**LaGrange County Drainage Board Minutes**

 **Commissioner’s Room – 1st Floor County Office Building**

A regular session of the LaGrange County Drainage Board was called to order by Ben Taylor at 9:01 A.M. on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025.

**Those Present Were:**

Ben Taylor, Chair; Todd Perkins, Vice Chair; Kevin Myers, Member; Eric Knepp, Member; Zachary Young, Member; Zach Holsinger, County Surveyor; Samantha Yoder, Board Secretary; Cory Stewart, Deputy Surveyor; Kurt Bachman, County Attorney; Tharon Morgan, County Engineer; Robbie Miller, P & Z Administrator; Matt Meersman, St. Joe River City Basin; Scott Zeigler, Hand to the Plow Surveying; Brian Lambright, Landowner

**Agenda:**

Myers moved to accept the agenda with flexibility. Perkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes:**

Perkins motioned to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

Board had election of officers. Perkins made a motion to keep the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary the same. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented an invoice from Greg Owens for work done on the #52 Eschleman in the amount of $42,140.00. Knepp made a motion to approve the payment of the invoice. Perkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Young abstaining from voting.

Holsinger presented an application to encroach in the right-of-way for Ivan Miller. Mr. Miller was not present.

Holsinger presented a potential move of a tile for James Shetler/Hand to the Plow. Scott Zeigler was present to discuss with the Board what the landowner is proposing and to see if they are willing to work with them. Zeigler stated that they want to move the tile and possibly reduce the right of way for commercial use of the property. The board discussed and said that they are open to the idea and want to see a full site plan before they vote on anything.

Holsinger presented two different options and bids for replacing a pipe under SR9. The cost to open cut the road is $45,750 and INDOT will cover that complete cost, but the road will have to be closed for a couple of days. The cost to jack & bore is $57,000 and INDOT will cover $45,000 of the cost which leaves us $12,000 to cover. INDOT would prefer to jack & bore and have already had that approved with them covering $45,000.00. Holsinger stated that he has a meeting with INDOT on January 9, so he can get more information then. The Board decided to hold off on voting until they hear back from Holsinger at the February meeting.

Holsinger presented the #49 Logan Lateral B to be scheduled for a public hearing to establish it as a new drain. Perkins made a motion to schedule this for March 5 at 8:30 AM. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

Yoder let the Board know that the agreement with Sunset Equipment has been signed, recorded and attorney fees have been paid.

Holsinger stated that a letter was sent to the landowner in regard to payment of the #5 Sarah Davis jetting project payment. Brian Lambright was present to speak with the Board. Mr. Lambright stated that the doesn’t believe that they should be paying for the full amount of the project because they have been paying maintenance fees and that they aren’t the only ones that benefit. He’s willing to help pay for it but doesn’t feel he should be covering the full cost especially since the county hasn’t done anything with them prior to this. Mr. Lambright also stated that he’s willing to pay half the bill and to put hard surface around the catch basins to help cut down on stone getting into them. Holsinger stated that before the Board votes on anything, he would like to go over things with Mr. Lambright in regard to how many catch basins will get solid surface and how far out that would go. Board agreed to wait to vote on anything until Holsinger brings back that information at the February meeting.

Holsinger updated the Board on the Oliver Lake complaints and stated that the landowner is in the process of moving their stuff off our tile and as far out of the right of way as they can.

Kurt Bachman excused himself because the next agenda item is in regard to REMC and it was a conflict of interest for him.

Holsinger stated that we had received a letter from Mark Leu from REMC and in it he stated that they do not believe that they should be required to pay because the Drainage Board is not exempt from being a part of 811 and they utilize that, so they aren’t at fault. REMC is willing to pay $4,000 if the Drainage Board becomes a part of 811. Holsinger stated that he spoke with Jared Hahn and he told him that to his knowledge there isn’t a surveyor’s office that is part of 811 because it would require a full time person to just do locates. The Board agreed that it would not be feasible to be a part of 811. Holsinger is going to call the conflict attorney and see what he can come up with and will share that with the Board at the next meeting.

**Other Business:**

Next meeting date is Wednesday, February 5th at 8:30 AM for a regular meeting.

**Adjourn:**

Perkins motioned to close the drainage board meeting for Wednesday, January 8th, 2023, at 10:26 A.M. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Benjamin Taylor, Chair

Todd Perkins, Vice Chair

Kevin Myers, Member

Eric Knepp, Member

Zachary Young, Member