

REGULAR DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

August 17, 2015

President Clarence Hensley called the meeting to order. Roll call held. Present at the meeting were the following:

Clarence Hensley, President
John Landers, Vice President
Shannon Henry, Member
Charles Whitehair, Member
William Whitehead, Member
Phil Taylor, County Surveyor
Stan Willis, Deputy Surveyor
Cindy Harty, Recording Secretary

Mr. Hensley opened the meeting by inviting all to participate in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Hensley entertained a motion for the approval of the July 20, 2015 Drainage Board minutes. Mr. Henry moved for approval. Mr. Landers seconded the motion. Mr. Whitehead abstained from voting due to his absence at July's meeting. **Motion passed 4-0.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Taylor stated he previously informed the Board members the Surveyor's Office would be doing a lot more debrushing and dipping of the county's ditches. Mr. Taylor stated that we have had four residents call the office and state, "What a great job our contractors are doing thrilled to have the work done and to thank us". Mr. Taylor informed the Board concerning the work on the Landrey Ditch located on 32nd Street in which Elsie Cox called and stated, "We did an excellent job." Furthermore, Mr. Taylor stated it is good to hear some of this instead of the negative opinions that we do get. Mr. Taylor stated he wanted to share this with the Board, and stated, "Hopefully the positive calls will continue". Mr. Landers stated Mr. Taylor is correct that the positive calls are appreciated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Taylor informed the Board about the proposed Pond Permit in which he and Stan, Marta Moody of the Plan Commission, Toni Cecil with Stormwater, and Angie Moyer and Heather Beard from the Engineer's Office, met a couple of weeks ago to work to put together a Pond Permitting process. Mr. Taylor stated that they are in the initial steps of putting the permit together, and asked the Board to look at their furnished copy of the proposed permit. Mr. Taylor asked the Board members to add their input to the document once they read it, and to get this information to Mr. Taylor's office. Mr. Taylor stated that they did not set another meeting date or time, but he would furnish this information to the others when they do. Mr. Taylor stated that he felt this permit would be a good idea for retention ponds and pleasure ponds. He stated that with this permit, persons would not be able to put a pleasure pond in the middle of a county ditch, and this will eliminate some of the problems the county currently has with persons putting in ponds over the county drains. Mr. Taylor asked the Board to look over the proposed permit and if they have any ideas to add those ideas to the form, and once they meet again they can discuss those additions. Mr. Taylor informed the Board that when the permit is initiated it will be taken to the Commissioners for their approval, and is not certain whether it needs to be taken to the county council for their approval, and asked Mr. Henry if it would be necessary. Mr. Henry stated that he did know, but recommended checking with Attorney Brandon Murphy for his advice. Mr. Henry stated the permit is a good idea.

Mr. Hensley stated he has had a lot of experience with ponds. Mr. Hensley stated the depth of a pond is very vital and if you can go twelve or fourteen-feet deep, the better off you are.

Mr. Taylor stated again if the Board members could write down their comments concerning their thoughts and items such as minimum depth, etc., and bring those to the Surveyor's Office, and when they meet again they could discuss those ideas. Mr. Taylor stated that he knows Toni Cecil will be involved in the process if the pond is more than an acre. Stan Willis stated that he believed Toni Cecil was going to borrow a copy of an Ordinance used by another county to help them come up with a proper permit. Mr. Taylor stated he thought so, but could not remember what county Toni had mentioned. Mr. Taylor stated that they would put all of the information together to come up with a great plan.

Mr. Whitehead asked if they would meet before the next Drainage Board meeting. Mr. Taylor stated that no meeting was set, but he would be happy to inform every one of the date and time when set. Mr. Whitehead stated that he is all for this permit but wonders what steps will need to be taken and what agencies and/or authorities will need to approve the permit, or how much regulative aspect will be placed on it. Mr. Whitehead stated that he knows it is just in the infant stage but those are some issues to think about. Mr. Taylor stated that in reviewing the document, it states, "other permits required", which includes IDEM, the DNR, the County Engineer, the County Surveyor, and the Planning Commission. Mr. Whitehead stated that he did not know if all of them would need to approve it. Mr. Taylor stated we are going from what Toni Cecil stated, if you are going more than an acre, then you will get more entities involved in what they are doing in this process. Furthermore, Mr. Taylor stated it is a good idea to have a finger on the

ponds that are being installed. Mr. Whitehead stated that he does not disagree, and stated he wished they could go back on some that have already been built. Mr. Taylor agreed and stated that would be fewer headaches for them, because they encounter that problem at least once a month. Mr. Whitehead stated that it stops the natural flow of the drainage. Mr. Taylor stated so any comments that the Board members might have, please write it on their copies, and the next time they meet, the issues can be discussed and they will try to include everyone's concerns in this permitting process. Mr. Taylor stated this will not be a quick fix and we are taking baby steps to get it to where it is a solid permitting process.

Mr. Henry stated he thought on this permit, the county should require "as built". Mr. Hensley stated he agreed with Mr. Henry. Mr. Henry stated the Surveyor's Office could maintain those records for years to come. Mr. Taylor stated the plan would be submitted and the parties would then be going through the Plan Commission and the Building Commissioner. He stated then the Building Commissioner will go out and inspect the location, and will furnish all details, including elevation and size on the proposed pond. Mr. Taylor stated after that point each entity would put their approval on it. He stated that we are not trying to stop people from putting in ponds, but trying to do it where it does not cost the county any money after the fact. Mr. Taylor stated he thought it would be a great solution to a continuing problem.

Mr. Hensley stated that he would check out Farm Services to see if they still have a person who worked with ponds. Mr. Taylor stated that would be a good idea. Mr. Taylor further stated that once Mr. Hensley spoke with that person, he could let everyone know when the next meeting would be held, and possibility that person with Farm Services could come to the meeting on that subject. Mr. Hensley stated he would find out today.

MAINTENANCE CLAIMS:

Mr. Hensley entertains a motion to approve the maintenance claims as submitted. Mr. Whitehead so moved. Mr. Whitehair seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Clarence Hensley, President

John Landers, Vice President

Shannon Henry, Member

Charles Whitehair, Member

William Whitehead, Member

Cindy Harty, Secretary