

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

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held January 30, 2018 in the Grant County Council Chambers. Mark Bardsley called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. Other members present were Gordon Gough, Pat Pinkerton, Richard Cox and Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd. Kenny Cates was not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the January 9, 2018 meeting; Seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried with support 3-0 with Gordon Gough abstained due to not being present at that meeting.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Jim Todd, Grant County Surveyor read the claims as follows:

Grant County Treasurer \$14,240.38 Loan Transfers from GDIF to Maintenance

Grant County Treasurer \$224.48 (Correct Auditor office error)

Wigger-Ludlum to Wigger

Grant County Treasurer \$3.41 Transfer interest from Maintenance to GDIF

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to approve the above claims as presented; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried with support 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond –

Mark Bardsley stated that Little Crane Pond is currently in the hands of the attorney and there will be no action on this today.

Hummel Creek –

Mark Bardsley stated that Hummel Creek is currently in the hands of the attorney and there will be no action on this today.

Big Deer Creek – Terril Fetz = Request maintenance

Jim Todd stated that he and Gordon Gough need to go out there and decide what they would like to do with what maintenance fund that there is. Jim added that this will have to wait until after the spring collection. Gordon Gough said that he has already went out there and looked at the situation and doesn't feel that there should be much money spent there, adding that he and Jim do need to go there together. Jim thinks that this might not take much rip-rap.

NEW BUSINESS:

Blinn Drain – Dr. Robert McFarland–drainage problem

Jim Todd informed the Board that this tile was originally installed in 1904. Jim added that this drain is beyond maintenance. Dr. McFarland is present today to discuss some of the issues; he has photo slides and an outline as to what issues are occurring at 2104 N. Bethlehem Road, Marion, (a copy of the listed issues are attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office). Jim Todd informed the Board that under county road 200 N there is a four foot pipe that goes on down to where the Highway Department has put in a 21" pipe into a side ditch that they dug. This tile is broken down in so many places that it has now reverted itself to an open ditch. Jim Todd added that years ago when the Drainage Board sent notices out to discuss the issues, the land owners closest to the out let did not show up; adding that the rest of the land owners could afford to put in a big enough tiles to help all that ground water go away. Jim added that it needs a surface water tile and a medium sized tile to work for the most part. There are only a few land owners that would bear the cost and there is no maintenance fund. Jim Todd stated that it is too far gone for maintenance now. The Board reviewed the pictures on Mark Bardsley's laptop as Mr. McFarland explained the issues. He informed the Board that his son is planning on purchasing this land but they cannot seem to get in and out of

this property when it rains. He stated that Marion Bush has poured concrete to try to solve the issue, but now it is washing out his concrete. He added that he has dealt with Rod Mowery who felt that they should put gravel in there, so they put the gravel in there at Mr. McFarland's cost. Mr. McFarland then went on to show the Board a picture of where the gravel was all washed down stream. Afterwards, Mr. McFarland had them put asphalt in, at his own cost. Mr. McFarland showed the Board many pictures of the flooding issues. He added that since Mr. Blinn has all his surface water going into this ditch, he is being dumped on by a square mile of surface water through a 21" pipe. He also had a picture of all the debris that is being washed down to his property. Gordon Gough asked if this is a Drainage Board issue or a county issue, they have a 4' tile feeding a 21" tile. Richard Cox stated that the Board dealt with this a couple of years ago with Marion Bush and at that time, nobody wanted to pay for it. Jim Todd feels that since the Highway Department is the one who drained a 48" pipe into a 21" pipe, David White needs to reevaluate this situation. Richard Cox asked Mr. McFarland where his flooding issues are; are they on Bethlehem or on Salem Pike, Mr. McFarland stated that they are Bethlehem. Richard added that it sounds more like the County Highway need to resolve this, Gordon Gough agrees. Mr. McFarland showed the Board pictures of his motor home that he cannot get out of the driveway because it is washed out at the end of the asphalt and therefore he is dragging across. Mark Bardsley stated that he would move this over to the Highway Department and see what they can get done.

American Electric - Mark Strong - Overhead lines

Mr. Strong is asking the Board permission to cross two drains since American Electric Power is rebuilding several overhead electric lines. He has given the Board member site maps of the area (a copy is attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office). Mr. Strong stated that he believes that the poles will be more than 75' from the top of the bank of both ditches. He has handed out details to the Board regarding Big Black Creek and Little Black Creek crossings near Van Buren. Gordon Gough asked if these are the big metal poles; Mr. Strong stated that they are. Richard Cox asked how high these poles will be; Mr. Strong did not have an answer for that. While reviewing the path of these

poles, Jim Todd stated that one of the ditches is New Roods Run; Mr. Strong stated that he was told that it was Big Black Creek by the lady in the Surveyor's office. Jim stated that it is New Roods Run. Jim did not feel that this would be a problem as long as they can get into the easement to do any work. Mr. Strong added that there would also be intermediate poles and overhead lines that will cross the easement. Gordon Gough asked how high these lines would be, Mr. Strong stated that they would be more than 30' clearance. The intermediate poles won't be as high, they would be 25' – 28' and contain a lower voltage.

Richard Cox made a motion to allow AEP to run their transmission lines in the designated areas as discussed; Mark Bardsley added that would include Roods Run and Little Black Creek. Seconded by Gordon Gough, motion carried with support 4-0.

Mr. Strong requested that a copy of the minutes be sent to him after the minutes have been approved.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ditch Billing – Approval for Grant County billing

Mary Weesner has given each Board member a copy of the proposed ditch billing for 2018. Gordon Gough made a motion to accept the ditch billing as presented; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried 4-0.

Gordon Gough stated that the Fadley & Owl needs to have a public hearing, even though they turned it down, it is in the red over \$7,800.00. Jim Todd stated that he was talking to Brian Cates and Kenny Cates last week and they want to know whether it takes Board action to get a maintenance set or do they need to get some of the farmers that have an interest to petition for a hearing. Mark Bardsley responded that it would carry more weight if the farmers petitioned.

Ditch Balances in the red

Mary Weesner has given each Board member a list of any ditches that are in the red (one is attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office). Gordon Gough stated that the Board needs to set a rate and get these ditch

funds out of the red; Mark Bardsley agreed stating that it is a requirement by state law. Gordon Gough added that Mr. Drook has put a lot into the Fadley & Owl thinking that the previous rate would pass and the other land owners turned it down, Gordon feels that Mr. Drook needs to be at least partially reimbursed. Mark Bardsley asked the Board if they would like to set any dates for the four drains in question; Jim Todd said that he would hold off on the Fadley & Owl until they turn in a petition, he will talk to Brian Cates. Jim Todd then stated that Little Black Creek there were two groups of people talking about separating the assessment roll from the east side of I-69 and the west side of I-69; Jim is not certain that they should do that. Jim then asked about the transferring the maintenance money back into the funds; Mark Bardsley stated that the Board needs a resolution from our attorney to do this. Gordon Gough asked about the Brumfield & Blue and the Burge Tile; Jim stated that regarding the Burge Tile, the town of Sweetser is going to start using a water user fee and they were supposed to get back with him to inform him what the home owner would be willing to pay, but they have not. Jim stated that they were talking about using the water user fee to start to replace the bad parts with that fund and would not be interested in paying an additional tax and maybe the Board should consider leaving it at the current rate. Gordon Gough stated that they need to collect as it is already in the red over \$2,000.00. Jim recommended may be \$5.00 per acre with a \$20.00 minimum, adding that there is really only one farmer involved in this area. Jim Todd will talk to Brian Cates about this since he owns all the farmland that this outlets on. Mark Bardsley stated that if Jim Todd will be speaking to land owners then maybe the Board can schedule public hearings at one of our meetings in February.

ADJOURN:

Richard Cox made a motion to adjourn at 11:53 a.m.; Seconded by Gordon Gough; motion carried with support 4-0.

The next scheduled meeting to be held is February 13, 2018 at 11:00 am

Minutes recorded by Mary R. Weesner

MINUTES APPROVED:

MARK BARDSLEY

GORDON GOUGH

RICHARD COX

*****ABSENT*****

KENNY CATES

PAT PINKERTON