

MINUTES OF THE DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Chairman Randall J. Deetz called the regular meeting of the DeKalb County Drainage Board to order at 8:30 a.m., Thursday September 17th, 2020. Answering roll call was Randall J. Deetz; Michael E. Krehl; Donald D. Grogg; Jacqueline R. Rowan and William L. Hartman.

ALSO PRESENT: Drainage Board Attorney Shannon E. Kruse; Administrative Assistant Brenda Myers; surveyor staff member Nate Frye.

IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin Heller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Jacqueline Rowan to approve the Minutes of September 3rd, 2020 as standard minutes taken by the DeKalb County Drainage Board, seconded by Mike Krehl, motion carried.

UPDATE: A letter to cease and desist was going to be written and even though the work stopped (*F. H. Gee Drain Number 429-00-0*) it was stated that it would be in the best interest of the county and surveyor to send a letter stating that approval to work in that area was not permissible by either entity of the county.

Nate Frye (representing the surveyor's office) stated that he was not aware of a letter being sent and will revisit this matter with the surveyor.

ERIC MORRIS DRAIN NUMBER 416-00-0: Chairman Deetz has not received an email per a conversation with Nate of a list of trees that a landowner wanted worked on and Nate said that he would revisit that to see where that stands.

DISCUSSION:

- Tile on the *William Bickel Drain Number 133-00-0* is still sitting; Nate said the contractor that did this project is currently onto another project in another county but when that project is complete, he will be coming back to do touchup work on the areas of the Walker's that has settled, and the Bickel drain. Nate thought that the contractor is also going to install the tile under maintenance when he is here.

It was said that the beans will be off within two weeks so work could begin. It was questioned if Mr. Hartman had been approached with this proposal that they will be doing this on his land, but Nate said he has not been in that conversation.

Chairman Deetz wanted to make sure that nothing is being done under reconstruction and Nate said that was his understanding.

Nate stated that if the tile doesn't get used on the Bickel they are going to use it on another drain, but they are waiting on crops.

Don Grogg suggested a motion to give a timeline of having the tile installed by the end of October, waiting on crops is not a reason to not install tile. No motion was made.

- Steuben County does not agree with what they are being told with being 'overpaid'; the Town of Ashley does not have a maintenance fund established, they only had a reconstruction project done. Nate Frye stated that his theory is that perhaps some money was misallocated to reconstruction that should have been maintenance or vice-versa; Susan (Auditor's office) is saying that we overpaid them on some maintenance funds, and Nate said he shows the county has underpaid them on some reconstruction projects; Susan did not do a deep dive into reconstruction like she did with maintenance. That most likely is where the problem lies.

Chairman Deetz stated that he wanted a conclusion on this with an in-depth explanation.

Nate said State Board of Accounts is also requesting additional information from the surveyor's office to try to wrap up this audit; there was an issue with Water Ops and

Sieber Brothers and the logjam not being publicly bid for the logjam on *Cedar Creek Drain Number 470-00-0*.

SEEDING: Nate said that is supposed to be moving ahead next week.

RECONSTRUCTION PLANS: It was asked what the plan is for moving into fall with reconstructions. Nate said he is working on getting the permit finalized and talking with the State on the *Guy Platter Drain Number 112-00-0*; the work on the one down by Butler (*Ozro Freeman Drain Number 175-00-0*) is a reconstruction to be done by a Consent and Waiver. The *Ora Bohler Drain Number 54-00-0* project will be worked on as Nate is able, he said he doesn't know when he can get to it and once again they are short staffed. Finalizing the financials on the Eric Morris, Walker and Bickel drains are on the top of Nate's to-do list at this point, once those are done he will concentrate on the Ora Bohler.

Outside engineering was again discussed; the consensus of the Board noted the procrastination of drains not getting done that have sat for over 12 years as being unacceptable.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Randall J. Deetz, Chairman

Brenda F. Myers, Administrative Assistant