

## **February 05, 2025**

The Newton County Drainage Board met in the Commissioner's Room of the Newton County Courthouse at 10:00 a.m. CST on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Members present were Councilman Scott Carlson, Commissioner Steve Eilers and Commissioner Robert Churchill. Also present were Surveyor - Beau Watkins, Drainage Board Secretary – Jamie Rowe and Brent and Tammy Skrzekut of Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc.

**Councilman Carlson called the meeting to order.**

## **Minutes** **01-08-2025**

*Commissioner Eilers made a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Commissioner Churchill. Motion passed 3-0.*

## **Bid Opening** **James Whaley (517)**

Surveyor Watkins shared his estimate with the Board.

Two bids were received:

- Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. for \$15,280.00
- Sand Knob LLC for \$10,180.00

*After due discussion, Commissioner Eilers made a motion to award to Sand Knob, LLC for \$10,180.00. Second by Commissioner Churchill. Motion passed 3-0.*

## **Kent Ditch East (551) Joint Drain – Benton County** Surveyor Watkins shared his estimate with the Board.

Two Bids were received:

- Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. for \$15,500.00
- Sand Knob, LLC for \$7,800.00

*After due discussion, Commissioner Eilers made a motion to award to Sand Knob, LLC for \$7,800.00. Second by Commissioner Churchill. Motion passed 3-0.*

*\*Permission for this project was granted by the Newton-Benton Joint Drainage Board at the February 4th, 2025 meeting.*

## **Kindig-Montgomery (573) Joint Drain – Benton County** Surveyor Watkins shared his estimate with the Board.

Three bids were received:

- Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. for \$15,890.00
- Anderson Tree Company for \$42,000.00
- Sand Knob LLC for \$18,000.00

After due discussion, *Commissioner Churchill made a motion to award to Dirt Diggers Excavating Inc. for \$15,890.00. Second by Commissioner Eilers. Motion passed 3-0.*

*\*Permission for this project was granted by the Newton-Benton Joint Drainage Board at the November 21, 2023 meeting.*

### **Lake Village Drainage Project**

Discussion was held between Commissioner Churchill, Brent Skrzekut and Surveyor Watkins regarding verbal permission from landowner to place temporary pipe in order to remove dirt. Mr. Skrzekut indicated this will be completed soon.

Tree mitigation still needs completed. Assistance has been requested from VS Engineering. Mr. & Mrs. Skrzekut are interested in planting the trees on their property and may be interested in being hired to care for them as the permit directs. Secretary Jamie Rowe will reach out again to VS Engineering and will discuss with Newton County Soil & Water for guidance.

Commissioner Churchill read an email he received regarding crop damage. The Board discussed and asked the secretary to reach out to landowners and request an invoice.

### **Attorney Selection**

The Board reviewed the contract sent from Attorney Jacob Ahler for his services.

*After due discussion, Commissioner Churchill made a motion to retain Attorney Jacob Ahler as Drainage Board Attorney, pending legal review from the County Attorney, Linda Harris. Second by Commissioner Eilers. Motion passed 3-0.*

### **2025 Certified Drain Assessment**

The Board was presented with a list of drains in need of assessment for maintenance and reconstruction.

*After due discussion, Commissioner Eilers made a motion to accept and approve 2025 Certified Drain Assessments as presented. Second by Commissioner Churchill. Motion passed 3-0.*

### **Follow-Up**

#### **Thompson Ditch (612) / Ade Elevator**

Surveyor Watkins said he has sent an email to his Nipsco, however he has not received a response. Councilman Carlson asked Surveyor Watkins to also contact the phone company to alert them that work will be done.

#### **VC Borklund (508) / Landfill**

Surveyor Watkins was able to contact the farmer, John Whaley, regarding the need to reshape the waterway and the funding available. Surveyor Watkins and Mr. Whaley will meet on site to discuss further.

### **Other Matters**

**Joint Jasper-Newton Meeting** – There will be a joint meeting held on February 18, 2025, time and location are to be determined.

**Office Supplies** – Secretary Jamie Rowe requested permission to order a file cabinet out of the Drainage Board Office Supplies fund and presented the cost and account balance. All Board members gave approval.

**O'Brien Open (610) Joint Drain- Benton County**

Surveyor Watkins was presented with a landowner request to replace a crossing on landlocked farmland.

At the February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Newton-Benton Joint Drainage Board Meeting a motion was passed to approve up to \$11,350.00 out of the O'Brien fund. This dollar amount is based upon a quote from Debco for a 9' Dia X 40' L culvert which includes delivery.

The landowner wishes to install a tank car - the Joint Board agrees with this; however, the landowner must pay any amount over \$11,350.00, Surveyor Watkins must approve the tank car specifications. In either case of the culvert or tank car - the landowner is responsible for instillation.

**Adjournment**

*Commissioner Eilers made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Churchill. Motion passed 3-0.*

X

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Scott Carlson  
President

X

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Steve Eilers  
Vice President

X

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Robert Churchill