

May 07, 2025

The Newton County Drainage Board met in the Commissioner's Room of the Newton County Courthouse at 10:11 a.m. CST on May 7th, 2025.

Members present were Councilman Scott Carlson, Commissioner Steve Eilers, Drainage Board Attorney – Jacob Ahler, Drainage Board Secretary – Jamie Rowe and Surveyor – Beau Watkins. Also present were County Attorney Linda Harris and Nikki Hanger, Lake Township Trustee.

Councilman Carlson called the meeting to order.

Minutes

04-02-2025

Commissioner Eilers made a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Councilman Carlson. Motion passed 2-0.

Lake Village Project – Tree Mitigation

Commissioner Eilers made a motion to ratify the contract with Dirt Diggers, (previously accepted by the Board at the April 2nd meeting). Second by Councilman Carlson. Motion passed 2-0.

Follow-Up

Thompson Ditch (612) – Wall in Ade

Surveyor Watkins reported that there was a one-foot cut in the center of the gas line and the meter had been removed. NIPSCO did not notify him of when they would be on site, as he requested. He emailed NIPSCO with further questions regarding how the work needing done for this wall may impact the line.

Councilman Carlson asked Surveyor Watkins to contact CBBE again, once he receives answers from NIPSCO.

Other Matters

Lake Village Project

Nikki Hanger, Lake Township Trustee, was present to discuss the roadside ditches of W 875 N, W 883 N, W 890 N & W 896 N. Trustee Hanger showed the Board photos of the roads prior to the Lake Village Project and their current condition. The concern presented is that the ditches are unable to be supported by the soil - there are washouts, and the ditches are at a depth/slope that the residents cannot adequately maintain them. These ditches fall within the road right of way.

At the request of the Board of Commissioners, County Attorney Linda Harris was present to consult with Drainage Board Attorney Jacob Ahler regarding any potential legal recourse.

The Board discussed possible solutions, including the idea of laying pipe in place of the ditches.

Follow-Up Continued

VC Borklund (508) / Landfill

Surveyor Watkins advised the Board he had spoken to a resident who was previously aware of the issue. The resident stated there was DNR documentation indicating that the tile is one foot lower than the main.

Zoborosky Tile (524)

Surveyor Watkins advised that Josh Yoder is expected to be on-site this week to make the repair.

Knight-Moffitt (581)

Surveyor Watkins advised the Board that Josh Yoder has done one bank repair and will be working on the other.

Light Tile (741)

Surveyor Watkins advised that Dwengers has sent him the map and an invoice. He will call Dwengers to verify job has been completed.

Other Matters Continued

Sizelove Tile (528) – Surveyor Watkins stated that the hole on JR Johnson’s property has been visible on Beacon since 2022. He will inspect the site later today with JR Yoder.

Chemical Maintenance – The Board received a letter from Michael Knapp’s attorney formally requesting that Mr. Knapp’s property be removed from the spraying list due its status as an organic farm. Surveyor Watkins advised Heritage Drone not spray from Mr. Knapp’s property to the railroad tracks.

Attorney Ahler will send a letter advising that while the property will not be sprayed, it must still be maintained by the landowner.

Bogie Mutual (735) – Secretary Rowe advised a call has been received regarding the assessment for Bogie Mutual. This will be reviewed by the Board during the next assessment year.

Adjournment

Commissioner Eilers made a motion to adjourn. Second by Councilman Carlson. Motion passed 2-0.

X

Scott Carlson
President

X

Steve Eilers
Vice President

X

Robert Churchill