

June 6, 2011 – 10:00 A.M. – DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING – Newton County Courthouse

The Newton County Drainage Board met on June 6, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. in the Newton County Courthouse. Present were Board Members James Pistello and Tim Drenth; Surveyor Chris Knochel; Drainage Board Attorney Dan Blaney; Highway Superintendant Dick West; Secretary Debra Honn. The meeting was opened by Jim.

Frank Johnson Tile M-694 Hearing – There was nobody present to participate in this hearing. Dan reported that the Wiseman's are O.K. with doing the work themselves and then submitting a bill, however they have not yet completed the job. Tim made a motion to table the hearing until the work is done with a second from Jim. Motion carried.

Frank McGraw Tile Extension M-45 Hearing – Present were John Miller of the engineering firm hired by Co-Alliance and Doug Hartman of Co-Alliance. Chris reported that the Frank McGraw Tile currently ends at SR55 west of Goodland and that the extension is to continue from that point to the west side of the Co-Alliance property. There are four landowners involved – Mr. Spurlock, Mike Minniear, REMC & Co-Alliance. All property owners have been contacted and are in favor of the extension. While INDOT was not present, Chris stated that they had requested that the drain not be in the INDOT right of way even though they will share the easement. Chris recommended that INDOT, Mr. Miller & he meet to decide exactly where the drain would be. Should the regulated drain be extended, Chris will contact INDOT. Co-Alliance has agreed to fund the project. REMC requested that they bore under the drive rather than cutting it since the drive was just recently poured. Tim made a motion to extend the Frank McGraw Tile with a second from Jim. Motion carried.

Hibler System Survey Contract – Chris stated that the Hibler System Survey Contract is ready to be signed and has been reviewed by Heyde Engineering. Ted Wmrowski was present to discuss the drainage problems he has in the Valley Forge Subdivision. There is not a culvert under his driveway at the current time so drainage is therefore hampered. Ted would be responsible for the driveway permit from Co. Hwy. and also for the actual cost of the under-drive culvert. The county would install it. Deb reported the phone call she received from Dustin Lawrence regarding the lack of drainage in Maplebrook Subdivision. Much discussion followed with confirmation that the elevation is O.K. in both locations. It was decided that the NCHD needs to clean the roadside ditches in order to improve drainage until Chris is able to continue with the whole Hibler System. Dick is to meet with Larry Holderly & Tim Drenth on the particulars. Jim stated that we need to delay the Hibler project until \$ is available. Sharon Dewing, County Auditor, confirmed that the \$100,000 that was approved for the GDIF in 2010 for this project was placed in Landfill Contractual Services & not transferred to GDIF from which the claims were paid. Therefore at the end of the year since the money was not used, the appropriation went back to the county. There are no plans for any future additional money for this project which is why we need to get the previous \$100,000 situation resolved. Tim made a motion that a correction be made on the \$100,000 that was appropriated in 2010 and was previously placed in Landfill Contractual Services. It should be explained to the Council & once the money is received again, it should be placed in GDIF to offset the accumulated debt on the individual ditches in the Hibler System. Jim followed with a 2nd motion. Motion carried.

Anita Evans Report – Chris stated that he had gone over the property with Anita and while she does have a tile system there somewhere, she does not know where the tile is. The one tile that was found is working, but where it is draining, they don't know.

Goodland Lateral Extension – Janet Spurlock is present to discuss the Goodland Lat. Ext. Chris said this project is necessary due to the culvert breakdown under Central Street in Goodland and the fact that the ditch is not flowing and is half full of sediment. Janet asked if the ditch could be cleaned out rather than making a whole new ditch and trying to change the stream of water. Chris said they have tried to find a route that we could utilize and would interfere with the least amount of trees and buildings. It would also move the ditch away from buildings closer to parcel lines or align with parcel lines. She presented her case against the moving of the Goodland Lateral into her mothers' yard. She suggested they clean the ditch that is already there rather than changing the flow of water. She said there are no trees where the ditch is currently located. Her mom has lived there 60+ years and the ditch has never been cleaned. But now they want to go through her mothers' yard, taking out 2-3 trees and then go right back into the current narrow ditch. Chris said the revised ditch would move it further from the house which is only 25' from the ditch right now. Chris proposed moving the drain away from the house and removing the necessary trees. Janet stated if Chris makes the requested revisions to the ditch there will be no way to get to the other side to mow. Chris agreed to go out and spray paint the suggested route of the ditch so that the landowner knows where it would go.

May 2, 2011 minutes were signed. **May 16, 2011 minutes** were approved with a motion from Tim and a 2nd motion from Jim. Motion carried.

Maplebrook Terrace – Skylar Vito was present and asked how wide the ditch is going to be at the back of his property (Lot 19). He owns the land on the west side of the ditch with the 150' board fence. He will be replacing the fence and therefore wanted to know how wide the ditch was going to be so that he could make plans for replacement. Jim advised Skylar to keep his new fence out of the easement so that the same thing does not happen again in 20 yrs. Chris will stake the property and as long as Skylar places his fence on the west side of the stakes, it will be O.K. Skylar will be removing and replacing his own fence. Mr. Harmon is the landowner on the south side of the ditch that does not want to cooperate and remove his chain link fence. The board thanked Mr. Vito for attending the meeting and working with them on the fence and drainage issues.

Ditches scheduled for maintenance Fall 2011 – Deb reported that of the four ditches scheduled for Fall 2011 maintenance (John Bower M-33; Hunter Ditch M-602; Zoborosky Open M-56; M. Spitler Open M-75) most have plenty of money in their fund except for the Mary Spitler Open which only has \$10,550.03.

Ditches scheduled for reconstruction Summer 2011 – Deb reported that all of the three ditches scheduled for reconstruction (Mary E Spitler Tile M-15, Monjon Tile M-48 & Goodland Lateral Ext. M-611) already owe the General Drain Improvement Fund. Chris shows \$18,000 worth of work needs done on the Goodland Lateral Extension and stated that all landowners on the Goodland Lateral will be assessed. Deb reported the following assessments: Mary Spitler Tile \$569.66; Monjon Tile \$364.46; Goodland Lateral \$6,323.00. The Goodland Lateral will be paid back and reconstruction will be covered with the funds collected during the four year assessment period. The Monjon Tile assessment needs to be addressed as the current rate is not enough to cover the maintenance and repairs. The Mary E. Spitler Tile is similar to the Frank Johnson Tile. The 100 yr. old tile had trees growing in it, we had to replace 300' of tile and where we stopped the new tile, it started blowing out the old tile for 200'. We have to do something to relieve the pressure so that it doesn't blow the old tile. Chris is going to correct the surface auxiliary and if the board wants to make it the responsibility of the one landowner who benefits, they could do that. Chris estimated the repair of the tile at \$6,100 and repair of the auxiliary at \$5,400. He also mentioned it is a small watershed with few landowners (less than 10). No decisions were made.

Maplebrook Terrace – Estimates for alternate repair – Chris stated he had been having problems getting alternate estimates due to the fence issue. Chris is to meet with a couple contractors next week of which Ronnie Madison is one. He has also been trying to reach Matt Anderson

since he has a vacuum which he feels could be beneficial in this matter. Jim stated there are a lot of trees within the ditch so the vacuum might not work in this situation.

Report of Assessed & Un-assessed Drains in Newton Co – Chris made mention of the handout which contains the information the board had previously requested in regard to assessed and un-assessed property.

Tim made a motion to adjourn with a second from Jim. Motion carried. (Refer to audio tape for more details)