surveys, some government work and farms going. Commercial. Not so much at this time. A far cry from 2008.

The TAPS Board will be sponsoring legislation dealing with taking of rights of way. We understand that when we build new roads in a new subdivision, we dedicate right of way to the public. However, quite a few counties in Tennessee will require an additional taking without compensation for a two, three lot division of property on an existing right of way. This goes totally against the 5th Amendment of our national Constitution. A forty foot right of way may require five or ten additional feet of taking without compensation in many counties in Tennessee. The Governmental Affairs lobby (planners, assessors etc) have a strong organization. We lost the fight a couple of years ago. Now, as a compromise, we are seeking that the municipalities only have an easement for future use. The land owner has enjoyment of his property but cannot build a permanent structure on the land.

Our CFS program is going strong. We’ll have our third year of instruction in October for a new class of Certified Floodplain Surveyors. The surveyors that are Certified are finding that their peers, without the experience, are turning the flood work over to them. This is a great reason to become Certified.

We are fortunate to have a PAC fund of $40,000. It has had beautiful results for the Land Surveyors in Tennessee. The Legislature knows who we are.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bart Crattie