

September 03, 2024

The Newton County Drainage Board met in the Commissioner's Room of the Newton County Courthouse at 10:00 a.m. CDT on September 3rd, 2024.

Members present were Glen 'Butch' Cain, Scott Carlson and Abbey Rossiter. Also present were Surveyor - Beau Watkins, Drainage Board Secretary – Jamie Rowe and Drainage Board Attorney – Candace Armstrong, Chae Yoder of Yoder Drainage, Shawn Cain of KIRPC, Chris Knochel, Henry Coussens and Mr. & Mrs. Roy Kindig.

Glen 'Butch' Cain called the meeting to order.

Minutes

August 6, 2024.

Abbey Rossiter made a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Scott Carlson. Motion passed 3-0.

Lake Village Drainage

Shawn Cain updated the Board regarding Nipsco progress. Nipsco had crews out on Friday which had to be pulled unexpectedly. Mrs. Cain stated that one crossing had been completed, however there were 6 more Nipsco items to be addressed – Nipsco has to drop lines in order for the contractor to get our lines in.

This project must be completed by September 30th, and all invoices closed out by October 15th.

If there is continued communication problems with Nipsco, Economic Development may work to address with Nipsco.

Discussion was held regarding the progress at CR 300 and Highway 41.

Hoover-Simons Tile Repair (565) Bid Opening

Surveyor Watkins shared his estimate with the Board.

Three bids were received:

- Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. for \$18, 890.00
- Yoder Drainage for \$23,530.00
- Yoder-Hall Drainage for \$39, 758.90

After due discussion, *Scott Carlson made a motion to award the Hoover-Simons Tile Repair project to Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. for \$18,890.00. Second by Glen 'Butch' Cain. Opposed by Abbey Rossiter. Motion passed 2-1, pending confirmation by Benton County Drainage Board.*

*Confirmation email from Benton County Secretary, Samantha Smith, received on 9/4/24 stated that Benton County did accept the bid at their Drainage Board Meeting.

Phragmites Chemical Maintenance Bid Opening

Surveyor Watkins shared his estimate with the Board.

Two bids were received:

- Ditch Side Management LLC for \$9,800.00
- Anderson Tree Company, Inc. for \$7,500.00

Abbey Rossiter made a motion to approve the estimate for Phragmites Chemical Maintenance spraying and award to Anderson Tree Company, Inc. Second by Scott Carlson. Motion passed 3-0.

Kindig Watershed Determination

Surveyor Watkins informed the Board that he is still working with our GIS vendor to determine the watershed.

Henry Coussens, landowner adjacent to the Kindigs was present with questions on the watershed. He stated he thought the tile was a 15 inch and is unsure if it continues to the north side.

Mr. Coussens shared his contact information with Surveyor Watkins so that he may also be informed once the watershed is determined.

Thompson Ditch – Wall in Ade (612)

Surveyor Watkins advised the Board he is still waiting to hear from Nipsco.

Councilman Carlson advised the Board that the budget request of \$275,000.00 from 4905-30900 (Landfill Contractual) was only approved as a loan to be paid back. In that case, the Board will pay for this out of the General Drain Improvement Fund (1158).

Best Davis Watts (717)

Surveyor Watkins advised the Board that CBBE is working on a permit. He will follow-up with the project manager, Mike Carey.

Other Matters

Benton County Meeting – Secretary Rowe advised the Board there is a meeting on September 17th for the Benton-Newton Drainage Board. The Board agreed that Attorney Armstrong's presence was not needed for said meeting.

Solar Farm West of Kentland – Chris Knochel was present to discuss the proposed solar farm with the Board. As this is outside of the county jurisdiction, Councilman Carlson suggested that landowners in the watershed might contact the Kentland Plan Commission and request that they require a drainage plan.

Discussion was held regarding what, if any authority the Board may have over this solar farm since it is in the 2 mile buffer zone. Attorney Armstrong was asked to review.

Mr. Knochel did advise the Board that a sediment and corrosion control plan is in place.

Discussion was held regarding correspondence to Reynolds Solar and copy, Kentland Plan Commission, Newton County Plan Commission and the Board of Commissioners of Newton County.

Public Comment – Chae Yoder of Yoder Drainage advised the Board that Josh Yoder is willing to drop his price within 10% of the Surveyor's estimate if problems arise with awarded contractor for Hoover-Simons Tile Repair.

Kindig Watershed Determination Continued – Mr. & Mrs. Roy Kindig arrived during 'Other Matters'. Surveyor advised he is waiting on assistance in determining the watershed. The Kindigs provided information for other adjacent landowners who are interested in this matter.

The Board requested that Surveyor Watkins hold a private meeting with the landowners mentioned once the watershed is determined.

Adjournment

Scott Carlson made a motion to adjourn. Second by Abbey Rossitter. Motion passed 3-0.

X

Glen ‘Butch’ Cain
President

X

Scott Carlson

X

Abbey Rossitter