

**GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
401 SOUTH ADAMS STREET
MARION, INDIANA 46953**

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held January 10, 2017, in the Grant County Council Chambers. Chairman Mark Bardsley called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. Other members present were, Kenny Cates, Richard Cox and Jim Todd, Grant County Surveyor. Not in attendance were Gordon Gough and Pat Pinkerton.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kenny Cates made the motion to approve the December 27, 2016 minutes as presented. Seconded by Richard Cox; motion carried with support 3-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Jim Todd reviewed the claims as follows;

Peerless Printing \$40.00 office supplies; \$300.00 in office supply fund
Grant County Treasurer \$3,636.81 Lugar to Monroe Branch; \$43,833.22 in fund
Chronicle Tribune \$15.91 Dillon Winslow Tuttle; \$4,397.35 in the fund
Redman Excavating \$31,032.75 Barren Creek; \$75,115.29 in the fund

Kenny Cates made the motion to pay the claims as presented. Seconded by Richard Cox; motion carried with support 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Creek

Jim Todd stated that Little Creek is on the agenda per request until money is available for maintenance.

Trenching Ordinance

Mark Bardsley gave the Board of copy of the paperwork that the county attorney, Kyle Persinger has been working on regarding the digging and trenching.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dry Fork & Peterson Casey

Jim Todd explained to the Board that there is \$3,436.15 in the Reconstruction Fund for this ditch; this money is left over from a reconstruction from around 1984. Jim stated that he has talked to the Carey's and they stated that they are going to dig this out on their own at the current time. The Carey's told Jim Todd that they would like this left over reconstruction money to be moved over to a maintenance fund. Jim added that he is going to give them an assessment roll so that they may discuss what rate they would like to put it on maintenance for. Richard Cox asked Jim if it is currently on maintenance now; Jim replied that there was a maintenance hearing right after the reconstruction in the 1980's, but it was turned down by the land owners. Jim recommends that this money be moved over to a maintenance fund for the people to use, it belongs to them. Richard Cox made the motion to move this reconstruction money over to the maintenance for the Dry Fork & Peterson Casey. Seconded by Kenny Cates; motion carried with support 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ditch Assessments

Darren Bates is present before the Board. Mr. Bates informed the Board that he has been working with Mary Weesner to get the proper ditch balances in order for her to get the necessary reports to the Auditor's Office for maintenance billing of the maintenance drains. During the process, Mr. Bates and Mary have discovered many parcels have been split, combined or changed hands since the assessments have taken place. Mr. Bates stated that during the process he has also discovered that the concept of how the Drainage Board votes may have not always been the correct way. Mr. Bates gave the Board several examples such as some land owners owning two (2) parcels, or more, and per instruction by the Board in an effort to help the land owners save money, were combined on the assessment roll. But, the Auditor office and the Treasurer office don't see it this way when applying the billing; they

see individual parcel numbers and the rate are applied accordingly. Therefore, the landowners are not being billed as they were told they would be and that there are many parcels that are not being invoiced; some parcels would be double invoiced. Barren Creek is currently being invoiced with “bundled parcels” in Fowlerton; this is not the correct way to be billed. The Drainage Board is having a public hearing on April 11, 2017 to correct the billing. Jim Todd stated that Joe Seward is not happy with this; Mr. Seward feels that the Drainage Board should charge the town of Fowlerton one sum instead of individual parcels. Mr. Bates reformulated the assessment for Barren Creek in order to charge each parcel number without increasing the total amount assessed for Barren Creek. Mr. Bates would like the Board to adopt his new rates in order for people to not be over billed. Richard Cox made the motion to adopt the modified drainage rates that Mr. Bates has proposed. Seconded by Kenny Cates; motion carried with support 3-0.

Dillon Winslow & Tuttle-Public Hearing

Jim Todd informed the Board and public that the current maintenance is assessed at 75¢ per acre with a \$5.00 minimum. Due to the increased cost to maintain this drain, the Grant County Drainage Board would like this drain assessed at \$14.00 per acre, \$20.00 per home site and a \$20.00 minimum for a three (3) year collection; after the three (3) year collection, the rate would be changed to \$5.00 per acre with a \$20.00 per home site and a \$20.00 minimum for an eight (8) year collection. The current maintenance brings in about \$819.02; the new rate would bring in about \$15,772.54 per year. Jim added that the land owners have received some estimates; but there is not enough in the fund right now. Jim has concerns about using General Drain Improvement Fund money due to the Oak Hill project.

Brian Presnell 9943 S 300 E, Fairmount approached the Board. Mr. Presnell presented the Board with 2 more estimates for the work that is needed. He added that he has an estimate from Redman Excavating that is \$8,000.00 cheaper than the others. Mr. Presnell stated that he has talked with Jeff Redman regarding his estimate.

Mr. Presnell feels that since the estimate came in less than expected, the rate requested could also be less; maybe \$11.00 per acre. He added that ditch needs the work done, it is in terrible shape. He is requesting that the Board allow them to use some of the General Drain Improvement Fund; it would not be that much. They have a bid for \$34,000.00, with at least \$3,000.00 in the fund right now and with the spring collection of about \$12,000.00; they would only need to borrow about \$18,000.00 to \$20,000.00. By doing this, it would allow them to go ahead and get the project done. Mr. Presnell stated that the General Drain Improvement Fund would be paid back quickly. Mark Bardsley stated that according to the State Board of Accounts, if they borrow this money from the GDIF, the Drainage Board would run this ditch in the red and then the assessment would pay it back. Jim Todd stated that he would like to see them leave it at the \$14.00 rate instead of the \$11.00; this would pay the money back quicker. Jim added that they could have another quick hearing in three years to then lower the rate, Mr. Presnell stated that would not be a problem and he would be willing to do that. Other land owners were present but did not speak except to say that they were in favor of the proposed rate. Richard Cox made the motion to approve this maintenance increase publicized. Seconded by Kenny Cates; motion carried with support 3-0. In the matter of using the General Drain Improvement Fund until repayment, Richard Cox stated that there is \$238,259.00 in the GDIF. Jim Todd recommends that the Board allow Mr. Presnell to borrow from the General Drain Improvement Fund for this project. Richard Cox made the motion to award the contract to Redman Excavating for \$34,180.00, paying any shortage from the General Drain Improvement Fund. Jim Todd added that the money would not be available until after the spring 2017 collection has been received. Seconded by Kenny Cates; motion carried with support 3-0.

ADJOURN:

Kenny Cates made a motion to adjourn at 11:47 p.m.; Seconded by Richard Cox, motion carried with support 3 -0.

The next scheduled meeting to be held is January 31, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Mary R. Weesner

MINUTES APPROVED:

MARK BARDSLEY

**** ABSENT ****

GORDON GOUGH

RICHARD COX

KENNY CATES

**** ABSENT ****

PAT PINKERTON