

April 4, 2011 – 10:00 A.M. – DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING – Newton County Courthouse

The Newton County Drainage Board met on April 4, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. in the Newton County Courthouse. Present were Board Members Chr. Russell Collins, James Pistello and Tim Drenth; Surveyor Chris Knochel; County Engineer Larry Holderly; Drainage Board Attorney Dan Blaney; Secretary Debra Honn. The meeting was opened by Russ.

Minutes - Jim made a motion to approve the February 22, 2011 and March 7, 2011 minutes, with a second from Tim. Motion carried. The board also signed the previously approved February 7, 2011 minutes.

Denham Subdivision Lateral III Bids – Chris submitted his estimate for this project in the amount of \$20,764.10. This project covers an area from 573E to approximately SR 55 under three cul-de-sacs. Whereas there were no bids received to date for this project, the motion was made by Jim to re-bid the project with a second from Tim. Motion carried.

Chemical Maintenance – The contract was signed for **The Daltons, Inc. of Warsaw IN** to handle the chemical maintenance for 2011. Their bid was previously accepted in the amount of **\$25,287.05**.

Watershed Alteration – Eighnor Property to George Clark Lateral #1 – Larry Holderly, County Engineer, opened the discussion on the Eighnor property in Beaver City. Linda complained about water in her basement and said she had a tile going out North to the road and then to the West. Larry had Gene Yoder install a catch basin N of her house on the north side of the road to the tile going back west. There were roots in the line at Ed Madison's house so Roto-Rooter cleared those. It hasn't rained enough to see if this will solve the Linda Eighnor drainage problems. Jim asked the cost of this to which Larry responded \$1450 which he had paid himself. The landowner didn't have the money and there was no money in the fund so Dan Blaney had agreed to split the cost with Larry. Jim asked if this was a legal lateral to which Chris responded that it is a private lateral that they didn't even know was there until Ed Madison told them of such and that he had allowed the Eighnors to attach to it. It does outlet into the George Clark Lateral. It is a personal drain that drains into the George Clark Lateral which will hopefully keep her house basement from flooding. The pipe was there when Larry had Gene install the catch basin. Hoskins had a tile that headed south that was plugged. The tile along the road that Linda was tied to was plugged so the catch basin was installed going out to the other tile that goes East then to the old elevator and then into the George Clark. Larry said that Taylors were changed into the George Clark quite awhile back. Jim said he was trying to figure how the drainage board could help cover the cost of the tile repairs. While the catch basin cost could not be reimbursed the Roto-Rooter expense could be. Jim asked if the extended lateral could be made part of the regulated tile. Chris is to determine the route of the private tile to see if it can be added to the regulated drain.

Assessment Charts - Chris shared the assessment charts with the board showing the condition and value of all drains. This is a reference snapshot to be added to the previously distributed binders. The Denham Subdivision is very high as assessments were not collected until 2011.

Frank Johnson Tile Report – Chris explained that he was out staking the project last week when he discovered a problem. Landowners have already diverted the water from the waterway on the west side of the FJ Tile for a distance of 685' to the RR Ditch which runs parallel to the FJ Tile on the east side. Mike Wiseman thought 15 yrs. ago it was dipped the first time and then again 2 yrs. ago.

Russ stated looking at the ditch it still has grooves in the bottom which proves there has not been much water going through it. Chris said we now have a problem with the depth as we are getting bed material from the bed itself not the grade into the ditch. Chris had mentioned to Larry that we will now have problems with cutting the tile. Dan explained that the FJ Tile is a very old tile and mentioned that Roy Kindig farms to the North. The ditch takes care of the surface water; however as you walk the ditch you notice that the landowners have drained their fields, so it is not just accumulating surface water. When you get to the RR Ditch there is a solid stream of water running from North to South. Tim asked if we hadn't already made a decision to dig this out to which Chris responded that there is now a technical problem which we were not aware of before. If we dig it any deeper we are going to change the grade of the ditch which will cause even more of the road bed and the RR grade to end up in the ditch. Jim stated that the if the North/South ditch (RR) is still lower than the East/West then you shouldn't have to touch the ditch, just cut the tile and let it run to the east. Chris stated that the RR Ditch is deep enough for the surface water but not for the tile. Dan said he thought it would work but when you get to the south it comes up a little bit so we would need to dig some out on the RR Ditch. Chris said the RR Ditch is already too deep as we have railroad material from the bed itself, not the grade, in the bottom of the ditch. They dipped out some gravel when they dipped it the last time and that is the concern. If we dip it anymore how wide is the ditch going to become at the top of the bank. Larry said that the E/W must be higher than the tile. Before the East/West Ditch was put in there was enough grade to drain the tile into the RR. Jim contended if we don't touch the N/S then the E/W will still drain. Chris stated again that the RR Ditch is not deep enough to drain the tile. Russ asked how soon we can get more shots on this project. Jim and Tim were very upset that this had not been finished prior to now as the board stated it would be completed prior to planting and they are tired of talking about it. Larry said he was sure it would work however the cross ditch was put in since he was last there. Tim asked for confirmation that this has been discussed for over 2 yrs. now to which Chris responded, longer. Russ stated that the Wisemans and Roy Kindig had each paid to install the cross ditch hoping it would help. However the tile is still blowing out on Wisemans' property.

GIS – Chris stated that since we are in the process of a contract with Schneider, we are gathering inventory and prioritizing information within the surveyors' office for the new GIS System. Russ stated that Pat has the Schneider contract to sign.

McGraw Tile – Chris mentioned that the McGraw Tile has the same issues as the Frank Johnson in that every time he schedules to go out there the weather is an issue.

Kindig-Montgomery Crossing Placement – This project has just ballooned in cost. Larry's recommendation to just put in a 12' culvert and if it holds back water then let it overflow will not work as it is too close to the Montgomery Ditch. The more practical solution was to put in another 12' culvert so instead of costing \$20,000 it would be closer to \$40,000. The landowner said he would pay for ½ when we thought it was going to be \$20,000 so he agreed to \$10,000 toward the project. Chris stated he didn't think it would be \$40,000 but it would be more than \$20,000. Jim asked for confirmation that the two sections would be side by side which Chris confirmed. Larry stated that the landowner wants 40' of pipe in there. Chris said we need 40' due to the depth of the ditch. Jim asked if we needed to decide anything on this. Russ stated we don't want to block the East Kent Ditch and he may not get in there this Spring but hopefully by Summer. Tim

suggested they dig the ditch out and pour concrete bottom in ditch and drive over it as it would surely be less than \$40,000.

Other Matters – Chris had spoken with Dan and with other subdivisions regarding easements.

Other counties state that they grant 30' easements for future drainage so that everything is solved in the future. That prevents no easements or narrow drainage easements on the back and sides of the minor subdivisions. Jim agreed this sounds fair. Chris suggested that property be based upon buildable area rather than just flat acreage in subdivisions. Tim said that is fine as long as it is not 35' around property to which Chris stated the state minimum is 25'. Jim explained that the 30' easement is for the complete subdivision not individual lots.

Jim made a motion to adjourn with a second motion from Tim. Motion carried.