

REGULAR DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING:

February 20, 2024

President, Dick McIntire, called the meeting to order. Members present at the meeting were the following:

Dick McIntire, President
Jamie Swoboda, Vice President
Shannon Henry, Member
William Whitehead, Member
John Landers, Member
Tom Borchers, Surveyor
J Patrick Wright, Attorney, for Brandon Murphy
Jennifer Licht, Recording Secretary

President, Dick McIntire, opened the meeting by welcoming the audience and inviting them to participate in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. McIntire entertained a motion for the approval of the January 16, 2024 Drainage Board Minutes.

Mr. Whitehead moved for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Henry. Mr. McIntire abstained due to his absence at January's meeting. **Motion passed 3-0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Nomination and Election of President and Vice President

Mr. McIntire addressed Mr. Borchers and asked if he had any new business to present to the Board today.

Mr. Borchers stated we have a couple items on the list should we, have nomination of and election of Board Officers today.

Mr. Whitehead moves to keep the same officers and law firm as last year.

Mr. McIntire opposes to being president.

Delaware County Drainage Board Meeting February 20, 2024

Mr. Whitehead resends his motion and moves for Mr. Swoboda to be president and Mr. McIntire vice president. Motion seconded by Mr. Henry. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Swoboda continues meeting by addressing Mr. Borchers on any other new business.

John N. Wilson Ditch #118

Mr. Borchers stated we had a request to vacate a portion the John N. Wilson Ditch #118 along Cowan Road just North of the Post Office. We did some checking on the tile, it was installed in 1889 and I could not find one maintenance record on it in our Office. I sent a contractor out this summer when it was really dry and he dug for two days trying to locate the tile and he couldn't find it. I think when they put in the four lane roads, railroad tracks and sewers the drain was forgotten or moved into a combination sewer in a similar location and no record was taken of it or I couldn't find the records. So, at this time it's not doing anything and there is no tile we can find. There is a wet hole on top of where they are wanting to build a couple new buildings and put in at least two retention ponds and maybe a third from what I can tell from the plans. The new construction and retention ponds will help the area out as far as holding water in the right locations.

Mr. Henry asks, do you know who's working out there now? It looks like they have pipe laid on top of the ground back to this.

Mr. Borchers stated I have no idea they haven't said anything. Basically, I didn't dig anywhere North of this property. I think it used to go right along Cowan RD when it was just 2 lanes, and it hasn't been two lanes in a long time. There's all kinds fiber optics and other stuff laying there and I didn't want to dig North of it. My proposal is to vacate the Wilson Ditch in Parcel #1128300001000 and they can build what they want. The Indiana Code states a regulated drain should be vacated when: (1) it does not perform the function for which it was designed and constructed, or it has become inadequate to properly drain all affected land under current conditions. (2) the expense of reconstruction outweighs the benefits of reconstruction. "We can't find it so we can't maintain it and obviously to redo it would be way more than what we have". (3) the vacation will not be detrimental to the public welfare. I did send out notices to all surrounding land owners. They had until Friday, February 17, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. to notify us of any disagreement. I didn't get any response back. Its my recommendation it would be beneficial to the Drainage Board and the Developers of this lot to vacate a portion of the John N. Wilson Ditch #118 located in parcel #11283000001000.

Mr. Henry moves to abandon that regulated ditch in parcel #112830001000. Motion seconded by Mr. Whitehead. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Swoboda asks Mr. Borchers if there is more new business.

Schram Ditch #17

Mr. Borchers stated Mr. Catron sent me a typed request to put a culvert in on the Schram Ditch approximately 600 South of SR 28, at corner of 28 and Wheeling. The main reason is so he doesn't have to pull his farm equipment out on SR 28 and he can just cross the ditch. There was an old bridge there for many years that is no longer of use. The size of culvert will be adequate. If we get him to sign the new private bridge acknowledgement that Mr. Murphy's Office put together for us, I have no problem with him replacing the culvert.

Mr. Whitehead moves to approve said culvert with signing the Private Bridge Acknowledgement. Motion seconded by Mr. Henry. **Motion passed 5-0.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Swoboda addressed Mr. Borchers and asked if he had any old business to present to the Board today.

Mr. Borchers stated not at this time.

MAINTENANCE CLAIMS:

Mr. Swoboda entertained a motion for the approval of the maintenance claims as presented.

Mr. Whitehead moved to approve the claims as submitted. Mr. McIntire seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Henry addressed Mr. Borchers regarding the work we are getting done, we paid almost \$12,000.00 to Butler and \$2,000.00 to K&H Vegetation. I notice you use the same contractors for all of our work. I would like to look at bidding this work out. I don't know how we could do it. It needs to be sealed bids. I don't know if we could do it monthly or quarterly, but it does one of two things. I think it gives a fair price and it also gives other individuals the opportunity to do the work. Now it may be possible that the current contractors we use are the lowest bids and we continue to use them. I just think that we should start bidding some of this out because if you look at this month's claims 18,000.00, because I don't know what Butler or K&H were paid throughout last year, but it's been a fairly large sum of money. I feel like we should bid some of that out and I don't know how you do it.

Mr. Borchers okay so with the beaver dams, I get out as fast as I can because it's just stopping up the water. Things like sink holes, replacement of pipe that are only **going**

to be \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 should we group some of them together?

Mr. Henry stated I think grouping them together. I don't know if you could do it by quarter. You can bid per foot for spraying, cleaning, debrushing, and mowing. As far as sink holes I don't know how you bid that.

Mr. Borchers stated it would just have to be a total per job. This is other problem you run into with sinkholes, we know it's there however, when we dig it up is it flowing at this point or do we have to dig it up. The spraying, debrushing, are priced by foot and this is what it's going to cost.

Mr., Henry asks could we somehow, and I'm just asking develop a web sight or have Kyle Johnson develop a website with a list of jobs on it and you give them two weeks to bid or do it by a certain date. I think we might be able to get maybe better pricing, throughout the year. We are spending a lot of money throughout the year and it makes it fair, other individuals can bid. Again, I think it's a fair way to do it as long as you do it by closed bids.

Mr. Borchers stated that's fine opening the bids at each meeting would be the only fair way to it.

Mr. McIntire asks don't they charge by the hour.

Mr. Borchers stated yes, I make them all send in how much they are charging by the hour at the beginning of the year or when their insurance is due in case they have to raise their prices and I go off that. Last month we had three or four different contractors, if they still had jobs to get done I skipped over them and gave to the next one that's getting them done. If I feel like their prices are outrageous or we found that last year with a couple contractors and I don't give them as much free rains, narrow the scope of the work. But, we can put some stuff together. We can try it.

Mr. Henry stated try to put something together, I just think we can get better pricing and these guys are stuck with whatever bid they give for that quarter on month. Maybe the Attorney help and right some stipulations and say if it goes over a certain amount then it's a different job.

Mr. Borchers stated like we said for the dipping, spraying, and mowing all that's fine. The only problem we are going to run into is with the sink holes. I don't know if we do a base price for the job or maybe lump some of them together, I don't what were going to do if they get out there and say this pipe is dead for 200 ft. A lot of contractors don't \$1500.00 small jobs, they want to wait until I have 600 ft. of pipe to put in.

Mr. McIntire stated, weren't you having trouble getting qualified contractors? Butler has specialized equipment and most of these guys aren't going to spend sixty to seventy thousand dollars to buy a machine like that.

Mr. Borchers stated hopefully by the next meeting, I can get together some more perimeters and get you some material to look through and see what we can come up with. Sometimes it's a thing where it's more of a time issue.

Mr. Henry stated sometimes beaver dams get into thousands of dollars. Maybe we need some perimeters to vote via email if possible. Again, I think we need to spread it a little bit and get some better pricing.

Mr. Borchers stated as far as the beavers go you have to have a special license to do that and I want to get them out as fast as I can. Big log jams are what gets expensive.

Mr. Whitehead stated another thing I wouldn't mind is to see if you got any projects ahead that you're looking at, that you're going to or hoping to get done.

Mr. Borchers stated last year was a good year as far as staying under our budget. It seems like we didn't have as many large projects we needed to do. I will come up with some ideas and get them to you at the next meeting.

Mr. Whitehead stated it will make me feel like I understand a little more of what's going on.

Mr. Borchers 100%. Whatever you guys want.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Jamie Swoboda, President

Dick McIntire, Vice President

Shannon Henry, Member

William Whitehead, Member

John Landers, Member

Jennifer Licht, Recording Secretary