

Synopsis of:  
Tipton County Drainage Board:  
Monday, November 27, 2017 at 12:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Mullins, Mark Manier, Gerald Shuck, Jason Henderson, Heather Terry

OTHERS PRESENT: Janet Stacey, Vicky Boyd, George Tebbe, Scott Gasho, John Hussey, Robert Lawrence, Jim Leffler, John Findling, Frank Letsinger, Steve & JoAnn Swinford, Rhonda Redman, Steve McClellan, George Tebbe, Nick Crail

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Mullins called the meeting to order.

MODIFICATIONS TO AGNEDA: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Gerald Shuck made a motion to accept the October 30, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. Mark Manier 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. With no further discussion the motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING: President Mullins opened the public hearing for the Richman Doversberger Tile. Secretary Heather Terry gave her affirmation of mailings and public notice. Surveyor Henderson stated there were no written remonstrance received, and gave his report about the Richman Doversberger. This maintenance increase hearing is proposing assessment increases to \$3/acre for agricultural and residential properties with a \$20 min, and other classifications at \$10/acre with a \$50 min, beginning in 2018.

Public Comment: Steve Swinford: 1870 W 400 S, Tipton. Lives at the head of the drain. Stated 2 – 3 times a year the water just stands in this area after heavy rains, it doesn't drain. He has had reduction in crop. He is looking for a quick fix. Mr. Swinford thanked the board for the opportunity to speak.

Jim asked if the surveyor had plans for any immediate work. Jason stated there are plans for some work on the west side of 19. The east side has had some work done in the past.

Scot Gasho: 4091 W 500 S, Tipton. Asked Jason if the north spur of this is really the Recob Tile and if it has or did have funds of its own. Jason believed that the Recob Tile is part of the Richman – Doversberger Watershed. Then Scot stated that the east side (just east of State Road 19) of this drain has concrete in it, which could be adding to the issue. Mark Manier asked if the east side has been dug up. Jason stated not through his office.

Joe Lawrence: 3720 S 75 W, Tipton. His concerns were the current negative balance and the time necessary to build the fund back up. When was the last time any work was done on this tile to get to this type of balance. There has been work done in the area. He also asked about the permitting and supervising process. He is also concerned about continual increases in assessments, taxes, and for Big Cicero. Jason noted some past work that had been done, the rising costs of general repair costs since 1966 (when drain started collecting maintenance), the

difference in a tax and an assessment, and the rule of shutting off tile collections when they reach 4 times their income. President Mullins noted the long length of time since any increase has been done for the drain, and how it relates to the rate of inflation since 1966. Questions regarding a possible Reconstruction of the drain were answered, with Jason stressing how critical it is to have property owners on board with a project in the early stages. He also noted repairs will be done on a tile as to detour any property damage, which is represented by the negative balance.

Steve McClellan: 971 W 350 S, Tipton. Lives at a bottleneck in this tile. He attended drainage board meetings in the past but feels he has been blown smoke and given false hope for some repair. He would like to see a reconstruction because maintenance doesn't seem to be working. Mr. McClellan did not realize the process or the options for a reconstruction.

Mr. Mullins asked about a form. Jason stated his office has a form for petition to possibly jump start a reconstruction and that 10% of the watershed is needed in support of the project to initiate a hearing. Mr. McClellan asked about a survey that was done 5-6 years ago. He asked if there was any information available from that work, why did the forward progress stop. He is discouraged. Jason Henderson was unsure but he knows there is some topography on file. Mr. Mullins suggested that the next step should be a petition. Jason stated what the requirements are on the petition. Someone asked about the estimated cost, assuming landowners would want to know this before signing a petition. Jason stated that unfortunately that is not how the process works. The petition comes first; a cost estimate is not done until later in the process.

Joe Lawrence asked if the process by which someone is to hook into a county tile is the same for farmers and residential owners. The answer is yes, there is a free permit required.

Gerald Shuck made a motion to close the public hearing. Mark Manier 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. With no further discussion, the public hearing was closed.

Gerald Shuck made a motion to approve the maintenance increase as presented. Mark Manier 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

Surveyor Henderson presented the board with the Written Findings for the Richman Doversberger Regulated Drain.

Gerald Shuck made a motion to approve the written findings as presented. Mark Manier 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS: O'Malley-Henry-Haskett**

This drain feeds into the Tobin and to Cicero Creek. The office solicited 3 contractors (Redman, Xtreme and Gasho) and received 2 sealed quotes back.

Mark Manier opened Xtreme Excavating's quote for \$4,420.00. Gerald Shuck opened Redman Excavating's quote for \$4,216.00. Jason recommended the lowest quote. Gerald Shuck made a motion to accept Redman Excavating's quote for the O'Malley-Henry-Haskett regulated drain for \$4,216.00. Mark Manier 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed. Jason thanked the contractors for their time.

Oliver Knotts: Surveyor Henderson presented a map to the board of the Oliver Knotts tile. Jason stated John Hussey is working on repairs but has found too many to repair and it just keeps collapsing. The assessment to this tile was recently increased. Jason recommends going ahead with the proper repairs and replacements. Mr. Hussey gave past and current details about the drain. John presented the board with his proposed map for replacement of approximately 920 feet of 15" perforated smooth core tile. Mr. Hussey thanked the board for their support.

Jason mentioned the Hutcherson ditch. Mr. Hussey is from the same area is aware of work going on. Jason wanted to note the farmers/landowners are working together to complete this project due to no maintenance fund for this ditch. John stated it looks very nice. Mark Manier asked if Janet Stacey's property has been worked on. She stated yes and that she did not have standing water with the last rain. She still wants a maintenance fund established for further upkeep. That is moving forward.

Secretary Terry presented the board with the 2018 Tipton County Drainage Board meeting dates. Gerald Shuck made a motion to approve the 2018 Tipton County Drainage Board meeting dates. Mark Manier 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. With no further discussion the motion passed.

Surveyor Henderson presented the board with the Certificate of Assessments for the:

CHARLES B HORTON REGULATED DRAIN

GEORGE MCCORKLE REGULATED DRAIN

J B LINDLEY REGULATED DRAIN

JOHN ZEHNER REGULATED DRAIN

ODELL - MCINTIRE REGULATED DRAIN

OLIVER KNOTTS REGULATED DRAIN

SHANTY CREEK REGULATED DRAIN

Jason noted that this information is taken to the auditor's office for the updates to assessments.

Gerald Shuck made a motion to adopt the Certificate of Assessments for the above drains. Mark Manier 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. With no further discussion the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS: None

SURVEYOR REPORT: None

CLAIMS: Secretary Heather Terry presented the claims to the board. Gerald Shuck made a motion to approve the claims for \$5,011.73. Mark Manier 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. With no further discussion the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Scot Gasho stated he has heard that he is not able to do county drain maintenance work due to his involvement in a judicial review regarding the Big Cicero Creek Project. President Mullins stated that this board does not do politics and that Mr. Gasho should be able to bid and do work as usual in the county. Scot went ahead to mention some work that he had been contacted about that need to be done. Jim stated those work issues need to come through the surveyors office.

ADJOURNMENT: Gerald Shuck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Manier 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. With no further discussion the motion passed.

The next meeting will be Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30pm in the Tipton County Courthouse.

TIPTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

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JIM MULLINS

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GERALD SHUCK

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MARK MANIER

ATTEST:

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HEATHER TERRY

***The above minutes were approved at a regular meeting of the Tipton County Drainage Board. The signatures were intentionally omitted to preserve privacy. Signed copies are available in the Tipton County Surveyor's Office, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Tipton County Courthouse.***