

April 2, 2024

The Newton County Drainage Board met in the Commissioner's Room of the Newton County Courthouse at 10:13 a.m. CDT, upon the closure of the Newton County Commissioner's Meeting, on April 2nd, 2024.

Members present were Glen 'Butch' Cain, Scott Carlson and Abbey Rossiter. Also present were Surveyor - Beau Watkins and Drainage Board Secretary – Jamie Rowe, Drainage Board Attorney – Candace Armstrong, Jason Durr of CBBE and Brent & Tammy Skrzekut of Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc.

Glen 'Butch' Cain called the meeting to order.

Minutes

March 15, 2024

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

2024 Chemical Maintenance

The Board discussed chemical maintenance bids accepted at the March 15, 2024 Drainage Board Meeting.

Dirt Diggers Excavating presented a letter from the Indiana State Chemist stating they have met all legal requirements for both a business license and for hire applicators license in Category 6, Industrial Weed Management.

Scott Carlson, with the confirmation of licensing from the Indiana State Chemist, motioned to award the North and South Chemical Maintenance bids to the lowest bidder, Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. The North bid being \$16,373.50 and the South bid being \$8,016.00 Second by Abbey Rossiter. Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Rossiter asked for confirmation of when spraying would begin, and if this would impact the timeline for the Lake Village Project. Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. assured that this would not impact the timeline. Surveyor Watkins stated that the brush must be green and growing and should be completed by June 15th.

Best Davis Watts (717)

Jason Durr of Christopher B. Burke Engineering presented the Board with a Notice to Proceed for Best Davis Watts permitting, broken into Task 1 – Regulatory Agency Meeting and Task 2 – Section 401 & 404 Permit Application.

Abbey Rossiter made a motion to sign the Notice to Proceed with the understanding that the approval is only for Task 1. Action on Task 2 must not be taken without approval of the Drainage Board President. Second by Scott Carlson. Motion passed 3-0.

Lake Village Drainage Project

Brent & Tammy Skrzekut of Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. were present and advised the Board that all trees have been taken down.

Mr. Skrzekut discussed a potential need for a change order - he stated the design plans instructed riprap to be put in for a check dam that he does not feel is necessary. He stated that with all the rain this week, it has been very dry.

Solar Energy

Secretary Jamie Rowe advised the Board that a landowner stopped in the office the week prior with concerns regarding a drainage plan and other drainage matters that may impact private landowner’s tile.

Commissioner Cain stated that the company proposing the solar energy project was expected to present a drainage plan along with a plan of locating private tiles.

Discussion was held regarding processes that may be in place for these situations as well as what mutual drains may consist of. Attorney Armstrong will research mutual tile statutes.

Other Matters

Secretary Rowe stated that the Surveyor’s Office was contacted regarding permitting for work at the George Ade project. Surveyor Watkins said that he was looking into this.

Scott Carlson brought up an issue with Ade Elevator that impacts the Thompson Ditch. Highway Superintendent Sharon Domonkos contacted Surveyor Watkins regarding who would have the responsibility to repair the wall along the ditch. Discussion held regarding the road where the wall was impacted and if it has been abandoned. Scott Carlson asked Surveyor Watkins to research in the Surveyor’s Office as to any information regarding who put the wall up.

Adjournment

Being no further matters, *Scott Carlson made a motion to adjourn. Second by Abbey Rossiter. Motion passed 3-0.*

X

Glen ‘Butch’ Cain
President

X

Scott Carlson

X

Abbey Rossiter