

**MINUTES OF THE DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2020**

Vice Chairman Michael E. Krehl called the regular meeting of the DeKalb County Drainage Board to order at 8:30 a.m., Thursday January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 on behalf of Chairman Randall J. Deetz who was in another meeting in the Auditor's office. Answering roll call was Michael E. Krehl; Donald D. Grogg; Jacqueline R. Rowan; William 'Bill' Hartman.

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

Surveyor Mike Kline was not in attendance.

IN ATTENDANCE: James Deetz

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Bill Hartman to approve the Minutes of January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as standard minutes taken by the DeKalb County Drainage Board, seconded by Don Grogg, motion carried.

**SURVEYORS CLAIMS:** Nate Frye presented the schedule of claims for the Surveyors office. No action was necessary by the Board.

Mike Krehl asked for the status on the *Marvin Walker Drain Number 403-00-0* and the *Eric Morris Drain Number 416-00-0*.

Nate said the Eric Morris project is struggling, the contractor is fighting the weather and soil conditions. Nate said he has a letter from the contractor (Knott Excavating) requesting a sixty (60) day extension from January 30<sup>th</sup>, so when he meets with him after this meeting he will inquire as to his ability to get this project done with no further extensions of time. Nate said he anticipates the contractor asking for more money as well which he said has prompted he and Mike to rethink the bidding process, as it is now, it simplifies things and encourages contractors to bid higher to cover unanticipated expenses. Video and pictures of the project were reviewed.

**Hot topics:** Nate said they are working on several maintenance projects; two/three places working with County Highway to fix highway drainage issues; flooding projects that field inspector is working on and Nate is working on finalizing assessments for 2020. Nate said he is working with Bridgewater on getting the *Walter Smith Drain Number 20-00-0* dipped from Dewey to County Road 35, that will improve the flow capacity of that system greatly and that will be delicate with all the visibility of that project.

**DISCUSSION OF FINANCIALS:** The meeting was turned over to Chairman Randy Deetz who stated that to capulate the meeting with State Board of Accounts, and depending on what the Counsel for the Commissioners and Counsel for the Drainage Board comes up with, that we could 'borrow' funds from the maintenance fund which currently holds \$4.7 million dollars to use for reconstruction projects. These would have to be kept separate and the language of being repaid within five (5) years would need to be detailed, as with whether or not interest would need to be paid; they (*State Board*) did not think so and if we did it would be minimal. This would take Resolutions being in place for each project. Randy said they talked about 'borrowing' \$1.3 million for certain reconstruction projects and asked Don Grogg to inform Council and to tell them that we would need a Resolution and the permission of the Council in order to proceed. Randy said with reconstructions that are Urban drains, those would have a twenty year pay back so we would want to arguable stay away from funding those through a loan.

Drainage Board Attorney Shannon Kruse stated that behind the scenes we could come up with a figure that would entail the Ora Bohler drain because it has not been capped yet.

Basically Randy said we would be getting a line of credit which would fast forward the projects that the costs are known on. The Joint DeKalb-Noble Board would still have to send a Resolution to the DeKalb County Council asking to borrow money for the Bickel project.

It was questioned if with moving forward on the *William Bickel Drain Number 133-00-0* project, when to try holding a meeting, do we wait until March or make the suggestion of them appointing a temporary member in place of the Joint Board Chairman who will be gone.

Chairman Deetz stated that this could wait until March, he will be gone the 14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> and others had plans of being off as well. Randy said to try scheduling at next week's meeting once it's known who is actually available and when.

**INFORMATIONAL:** James Deetz stated that he and Tom Wicker went to LaGrange County to make sure there is maintenance on the open ditch, on the Maumee, and they have things pretty well squared away there of the methods that would have to be used to get it cleaned, who they would contact; Jim thought they would go directly to LaGrange County and they wanted them to go through the surveyor here in DeKalb County. They are all ready to go and Jim questioned if the Surveyor's Office here had been in contact with them (LaGrange) since the (Bickel) drain has been approved.

Nate Frye stated that he didn't know if the surveyor had discussed this with them or not.

Jim said this is different than what he understood it to be with LaGrange thinking they will put the culvert in across the road and Jim said he doesn't think that should happen, the DeKalb County Surveyor's office needs to put that drain in; the design is here in DeKalb County. Back when this was talked about all three counties were in favor of the same contractor doing all the work; they wanted to coordinate all that. The money to do this is already there (in LaGrange County) to take care of the deepening of the ditch and laying the banks back, they already have the pipe laying on the ground. When the job is done is up to everyone involved, but how the job is done needs to be addressed now.

Mike Krehl said that Nate can pass that along to the surveyor.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

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Randall J. Deetz, Chairman

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Brenda F. Myers, Administrative Assistant