

DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING:

August 19, 2013

Vice President John Landers called the meeting to order. Present at the meeting were the following:

John Landers, Vice President
Charles Whitehair, Member
William Whitehead, Member
Phil Taylor, County Surveyor
Jake Dunnuck, Board Attorney
Cindy Harty, Recording Secretary

Mr. Landers opened the meeting by welcoming the audience and inviting them to participate in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Landers entertains a motion for the approval of the July 15, 2013 Drainage Board minutes. Mr. Whitehead moved for approval. Mr. Whitehair seconded the motion. **Motion passes 3-0.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Truitt Ditch Reconstruction

Robert Shroyer, 7110 E. Centennial, Muncie, IN approached the Board with a proposal on the Truitt Ditch, and brought with him a copy of the 1949 original plans for the ditch when it was installed. He explained what was done in 1949 on the original ditch. Mr. Shroyer would like to do some work on the Truitt Ditch and he stated he is trying to run the specs from that original drawings. Mr. Shroyer's proposal for the Truitt Ditch is as follows:

Mr. Shroyer stated that the ditch is an open ditch south of Highway 32, and is tile ditch for the rest of the distance. Mr. Shroyer stated the project would not be a reconstruction, but done as maintenance work. He stated that a reconstruction would

take approximately two years from the time that somebody asks for a reconstruction before the contractor can ever start on the project. Mr. Shroyer further stated that a reconstruction goes through a lot of twists and turns, with engineers being hired, notices sent to the persons affected, meetings held, and it all adds up to a larger expense than necessary for the actual completion of the reconstruction. He stated that because so many people are involved in the project, he would like to cut some corners and do it differently than how the previous Drainage Board handled reconstructions. Mr. Shroyer furnishes a map to the Board. He proposes that they start at Highway 32 in Section A and C, which are both 24-inch dual-wall tile. Mr. Shroyer stated that when it hits the catch basin where Section B and C separate, he wants to continue on the south side near the existing tile that has been there since 1950 up and across Truitt Road on the north side. He stated he would replace the tile in Section B with an eighteen-inch tile that will go on the north side of the existing tile and it will hook into the Tributary 2 that continues on north and back west again north of Centennial. Mr. Shroyer stated that they would then go over to the east side of Truitt Road where Section D and E are. Section E and D will be eighteen-inch tile, each laying on either side on the north and the south side of the existing tile up to Section E. He stated that it would flow to where the county home property drains into the Truitt Ditch and then Section F on the south side, will be twelve-inch tile the entire distance to Road 500 East; Section D will be 18-inch tile up to where it hits a Tributary that goes north and further north across Centennial and then back east again, which is also a legal drain. After it passes through that part in Section G, he proposes it would be 12-inch tile, which will lie on the north side of the existing tile. During the construction, he would like to have a county inspector there to inspect that the pipe is being installed properly and records made for the new and existing tile. Mr. Shroyer stated the Truitt Ditch collects about \$92,000.00 per year in assessments and stated that he knows it is combined with other ditches, and knows that the monies are not available for this project through maintenance. Mr. Shroyer proposes to foot the bill for the entire project and receive no money until after the tile has been laid. He stated the quote he was given from Clark Farm Drainage for the tile is in the sum of \$140,000.00. He would like for the county to pay for the tile as they have in the past through maintenance, and Mr. Shroyer stated he would pay for all of the installation himself, which Clark's installation estimate to Mr. Shroyer is in the sum of \$178,000.00. Mr. Shroyer stated that he would like the county to repay to him the sum of \$14,000.00 per year for ten (10) years on this project. He stated the county can budget this money and it is basically interest-free money to the county for ten (10) years. Mr. Shroyer asked the Board if they had any questions.

Mr. Landers asked what the \$178,000.00 quote was for. Mr. Shroyer stated that the \$178,000.00 is the actual installation costs by the contractor. He stated the \$140,000.00 is the tile costs quoted to him by Mr. Clark. Mr. Shroyer stated that Mr. Clark has lain as large as 24-inch tile for the county and for the Surveyor in the past and his business is in New Castle. Mr. Landers stated that personally he would like to table this matter until the remainder of the Board is present to review and discuss this matter. Mr. Landers asked the other members what their thoughts are.

Mr. Whitehead stated that he feels the rest of the Board should have some input on this matter, and he stated that he knows Mr. Shroyer would like to get busy and get his name on Mr. Clark's list. Mr. Shroyer stated that ditchers are hard to get a hold of and sometimes you put your name in a year or two ahead of time to be able to work into the contractor's schedule. Mr. Shroyer stated that he wants a competent ditcher because it is only seven tenths of a grade the whole length of the ditch, which means it lays nearly flat. Mr. Shroyer further stated that is why he has to have it so large for any quantity of water to flow. He stated it is not like many of the tiles with a lot of grate that will actually flow faster. Furthermore, he stated the tile has silted over the years and has never flushed itself out, which has caused it to be full and there is nothing you can do with it. Mr. Shroyer explained if you touch the tile it just crumples; the tile is shifted and you cannot actually run anything through it and cut it out, which means it has pretty much just run its course. He stated that the ground in this area is loose and gravelly, and the new plastic perforated tile will make a better system.

Mr. Whitehair asked Mr. Shroyer if it would be bedded down in stone. Mr. Shroyer stated that he does not know if the stone would do it much good due to the ground. Mr. Whitehair stated that sometimes the tile manufacturers require it. Mr. Whitehair asked Mr. Shroyer if he knew what the tile manufacturer said, because sometimes they require it or they would not warranty it. Mr. Shroyer stated that he does not know at this time.

Mr. Whitehead stated that he understands what Mr. Shroyer has proposed is for land that is owned by Mr. Shroyer. Mr. Shroyer stated basically everything that lies on the east side of Truitt Road he owns himself. He further stated that the ditch is not going to get any better and will continue to slow, and he would like to get this done. Mr. Shroyer quoted his father who said, "When it was put in in 1950 or whatever, they used the dragline and they had to take big mats and pick them up and put them in front of the dragline, then run the dragline on top of that. Sometimes they would stop for a week at a time and let it dry out before they could continue on". Mr. Shroyer stated that if you can ditch when the ground is still draining you would do a better job than if you are fighting mud.

Mr. Landers entertains a motion to table this matter until September's meeting so the entire Board can look at the proposal. Mr. Whitehead moved for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Whitehair. **Motion passes 3-0.**

Petition for Reconstruction of the Schram Ditch

Mr. Taylor advised the Board that this ditch runs on Bill Frazier's property, and he petitioned the Board on October 15, 2012 for a reconstruction. Mr. Taylor stated that they have been going back and forth with Mr. Frazier, and the last he heard Mr. Frazier wanted to use schedule 80 sewer tile to fix the problem, and was told he could not do that. Mr. Taylor stated that Mr. Frazier wanted to use the schedule 80 sewer tile and cut holes in it, and he stated that you cannot use that on a county drain. Again, Mr. Taylor stated that Mr. Frazier wanted to supply

that tile and install it, and he has not heard anything else from him. Mr. Taylor stated that at this point the reconstruction has not been approved by the Board or even submitted to an engineer. Mr. Taylor stated that he would contact Mr. Frazier to see what he would like to do with this project.

Mr. Landers stated that the Board needs to table the matter until Mr. Taylor can get further information. Mr. Landers entertains a motion. Mr. Whitehead so moves. Mr. Whitehair seconds. **Motion passes 3-0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Petition for Reconstruction of the Tributary 3 of the Pate-Shoemaker

Mr. Taylor stated that the location of the ditch is at Highway 67 South and 700 West, and runs for approximately a mile and a half to the south. Mr. Taylor stated that they have been out there and tried to fix some sinkholes and it is in a swampy area and they had some problems because they could not get it drained to complete the repairs. Mr. Taylor stated that Mr. Chetam, Randy Barker and David Pierce petitioned for this to be reconstructed. Mr. Taylor further stated that at this point they are doing exploratory digs, but recommends that the reconstruction be done to correct the problems.

Mr. Whitehead asks about how many acres are in the watershed. Mr. Taylor stated that he is not sure without looking. Mr. Taylor further stated that David Pierce, who owns a parcel in that area, has put in four or five ponds on his property, and Mr. Taylor wonders if this might have caused the problems in that area. Mr. Taylor stated that when Mr. Pierce constructed one of those ponds, he possibly hit some of the county's tile, because the water is still flowing. Mr. Taylor recommends that they get an engineer to check it out. He stated that if the engineer finds this to be the case, then Mr. Pierce has got a problem. Mr. Taylor stated that he knows that stormwater has been dealing with Mr. Pierce on some other issues along with the CORE of Engineers and DNR. Mr. Taylor thinks they should do an exploratory dig to find out what the problem is, but feels they need an engineer out there to look at it.

Mr. Landers asked if they need a motion to get an engineer to do a preliminary. Mr. Taylor stated that he would not think they would need one, but it would cost the county some money to get an engineer to research the problem. Mr. Taylor suggests taking a camera through the drain to research the problem. He further stated that the pipe is probably like Mr. Shroyer said, "If it was put in back in the 40's, it is probably clay and crumbled". Mr. Taylor stated that they have to find the problem, but they have to stop the water to fix the problem.

Mr. Landers asked if they need a motion to proceed. Mr. Taylor stated yes he would like a motion. Mr. Whitehead moves for the preliminary process on this ditch. Mr. Dunnuck asked

how much an engineer would cost. Mr. Taylor stated that he does not know, but he is going to try to get his friend that works for a backhoe service to go in there and take a look at it. Mr. Taylor further stated that if not, then what they need to do is find or rent a camera, but have someone run the camera through the pipe to find exactly where this ditch runs. Mr. Taylor stated that he thought the ditch runs southeast off of 600 West and northwest to 700, so it kind of J's around the property up to Highway 67.

Mr. Landers asks if Mr. Taylor will report back to Board with the progress. Mr. Taylor stated that he would report back to the Board. Mr. Taylor stated that they have been holding off on this project because the land is currently in crops. Mr. Landers recommends that Mr. Taylor report back to the Board at the September meeting. Mr. Dunnuck asked if this would generate an engineer's report, and recommends that something needs to be submitted to the Board in September. Mr. Taylor stated that a Surveyor's Report would be submitted at September's meeting.

Mr. Whitehair seconds the motion. **Motion passes 3-0.**

Petition for Reconstruction of the Anna Welsh Ditch (Part of Williams Creek) #1458

Mr. Taylor informed the Board that the Anna Welsh Ditch is located at the Henry County line at 800 South and 300 West. Mr. Taylor stated that the property is owned by Judy Buntin and some other persons. Furthermore, Mr. Taylor stated that they went out in early May, and found a contractor who was digging without his permission, so they stopped the work. Since that time, Judy Buntin has signed a petition for reconstruction. Mr. Taylor stated that he recommends that the reconstruction be done, but also recommends that the matter be tabled until the October meeting. Furthermore, Mr. Taylor stated that once the crops are removed, the drain can be reassessed and researched.

Mr. Landers entertains a motion to table this matter until October. Mr. Whitehead stated that he would make a motion, but wonders why not September instead of October, and stated that their meeting in October is not until the 15th or the 18th. Mr. Taylor stated that we are not going to be able to get in there to look at the ditch because of the crops that are planted. Mr. Whitehead asked what crop is planted in that area. Mr. Taylor stated that he was uncertain. Mr. Whitehead stated that if it is soy beans they could be out by the first of October. Mr. Taylor stated that he is not a farm boy, but will go back out to see what is planted in that area. Mr. Whitehead stated that if Mr. Taylor wants October, he will so move it that way. Mr. Taylor stated that Ms. Buntin petitioned for the reconstruction on May 8, 2013, and since they have already fixed fourteen sinkholes on that ditch, he feels the reconstruction is overdue.

Mr. Whitehead restated that he would make a motion for it to be tabled until October if that is how Mr. Taylor wants it. Mr. Taylor stated that would be fine. Mr. Whitehair seconds the motion. **Motion passes 3-0.**

MAINTENANCE CLAIMS:

Mr. Landers entertains a motion to approve the maintenance claims as submitted. Mr. Whitehead moves to approve the claims. Mr. Whitehair seconds the motion. **Motion passes 3-0.**

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

John Landers, Vice President

Charles Whitehair, Member

William Whitehead, Member

Cindy Harty, Recording Secretary