

Wells County Drainage Board Minutes
Tuesday-January 21, 2020 8:30 A.M.

The Wells County Drainage Board met in a regular scheduled meeting at the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223W. Washington St., Multi-Purpose Room 105, (Lower Level), Bluffton, Indiana.

Drainage Board members present: Voting members Blake Gerber, Kevin Woodward, Tamara Robbins; Attorney Roy Johnson; Engineer Nate Rumschlag, Surveyor Jarrod Hahn, Secretary Diana Collins.

Determination of Quorum:

A quorum was present for the meeting.

Minutes:

Mr. Gerber opened the Drainage Board meeting with the first item on the agenda to approve the Board's regular meeting minutes on January 6, 2020.

Dr. Robbins motioned to approve the Drainage Board regular meeting minutes on January 6, 2020 as submitted. Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Bills Creek Open Drain-Utility Drainage Easement-Bluffton Water Dept:

Mr. Hahn presented to the Board a "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" form from City of Bluffton Water Department on Bills Creek open drain in Harrison Township, sections 9, range 12E and section 20, range 13E to install water main on Wayne St./300E and north of 200N. Hahn has provided a map of the area showing the drain and where it crosses Bills Creek. Hahn made note that this is in the City of Bluffton limits with Wayne St./300E having a granted 30-foot road easement. Hahn mentioned the fee for the permit should be here soon therefore recommends the approval of easement on the Bills Creek open drain.

Mr. Woodward motioned to approve City of Bluffton Water Department to install a water mainline crossing Bills Creek open drainage easement in Harrison Township, sections 9 range 12E on Wayne St./300E as recommend. Dr. Robbins 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Ehle Open Drain-Utility Drainage Easement-Bluffton Water Dept:

Mr. Hahn presented to the Board a "Consent for Utility for Construction Project in a Drainage Easement" form from City of Bluffton Water Department on Ehle open drain in Harrison Township, sections 10, range 12E to install water main on 200N and east of Wayne St./300E. Hahn has provided a map of the area showing the drain and where it crosses the Ehle on the north side of 200N. Hahn mentioned the fee for the permit should be here soon therefore recommends the approval of easement on the Ehle open drain.

Mr. Woodward motioned to approve City of Bluffton Water Department to install a water mainline crossing Ehle open drainage easement in Harrison Township, sections 10, range 12E on 200N as recommend. Dr. Robbins 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Stuckey Joint Tile Drain Hearing-Jackson Township-Waive Rights:

Mr. Hahn mentioned that he had talked to Blackford County Surveyor Paul Schriver on the matter of the Joint Fred Stuckey tile drain in Jackson Township. Hahn noted that Wells County has 1 landowner with 44.07 affected acres, therefore recommends for the Board to waive our rights to proceedings on the Stuckey watershed to establish maintenance.

Dr. Robbins motioned the Wells County Drainage Board to waive their rights to the proceedings on the Stuckey watershed to establish maintenance as recommend Mr. Woodward 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Project Update:

Bowers Tile Drain-Harrison Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a contractor has completed replacing the Bowers Tile in Harrison Township, section 31, range 12E east of State Road 218. The contractor replaced the existing 18-inch with 1,300 feet of 24-inch at the lower end. Hahn noted this project is a continuing project that was done in 2003 and 2016 replacing 1,500 feet of 22-inch with 30-inch. Hahn also mentioned that the State Highway has already replaced two pipes across State Road 218 and 500 feet along the State Road 218.

Tappy Tile Drain- Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a contractor is scheduled to replace the Tappy tile drain in Liberty Township, section 36, range 11E. Hahn noted in 2015 replacing 500 feet of 22-inch was replaced with 30-inch and will continue replacing 22-inch with 800 feet of 24-inch bring it up to the railway and stopping where a big pile of dirt is on top of the legal drain.

Wolf Tile Drain-Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a contractor has just started replacing the Wolf Tile in Liberty Township, section 34, range 11E east 300W and north of State Road 218. The contractor will replace the existing 18-inch with 1800 feet of 24-inch stopping at State Road 218. Hahn noted this project is a continuing project that was done in 2016 replacing 800 feet of 22-inch with 30-inch. Hahn also mentioned that the State Highway plans are to replace the pipe across along the State Road 218 in 2021.

Continued January 21, 2020

Derry Tile Drain-Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a contractor is scheduled to replace the Derry Tile in Liberty Township, section 31, range 11E west of 500W and north of State Road 218. The contractor will replace the existing 18-inch with 1,300 feet of 24-inch stopping at State Road 218. Hahn noted this project is a continuing project that was done in 2014 replacing 1,700 feet of 18-inch with 24-inch. Hahn also mentioned that the State Highway plans are to replace the pipe across along the State Road 218 in 2021.

Morris Tile Drain-Liberty Township:

Mr. Hahn mentioned a contractor is scheduled to replace the Morris Tile in Liberty Township, section 31, range 11E east of 600W and north of State Road 218. The contractor will replace the existing 20-inch with 1,700 feet of 24-inch stopping at State Road 218. Hahn noted the Mt. Zion tile will be connected to the Morris tile as the fund recoups. Hahn also mentioned that the State Highway plans are to replace the pipe across along the State Road 218 in 2021. Hahn made note that he has been talking with the landowners and tenants on possibly continuing to replace 3,400 feet of tile on the south side of State Road 218 which is in Chester Township, section 6, range 11E.

2019/2020 Drainage Projects Projection Cost Information:

Mr. Hahn presented a detail spreadsheet of the 2020 drainage projects with their location, approval of watershed funds and landowner cost. Hahn mentioned these projects are possible due to the landowners helping with cost and watershed funds. Hahn also noted the county highway maybe involved with a share-cost of that project and road cut and/or pipe replacement. The Group project listing shows that landowners are very active in the cost as well as the maintenance fund contributing. Hahn noted that some of these projects may be up to more than 1 year before they happen. Hahn also noted that some of the projects are not far enough along on how much they want to replace and finance therefore boxes are left empty. Hahn mentioned that a couple of the projects are completed or near as we speak with a few are about to be put in as soon as the contractor is available and weather permitting.

Hahn also mentioned of the 2019 drainage projects with the total cost of \$645,603.00 from the watershed funds and the landowners contributing. Hahn noted that this past winter a few projects was installed but the spring/summer projects was on hold due to being very wet, then this fall/winter has been very busy to get these tile projects installed and has continued in 2020.

County Highway Engineer-Nate Rumschlag:

Mr. Rumschlag wanted to inform the Board members he is working with Mr. Hahn to address the Odle tile drain blockage that was involved in the bridge #303 replacement project on 1000 south east of Meridian road in Nottingham Township, section 19, range 12E. Rumschlag mentioned that Hahn has contacted a company to camera the tile to see where the blockage is and probable cause. Rumschlag has been in contact with the contractor who done the bridge work to keep them informed of any findings.

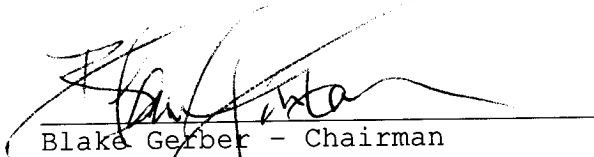
Attorney Roy Johnson-IC 36-9-27-71:

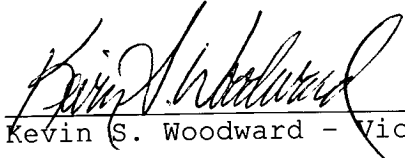
Attorney Roy Johnson was asked to research the question, "who pays for added cost in highway right-of-way, and can we bill the State Highway for those services" at the last Board meeting January 6th. Mr. Johnson noted IC 36-9-27-71 is "Drainage Crossing public highways and railroad rights-of-way". Johnson read a portion of the code, in summary, if the drain is in their right-of-way it is their full cost, unless the drain is lengthened or shorten it is a shared cost. Hahn noted that since there are a few tiles that are being replaced along State road 218 we will at least know those depths and sizes.

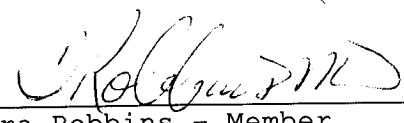
Adjournment:

Mr. Woodward motioned to adjourn the Drainage Board meeting at 8:55 a.m. Dr. Robbins 2nd. Concurred by Mr. Gerber, motion carried 3-0.

Next regular scheduled Drainage Board meeting is Monday-February 3, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.


Blake Gerber - Chairman


Kevin S. Woodward - Vice Chairman


Tamara Robbins - Member
WELLS COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

ATTEST:


Diana L. Collins

WELLS DRAINAGE BOARD SECRETARY