

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held September 27, 2022 in the Grant County Council Chambers. Mark Bardsley, Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Other members present were Vice-Chairman Gordon Gough, Kenny Cates, Pat Pinkerton, Richard Cox, Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd and Drainage Board Secretary, Mary Weesner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the September 13, 2022 minutes as presented; seconded by Richard Cox. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Jim Todd read the claims as follows:

Grant County Treasurer \$2,035.63; Loan from GDIF to Maintenance
M&D Seed Research \$195.00 Doyle Ferguson; \$31,912.08 in the fund
M&D Seed Research \$490.00 Doyle Ferguson; \$31,912.08 in the fund
John's Repair Service \$4,755.00 Aaron-Newby; \$2,035.63 in the red
Peerless Printing \$102.36 Office Supplies; \$227.02 in the fund
Cook Excavating \$2,186.00 Winger Ditch; \$23,026.46 in the fund
Cook Excavating \$2,443.00 Winger Ditch; \$23,026.46 in the fund

Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the above claim as presented; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried, with support 5-0

*****Richard Cox to abstain*****

Drewry Simmons \$416.50 Hummel Creek; 223,362.88 in the red

The Board discussed whether to have our attorney present at the October 11, 2022 meeting for the assessment to Mr. Gary Ott. Mark Bardsley added that since we already have the court order that states it will be paid, so once it is done, it is done. Even if there is an objection on the billing, then we would go back and ask the court for an immediate finding and declaration. Jim Todd stated that he heard that Randy Miller had surveyed this area out there and had parceled off a part of this area to make a wildlife preserve. He added that

this would not be tax exempt; Pat Pinkerton stated that it would still have a ditch assessment whether or not it was tax exempt.

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to approve the above claim as presented; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried, with support 4-0; Richard Cox abstained due to having land on the Hummel Creek watershed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond

Mark Bardsley stated that there is no movement on the resolution for the vacation of a portion of Little Crane Pond.

Hummel Creek

There is nothing new to report.

Solar Ordinance

Mark Bardsley stated that they are waiting to see what is happening regarding APC

NEW BUSINESS:

There is no new business to discuss.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mark Bardsley reminded the Board that they had discussed the idea of holding a public hearing for any kind of solar situation; he added that they probably need to vote on this the next time stating that we are adopting that as our full set of requirements. Mark Bardsley added that they still do the 75', adding that the economic development that states we can add 25' or additional footage per the economic requirement. Jim Todd said that the code states it is 75' from each direction, adding that is a 150' strip. Pat Pinkerton asked if this would be a set-back or would it be increasing the drainage easement, also asking if they are entitled to receive some sort of compensation since they are losing 25' of their ground; Mark Bardsley responded stating that we would not part the easement, we cannot change state law, but if a contractual agreement in the economical development agreement that says that we will honor another 25' on each side. Ryan Malott, attending via WebEx, stated

that as they are coming in, depending on size and development. He added that they know Indiana Wesleyan is coming in and they will be out there every day, all day. He added that something that they are going to have to discuss with the larger farms is that if we have a farm come in that is on 23 tracts of land, we may be getting into something larger than one building inspector and director can handle. Ryan stated that they may need to look into hiring out as far as someone coming in and doing inspections for us, engineering, and stuff like that; that is what the application fees are for. Richard Cox asked Ryan if there are final inspections before the operations begin, Ryan said that he plans on being out there constantly with these, as much as he can. Ryan added that he wanted to bring the drainage report, as they were talking in the last meeting about checklists, he would like to actually put the drainage plan in front of the Board so that they would have a better idea of what the solar company is going to turn in. Jim Todd added that he would like to go onsite with the representative and the proposal and then be reassured of what will be done. After some discussion, Commissioner Steve Wright stated that he did meet with one of the engineers and they definitely do not want to get into any of our stuff, adding that it is more of a hassle if they do, it is easier knowing where things are. It is Steve's understanding that they will come first and be talking to farmers about their particular fields. He added that he feels that they will welcome any input that they can get. Kenny Cates stated that the problem is that the notification that the landowners receive, the landowner may not even reside in Indiana and they rent their land out. When the landowners receive the notice, they do not inform the tenant of the land what is occurring. Kenny added that probably 70% have inherited this land and do not even know where it is at. Ryan Malott added that the right of entry for inspection is included in the ordinance.

ADJOURN:

Richard Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 p.m.; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried 5-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be October 11, 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 has approved the minutes for September 27, 2022 as presented:

Mark Bardsley

Gordon Gough

Richard Cox

Kenny Cates

Pat Pinkerton