

**MINUTES OF THE DEKALB COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2020**

Chairman Randall J. Deetz called the regular meeting of the DeKalb County Drainage Board to order at 8:30 a.m., Thursday February 20, 2020. Answering roll call was Randall J. Deetz; Michael E. Krehl; Donald D. Grogg; Jacqueline R. Rowan and William 'Bill' Hartman.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin Webb; James Deetz; Walter Prosser; Joe Prosser

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Mike Krehl to approve the Minutes of February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as standard minutes taken by the DeKalb County Drainage Board, seconded by Bill Hartman, motion carried.

**SURVEYORS REPORT - JOHN KETCHUM DRAIN NUMBER 334-00-0:** Mike Kline stated that LaOtto Excavating did some work on this drain between the Gary Hurand and Dickman properties where they went through the catch basin and found that the tile was all tied in and verified it is a twelve inch. At the corner they couldn't see the top of the tile so they followed an eight inch. The City of Auburn vac truck pumped for six days, going out every four hours to refuel the pumps to get the water down. Mr. Hurand is upset because he is not getting drainage and had to put a new tile in; two more people are being flooded now and the next big rain will cause a lot of problems but it will cost another \$5,000-\$10,000.00 to try to make repairs. Mike said he has a meeting with the Mayor to discuss this issue and try to find a solution.

Chairman Deetz stated that the problem is this drain is not on maintenance, county money has already been spent putting a drain in the red by **-\$8,000** without involving landowners.

Don Grogg stated that while he understands and agrees with this being urgent, this drain first needs to be put on maintenance and asked if this could be classified 'economic development' to fund this.

Kevin Webb (*candidate for County Commissioner*) was asked about City of Auburn TIF monies. Kevin stated that with the surveyor meeting with the mayor hopefully there can be a little more city input prior to making an emergency decision on how to proceed.

Chairman Deetz agreed and stated that we need to be prepared to make the decision to have funding available in case of safety concerns in this urgent situation.

Mike Krehl stated for the record (*since he will not be in attendance at next week's meeting*) that if the Mayor is willing to do some things, he would be in favor of giving some money towards that project, in the short term to fix it.

Drainage Board Attorney Shannon Kruse asked what the long-term plan is, is that plan to reconstruct the drain and then the City of Auburn is taking jurisdiction, and the answer was yes.

Nate Frye said that the watershed is done on this and he can have the assessment rolls ready by tomorrow (Friday); he suggested an informational meeting.

Don Grogg moved that this John Ketchum Drain Number 334-00-0 be put at the top of the list to get this fast-tracked for a maintenance hearing and in the meantime have the Surveyor's Office work with the City of Auburn on suggested financing and alternatives/resolutions prepared for a maintenance hearing, seconded by Bill Hartman, motion carried.

Mike Kline said he saw nothing beneficial in holding an informational meeting.

The consensus of this Board today is for the Surveyor to work with the City of Auburn, and the Mayor of Auburn, to have a short-term solution while preparing this for a hearing. A report will be expected at the next meeting.

Mike Kline said that he would make an appointment with the Mayor.

**WILLIAM BICKEL DRAIN NUMBER 133-00-0:** James Deetz questioned if the Surveyor had met with LaGrange County yet and he stated that he has not.

Chairman Deetz questioned if Mike would be sending the packets to both the Noble and LaGrange surveyors so they could also alert their contractors, giving a wider base of contractors to bid.

Mike Kline said that the surveyors of those two counties will get the bid packets so they can make sure that he hasn't missed anything in preparation or if they want something added they can let him know. Mike said that all bidders have to come through his office for this project. Bids will be due back in his office by March 18<sup>th</sup> so they can be opened at the Joint DeKalb-Noble meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**OZRO FREEMAN DRAIN NUMBER 175-00-0:** Present is Walter Prosser requesting an update on the progress, he was before the Board three weeks ago and told at that time the open ditch part was ready and could be done, so he questioned if bids had been sent out. Again, he will be the one financing this so it seems to him that it could move along fairly quickly.

Mike said the bottom dipping is being done through the maintenance fund, so he will get a contractor out there as soon as one comes available. Mike said he needs for his office staff to work with him on the plans and then they can get those out for bids.

Walter Prosser stated that he has two contractors, one to do the bottom dipping and one to do the other, they are just waiting on the county to give them the ok to go.

Mike said if Walter has someone to do bottom dipping to let his office know, he has a group who works for him and he likes to make requests from several different contractors to get the best prices. Mike said he would get two or three guys to look at this.

Walter Prosser stated that he would be checking back to keep this moving.

**BUTLER CITY DRAIN NUMBER 200-00-0:** Mike Kline said he has gotten through most of what he needs to and next week he is going to have the Treasurer's office put together the form with the final amount to the City of Butler, and he will put a form to the city explaining all the costs associated with it.

**ERIC MORRIS DRAIN NUMBER 416-00-0:** Mike Kline said progress is being made on this drain. The foreman on the project agreed that they need to cancel the contract for the jack and bore; they will then give a price to open cut. Mike said he is also trying to get Fleming's to do the pipe there in Ashley if he can get a deal made with the State on buying the pipe from this Eric Morris project. Once he gets it all finalized he will bring that to the Board to look at he said.

**RESOLUTION DISCUSSION:** Drainage Board Attorney Shannon Kruse stated that she was instructed to 'draft' a resolution and once the Board passes it, Don Stuckey will present it to the Council who will then make an ordinance. Shannon strongly urged the Board to review the 'draft' and contact her with *any* changes so that this can be prepared and approved at our next meeting since Council meets the Monday following on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This resolution/line of credit was requested to be the \$1.4 million dollars with a 'not to exceed'.

Chairman Deetz stated that it was his recollection that there would be two separate resolutions with one being done by the Joint DeKalb-Noble Board for the William Bickel project which would be for that drain only. The other line of credit would then be for the DeKalb County reconstructions. Randy asked that after everyone has read this draft to email the Administrative Assistant with any comments, changes or additions that need to be made so she can then do a group share so all can be aware of those concerns.

There was discussion and concerns about having to (according to Code) list a 'particular drain' when borrowing funds.

Don Grogg stated that it is his understanding that for each individual drain, it will have its own individual account; there will be a 'general account' for the \$1.4 million and then there will be 'sub-accounts' for each drain that uses from that account, so each one would be a 'particular' drain that this Board would have to approve.

Chairman Deetz stated that he reads it as when 'when a drainage board determined by resolution spread upon its minutes...' that is when (he would think) that a drain is identified as a 'particular drain'.

**INFORMATIONAL:** Chairman Deetz said he spoke to Robert Glick, who had been on the agenda for today regarding the *Levi Rowland Drain Number 11-00-0*. Randy asked for an update as to where we (*the Surveyors office*) currently stand with that drain.

Nate Frye stated that the drain was recently reconstructed; they collected this drain in 2019 because there are some areas through the woods that were not sprayed after the reconstruction like they should have been, so some brush has grown up on the top; the goal is in 2020 to get a crew out there to clear any brush that has developed over the tile before it becomes a problem so they can then go under the normal spray maintenance. That spraying would be around forty feet in width, not the warranted seventy-five feet according to Nate. As far as the condition of the tile it is his understanding that the tile is in good condition. Nate said this is part of the process that the Surveyors office has been putting into place the last couple of years of making sure that all the drains have some funds in their individual accounts, so that when maintenance is needed they have funding to do it. Knowing this drain needs sprayed every two to three years there needs to be some funding available. It was questioned how often this is going to be collected for this purpose and Nate said there currently is \$26,000 in the fund; it collects \$17,000 per year if they do a full collection. Nate said he didn't plan on collecting this again any time soon.

Chairman Deetz questioned how the spraying was not done in some areas through the woods with the reconstruction; there was a standard that drains be sprayed every three years and more if needed after a reconstruction.

Mike Kline said the problem is with the staff he had in place at that time didn't place a priority on tile, the spraying was done on open drains; it has finally been put in place that we *are* going to do this on tile drains moving forward.

**INFORMATIONAL:** It was questioned how the 'new' employee in the Surveyors office is doing and Mike said he seems to be learning quickly. Mike said eventually Dave Ward will take over most of the field work with Bill guiding him; Mike said he needs to have Bill doing more of what Nathan is doing so he can then move Nathan to the drawing board to get systems designed. Mike said his intention is to still ask the Council for another full time person and a part time person to do a lot of the stone recovery.

It was also questioned what projects the Surveyors office is working on and a generalized report was given.

**INFORMATIONAL – FRANKLIN GROGG DRAIN NUMBER 236-00-0:** Don Grogg questioned if Bill (from the Surveyor’s office) went onsite and talked to Max Wallace, a whole new tile was put in for that area and being in that watershed Don said he can see where Max is being harmed.

Nate said that Bill called him to set up a meeting and that was supposed to happen at some time today.

Mike said he doesn’t see it the same way as Don. The county put the main line in and everyone needs to get to the main line and in doing that, they were going to be on Max’s side of the fence but he didn’t want them on his property; had they gone through there Mike said they would have found any tiles that come over, Max has been told if he finds a tile and brings it to the property line, the county will come and hook it in. People to the north and some of the other landowners were not happy with the capacity and condition of our tile so they put a new plastic line in to the west of our tile, which may be on his property; Mike said his office has never found that tile, they’ve looked, they’ve never crossed it, he said he knows where it is, when you go all the way south to the woods beyond Hathaway’s property, they found the end of it at the open ditch but never crossed it. Everything was tied in that they came across from the old tile, but he cannot tell factually where the old plastic tile was put in.

Chairman Deetz stated that it is up to the landowner to locate a private tile and to decide what he wants to do with it; it is the County’s responsibility to attach it and put it in, so once that tile is found and a decision is made as to whether or not he wants it tied in, it will be.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

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Randall J. Deetz, Chairman

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Brenda F. Myers, Administrative Assistant