

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held June 28, 2022 in the Grant County Council Chambers. Mark Bardsley, Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Other members present were Pat Pinkerton, Kenny Cates, Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd and Drainage Board Secretary, Mary Weesner. Vice-Chairman Gordon Gough and member Richard Cox were not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the June 14, 2022 minutes as presented. Seconded by Pat Pinkerton, motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Jim Todd read the claims as follows:

Chronicle Tribune \$28.90 Pipe Creek; \$158,872.09 in the fund
Sullivan Excavating \$790.00 Lomax Open; \$37,907.47 in the fund
John's Repair Service \$2,635.00 Aaron Newby; \$12,711.76 in the fund
John's Repair Service \$1,202.50 Aaron Newby; \$12,711.76 in the fund
Right of Way Mgmt \$45,405.90 Ditch spraying – Various ditches
Right of Way Mgmt \$2,568.51 Doyle Ferguson; \$67,335.83 in the fund
Blackford County \$4,556.46 Outbound Joint Drain Collection
Howard County \$3,270.74 Outbound Joint Drain Collection
Wabash County \$1,911.65 Outbound Joint Drain Collection
Wells County \$607.17 Outbound Joint Drain Collection
Huntington County \$576.28 Outbound Joint Drain Collection
Grant County Treasurer \$3,125.43 Loan from GDIF to Maintenance
Cook Excavating \$2,550.00 Pipe Creek; \$158,872.09 in the fund
Cook Excavating \$1,402.50 Pipe Creek; \$158,872.09 in the fund
Cook Excavating \$2,805.00 Pipe Creek; \$158,872.09 in the fund
Cook Excavating \$1,530.00 Pipe Creek; \$158,872.09 in the fund
Cook Excavating \$2,040.00 Pipe Creek; \$158,872.09 in the fund

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to approve the above claims as presented; seconded by Kenny Cates. Motion carried, with support, 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond – Approval of resolution

There has been no movement on this item per Mark Bardsley.

Hummel Creek

Mark Bardsley stated that we have not had any updates from our attorney yet as to how to proceed.

Solar Ordinance

Mark Bardsley said that the Commissioners will be hearing regarding this on Monday for the recommendation from Area Plan.

Chaining Ordinance

There is nothing new to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Furman Tile – Randy Thurman – Tile replacement; \$15,029 in the fund

Jim Todd informed the Board that he has gone out and looked at the tile. This is the first section closest to the outlet; it is really old and broke down and has been patched over the years. There is currently \$15,029.00 in the maintenance fund and will bring in another \$1,000.00 with the fall collection. Jim added that Randy Thurman and Mark Westfall have an estimate from Wehr's Farm Drainage that they would like to present to the Board. Mr. Thurman stated that he has brought two different estimates, one of them goes all the way to Interstate 69. This tile was installed in 1887. Jim Todd stated that this rate was raised to \$10.00 per acre and the maintenance fund has been building. They are asking the Board for approval to do the 1,100 feet at \$16,482.63. Randy Thurman stated that that is downsizing the tile from an 18" to a 15" smooth core double wall tile. Kenny Cates asked Mr. Thurman if 15" would be big enough; he replied that it would definitely take care of them. Mr. Westfall stated that if he had a preference, he would rather see an 18" put back in there but feels that a 15" could be adequate. Mr. Thurman added that Roods Run currently has no maintenance on it and he feels that it needs to be

assessed and added to maintenance to collect taxes. Jim Todd stated that quite a few years ago, the landowners pursued a maintenance assessment on Roods Run, but when they got to the town, they did not want to put this on maintenance. They objected through their attorney that if we put the county part on maintenance and it dumped water on them, causing problems, they could sue us. Since then, the town has had water problems. Jim added that he has been to city hall with a water shed map telling them they can either maintain this through their maintenance department or they could petition the Drainage Board to put a tax on the watershed. He added that they would have to back this up through their storm drain that you are requesting the Board to put a tax on everybody in town. Kenny Cates stated that there are sheds on our 75' easement. Jim Todd said that this would be a very tough clean out. Mark Bardsley stated that he would like to put the Roods Run on advisement and get back to whether or not the Board needs to approve this tile replacement on the Furman Tile. Mark asked Mr. Thurman and Mr. Westfall if they felt okay having a 15"; Mr. Thurman replied that if that is all that they can afford, that is better than the holes that they currently have now. He added that they do not have a good outlet. Kenny Cates stated his concern if a 15" tile is big enough or do they need an 18"; Mr. Westfall said that if they could do the 18" all the way, that would be his preference but it is going to cost \$3,035.00 more, just in the tile. Kenny Cates asked what this tile brings in a year; Mary Weesner stated that it brings in \$2,300.00 per year. Mark Bardsley asked them if they are interested in raising rates, Mr. Thurman said that if they could put in the 15", that could last them 140 years. Kenny Cates asked them when they would be able to do this; Mr. Thurman stated that they left a 25' right of way and that they could do it tomorrow if they wanted. Pat Pinkerton asked what does the rest of the tile look like, the part that they are not replacing, he was told that at the intersection it is a 12" plastic tile and he does not know if it is all plastic going north, but at the 1,100 foot mark they looked and it is a 12" plastic tile as well. Jim Todd added that they went up and looked at it on the west side of Interstate 69 and he does not recall ever getting any calls or bills for that area and that it stops right there in that bowl. Mark Bardsley said that he would hate to waste their money on a 15" tile when they need an 18". He asked Pat Pinkerton his opinion. Pat stated that in theory, if water would have gone into that and run into Roods Run or wherever then they probably do not need an 18", but it is all speculation. He adds that if we are going to run the account into the red for two years, put the 18" in. After some discussion among the Board, Jim Todd said that if the Board is okay with it, he recommends that they go in the red for the two years and put in an 18" tile; Kenny Cates agreed by making the motion to go with the 1,100 feet of the 18" tile; seconded by Pat Pinkerton 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS ... continued

Lugar Creek & Tribs – Rudy Vugteveen; 1779 S 900 E -easement request

Rudy Vugteveen of Randall Miller & Associates is present before the Board regarding Lugar Creek. Rudy passed a map around to the Board members of the area. He has a client that is proposing to build a new home on an almost six acre parcel. In order to access the home, the drive will need to be within the ditch easement. He has about 30 feet from the top of the bank of the ditch and he would be constructing his drive within that 30 feet from the top of the bank and the boundary line. Rudy is requesting permission to construct a drive within the county regulated drain easement. Jim Todd stated that he did not see a problem with this, but they may need to track over it some day and the county would not be liable for any damage to the drive; Rudy stated that his client is aware of this. Pat Pinkerton asked how deep the banks are; Jim said that the banks are steep, about 1 to 1 and the ditch is probably 8 feet deep there. Pat added that he would want to leave the drive as far from the top of the bank as possible. Mark Bardsley asked Ryan Malott, Area Plan Director who is tuned in via WebEx what his thoughts are on this request. Ryan stated that he does not believe that there are any problems out that way, this address is not familiar. Pat Pinkerton made a motion to approve the easement reduction with the caveat that they keep the drive as far from the top of the ditch bank as possible. Seconded by Kenny Cates, motion carried 3-0.

Unthank Tile – Mic Roush – Estimate from Tom's Excavating

Mic Roush is not present before the Board today, Jim Todd is speaking on his behalf. Jim said that the estimate from Tom's Excavating is 21,231.70. He added that there is \$19,217.00 in the Unthank maintenance fund and they would like to borrow the remainder. Jim said that he understood that he was already told that he could do it, so he told the contractor to go for it. Jim Todd added that they bring in \$4,020.00 annually and therefore it will bounce back next year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Aaron Newby–Greg Wood; Request maintenance-\$12,711 in the fund
****2 Estimates from John's Repair Service****

Jim Todd stated that Mr. Wood is present today to request to spend some of the maintenance fund on the Aaron Newby and also to request a public hearing to raise the maintenance. Mr. Wood informed the Board that he would like to raise the acreage assessment from \$5.00 per acre to \$7.50 per acre. Jim added that Mr. Wood has turned in a petition for the public hearing. As far as the request for maintenance on the Aaron Newby, Mr. Wood has 2 estimates from John's Repair Service; one estimate is for \$17,435.00 for 880 feet of 18" Dual Wall Perforated Pipe and installation of the pipe. There is a second estimate for one foot of 18" Dual Wall Perforated Pipe to repair a small portion if the other estimate is denied by the Board; that estimate is \$21.35. Jim Todd stated that this would continue the work that has been done by the Highway Department. Raymond Bair stated the Andy Rickner of John's Repair Service has already talked to the railroad company and they have agreed to clean out under the railroad. Mark Bardsley asked how many acres are on the Aaron Newby; Mary Weesner informed him that there are 754 acres. Mark then asked Mr. Wood if he felt there would be many objections to the raise in maintenance from \$5.00 to \$7.50 per acre, Mr. Wood stated that he has talked to Kenny Hoke, who has over 200 acres, and he is not opposed. Mr. Wood has 210 acres on the Aaron Newby. Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the work by John's Repair Service on the Aaron Newby; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried, with support, 3-0.

Aaron Newby–Greg Wood; Request public hearing date

Mary Weesner informed Mark Bardsley that the earliest that she could be ready for a public hearing would be August 9, 2022. She informed Mark that the hearing is to raise the per acre rate and that the minimum, home site and shut-off would remain the same. Pat Pinkerton made a motion to approve the date of August 9, 2022 for the public hearing for the Aaron Newby; seconded by Kenny Cates. Motion carried 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS ... continued

Hollis-Daughtery – Rates vs. Expenses

Mary Weesner presented the Board with the list that was requested at the last meeting for the monies brought in vs. the expenses on the Hollis-Daughtery. Jim Todd said the rate per acre is only \$1.00 and they never have enough money to do the work they want. Raymond Bair stated that Mark Townsend want to dig about 2,000 to 2,500 feet, but the money had already been earmarked for Mr. Maddox for a surface drain. Mark Bardsley asked the Board if they would want Mary Weesner to get a letter together and send out to landowners to get a feel if they would like to have a maintenance hearing to raise the rate and will report back to the Board.

ADJOURN:

Kenny Cates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 p.m.; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried 5-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be July 12, 2022 at 11:00 am and will be held in the Grant County Council Chambers.

Minutes recorded by:
Mary R. Weesner
Drainage Board Secretary

*The Grant County Drainage Board approves of the minutes for
June 28, 2022 as presented:*

Mark Bardsley

Absent

Gordon Gough

Absent

Richard Cox

Kenny Cates

Pat Pinkerton