

FULTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING FOR NOVEMBER 13TH 2023

The Fulton County Drainage Board met on Monday November, 13th 2023 in the Conference Room of the Fulton County Office Building at 9:00 A.M. The Following were in attendance: President Dave Sommers, Vice Chairman Rick Ranstead, Commissioner Bryan Lewis, Surveyor Seth White, Attorney Hollie -Pifer Shorter, drainage secretary Lacey Holloway. Public Attendance: Sherri Johnson, Jim Scott, Steve Metzger, Craig Cultice, Mike Kissinger.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RE: ROCK LAKE- TREE FARM 39.5 ACRES- SHERRI JOHNSON

This property has been in various programs often by the Department of Agriculture. These programs have created a wild life habitat in which the landowner over sees the land very carefully and reports any issues. It was Sherri's fathers wish that this land be kept in the family and when the trees reach proper maturity that a controlled harvest would be conducted. In May of 2023 landowners received a letter from the drainage board that work needed done on the property. Landowners fully understand that the county has to maintain infrastructure, however the landowners were not prepared for the mess that they would run into on the tree farm. Landowners would like to ask that the county revisit the tree farm and clean up the unsightly and unsafe area that was left behind from the county's contractor. There are raw rusty pipes just left laying behind and a mound of trees and dirt. Seth stated, "In the spring there was a private crossing in the area, and the pipe completely failed so a contractor was sent in to remove the pipe. The problem is with the neighbors there is a concrete post that is just slightly on Johnson's side of the bank. Kirk Ingram pulled the pipe and asked Seth what he should do with the pipe? The county usually doesn't have the contractor remove the pipe, but in this certain situation the county was not sure who's property the pipe belonged to, so Seth instructed Kirk to leave the pipe for now and the Surveyors office will figure out. After the fact that Seth told Kirk to leave the pipe which would have been about 4 months. Kirk had a very minimal space to work with to turn his machinery around in. The trees that were taken down were in the counties 75 foot right of way. Sherri's main concern is that she would like the big pile of trees removed, pipe removed, and dirt leveled. It is not the counties practice or "responsibility" to remove the trees that is the landowner's responsibility. Seth did tell Kirk to remove the pipe. Seth asked the commissioners what they would like for Kirk to do with the trees, because the county is now going to have to pay for the dozer to come back in and remove the trees. There is currently \$6,137.00 in the #765 Lautzenhizer ditch fund. Since Kirk is already going to have his excavator back there removing the pipe, the surveyor's office can ask him if he would try to spread out the pile of trees and dirt to the best of his ability to smooth it out a lot better. Commissioners and Seth agreed to give Kirk the deadline of December 31st 2023 to get this completed. The surveyor's office will follow up with Sherri and keep everyone updated on this situation until it is finalized.

RE: DRAINAGE PLAN- 307 W. MAIN ST. KEWANNA, IN

This landowner tore down a garage and is rebuilding it in the same exact place as the previous garage. Rick Ranstead and Dave Sommers gave the verbal approval for this drainage plan for the re-build of this garage. This drainage plan meets all of Seth's guidelines and a motion was made to approve this drainage plan. Passes 3-0.

RE: MILTON TACKETT – BEAVER TRAPPING THE #768 LITTLE YELLOW

Landowner – Milton Tackett called in and told Seth that he would like to beaver trap the part of the Little Yellow ditch that runs through his property. Seth replied, "That is fine with him but, he would have to provide liability insurance if he would like to get paid from the County and be a contractor on just this specific ditch." He did send over the insurance of liability, but the Surveyors office is not certain if it is for his homeowners' insurance or for actually being a contractor. If the insurance is not the correct insurance to cover trapping beaver, then Mr. Tackett will not be eligible to get paid by the county for trapping beaver. Seth also told Mr. Tackett that he will be responsible to maintain that part of the ditch, if Mr. Tackett does not get the beaver out and break up the dams then we will bring our own contractor in to get the job done correctly and efficiently.

CLAIMS:

Boyne's Critter Control- #768 Little Yellow – setting beaver trap \$240.00 (Was told to pull back out due to Mr. Tackett taking over trapping beaver)

Ingram Excavating- Work order #497 #806 E.B. Collins Ditch- Dip and clean out \$2420.00

Rochester Sentinel- \$32.97 Advertising

Quill- \$35.69 Office Supplies

Ingram Excavating- \$465.00 #768 Yellow Creek- Tree Removal

Quill- Office Supplies \$25.18

Quill- Office Supplies \$60.99

Quill- Office Supplies \$22.77

Holli Shorter-Pifer- Legal Consultant- \$ 833.33

MINUTES: October 9th 2023 meeting passed 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

FULTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

Surveyor ATTEST: Lacey Holloway, Drainage Board Secretary (A CD of the meeting is available in the Surveyor's Office)