

March 5, 2024

The Newton County Drainage Board met in the Commissioner's Room of the Newton County Courthouse at 10:18 a.m. CDT, upon the closure of the Newton County Commissioner's Meeting, on March 5th, 2024.

Members present were Glen 'Butch' Cain, Scott Carlson and Abbey Rossiter. Also present were Surveyor - Beau Watkins and Drainage Board Secretary – Jamie Rowe, Ralph Illingworth, Chris Yana and Tammy Skrzekut of Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc.

Glen 'Butch' Cain called the meeting to order.

Minutes

February 6, 2024

Scott Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Abbey Rossiter. Motion passed 3-0.

Illingworth Extension to the O'Brien (610)

Ralph Illingworth and Chris Yana were present to discuss the status of the petition filed in 2020 to extend the O'Brien (610), a joint drain with Benton County.

Discussion was held regarding a new petition being needed, Surveyor Watkins concern that the north mile is wetlands and the problems this would present in clearing that area. Surveyor Watkins stated an amphibious excavator could potentially resolve some of the problems, however the ditch cannot be disturbed. Board requested that Chris Yana reach out to the Drainage Board Attorney, Candace Armstrong, regarding the need of the new petition.

Best Davis Watts (717)

Surveyor Watkins informed the Board that he met with the operator of the amphibious excavator, who has provided an estimate of \$45,000.00 to clear the area in need.

Abbey Rossiter made a motion to approve the proposal of \$45,000.00 and to begin the project. Second by Scott Carlson. Motion passed 3-0.

Scott Carlson asked Surveyor Watkins to email Scott Pelath, Zack DeYoung and the Drainage Board to inform them of the project.

Lake Village Drainage Project

Tammy Skrzekut of Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. was present to discuss a design concern with the Board. Discussion was held regarding the need for a Request for Information (RFI).

Scott Carlson made a motion to allow Dirt Diggers Excavating Inc., to initiate a RFI regarding tree removal, subject to approval of the Drainage Board Attorney. Second by Abbey Rossiter. Motion Passed 3-0.

The Board asked Surveyor Watkins to meet with the surveyor hired for the project by Dirt Diggers Excavating Inc. to discuss the design concern.

2024 Certified Drain Assessment

Secretary Jamie Rowe presented the Board with an updated list of drains in need of assessment for maintenance funds.

Abbey Rossiter made a motion to accept and approve 2024 Certified Drain Assessments as presented. Second by Scott Carlson. Motion passed 3-0

Other Matters

Scott Carlson, as a landowner, expressed concern regarding an assessment on his property that he feels cannot drain into the watershed he is being assessed on. Mr. Carlson inquired on the process to determine this. Secretary Rowe will contact the county representative with Schneider (GIS) to seek an answer.

The Board has requested that Surveyor Watkins to make contact with Yoder on Best Tile.

Surveyor Watkins stated a landowner contacted him with questions regarding the fiber being ran along State Road 55, north of Brook. Discussion was held regarding the instillation of fiber as a Board of Commissioner’s project.

Adjournment

Being no further matters, *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