

## **November 6, 2023**

The Newton County Drainage Board met in the Commissioner's Room of the Newton County Courthouse at 1 p.m. CDT, on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Members present were Glen 'Butch' Cain, Scott Carlson and Abbey Rossiter. Also present were Surveyor - Beau Watkins, Drainage Board Secretary – Jamie Rowe and Drainage Board Attorney – Candace Armstrong. Brent and Tammy Skrzekut of Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc., Josh DeYoung of JD Excavating, Shawn Cain of KIRPC and Mike Carey of CBBE.

**Glen 'Butch' Cain called the meeting to order.**

## **Minutes**

### **October 2, 2023**

*Abbey Rossiter made a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Glen 'Butch' Cain. Motion passed 2-0. Scott Carlson did not vote as he was not present for the October meeting.*

### **Lawler (613) – Bid Opening**

Surveyor Watkins privately shared his estimate with the Board. Two bids were received:

- Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. for \$58,950.00
- JD Excavating for \$85,050.00

Both bids were within Surveyor's estimate. A bid bond was not required by the Board.

*Scott Carlson made a motion to award to Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. for \$58,950.00. Second by Abbey Rossiter. Motion passed 3-0.*

### **Hibler (716) – Bid Opening**

Surveyor Watkins privately shared his estimate with the Board. Two bids were received:

- JD Excavating for \$69,170.00
- Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. for \$56,420.00

Both bids were within the Surveyor's estimate. Surveyor Watkins said that there was an update to his estimate due to a reduced cost culvert he found. A bid bond was not required by the Board.

*Scott Carlson made a motion to award to Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. for \$56,420.00. Second by Abbey Rossiter. Motion passed 3-0.*

### **Lake Village Drainage Project**

Commissioner Cain stated that there was a problem with the bids – one had items missing from the packet. This will be addressed at the Commissioner's Meeting held later in the day, as this is a Commissioner's project.

Discussion was held regarding bid bonds – when it would be required for general drainage projects. Shawn Cain stated that OCRA required a bid bond in the invitation to bid.

### **Beaver Creek / Dawson's Crossing (573)**

Two invoices were submitted by Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. after completion of the project that required action by the Board.

The final invoice included overages of \$11,800.00. An Additional Scope of Work invoice was also submitted for \$17,875.00, which included final assembly of bridge components, etc.

Overages – Brent Skrzekut explained that it took two machines and three men to complete the final assembly, and that he had a hard time scheduling with Debco. It was discussed that Debco was previously paid in full for final assembly. Surveyor Watkins explained that Debco was to come out and attach the wing walls, but the contractor would have to set it in place. Debco will send a reimbursement of \$600.00 for that portion of the work paid for and not completed.

Commissioner Cain requested that before the amount of \$11,800.00 be paid, Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc., should submit supporting documents for overages.

Additional Scope of Work – Additional work documented on invoice was not known about during the time of the project viewing. Attorney Armstrong asked if a change order was completed. Surveyor Watkins stated he found out the day prior to the bid being awarded – so he increased his estimate.

Surveyor Watkins also stated that the landowner contacted him requesting that the Board place more stone near the field road. The Board stated the landowner should come to the Board for the request of more stone.

After due discussion, *Scott Carlson made a motion to pay \$17,875.00 and \$11,800.00 upon receipt of invoices for overage justification. Second by Abbey Rossiter. Motion passed 3-0.*

### **Hoover-Simons Tile (565) – Surveyor's Report**

Surveyor Watkins presented the Board with his report and stated that this is a joint drain with Benton County.

The landowner has redone the grass waterway. Surveyor Watkins stated that after work that was done between 1999 and 2019, there was a portion of the tile that was crushed and that the old and new tiles were never tied together. He also said on the south end, there is water surfacing along the road, however this portion is not regulated.

This will be discussed further at the Newton-Benton Joint Drainage Board Meeting later in the month.

### **Follow-Up**

#### **Illingworth Extension to the O'Brien**

Surveyor Watkins said this and the Best Ditch will be waiting until spring until we get wetlands determination.

#### **Best Davis Watts (717)**

Commissioner Cain said he spoke with Scott Pelath and was advised it would be best to start over with the SEA368 meeting. Discussion held regarding the SEA process. He said there needs to be some preliminary plans to get the meeting set up. Mr. Carey said they can start the process for plans. The original project was dredging project, but it was discovered dredging would not solve anything. He will get with Jason Durr to start plans for an access road.

**Kindig-Montgomery**

Surveyor Watkins said he took a letter to the owner of the unregulated portion that will need worked on in order to help increase the flow of the ditch.

**Other Matters**

**Kent Ditch**

Surveyor Watkins stated he had the Kent Ditch jetted. The invoice was higher than the estimate given before the job.

**Newton-Benton Meeting & Newton-Jasper Meeting**

Secretary Rowe confirmed the agendas with the Board.

**Work on State Highway 24**

Scott Carlson said he received a call about the state working on part of the highway, and they had unearthed part of the regulated tile. Surveyor Watkins went to view the tile – he said that on the plans for that job it said ‘Newton County pipe remove and flow-fill’. Both sides of the road have already been plugged with concrete.

Surveyor Watkins does not believe he was contacted by INDOT regarding this project, but did confirm the fix INDOT is doing is sufficient.

**Adjournment**

*Abbey Rossiter made a motion to adjourn. Second by Scott Carlson. Motion passed 3-0.*

**X**

Glen ‘Butch’ Cain  
President

**X**

Scott Carlson

**X**

Abbey Rossiter