

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LAPORTE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD
MAY 16, 2024
3:00 PM, LAPORTE COUNTY COMPLEX MEETING ROOM 3
LAPORTE, INDIANA**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony Hendricks; Jeff Mitzner; Pat Vance; Hugh Glasgow; Connie Gramarossa; Joe Cuson

STAFF PRESENT: Christine Keil; Brad Adamsky, John South

MEMBERS/STAFF ABSENT: none.

PUBLIC PRESENT: See sign-in sheet.

Jeff Mitzner called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IC 36-9-27.4 REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTION PETITION: Tony Hendricks gave a report of the site visit the previous day between himself, John South, Gary Kessler, Clint Kessler, and Dale Skorski. Skorski removed the berm, but a trench was dug, and water started flowing again. The ditch running west goes to a ditch that does not flow. There is water sitting on both sides of the road. There is a pipe under the road. Some water has gone down. Hendricks suggested that Skorski lower the ground six inches to 667.50. There was a ditch between the two fields at one time. The water will not move fast. Tom Vater and Richard Zolvinski approached the Board. Vater questioned Zolvinski and Clint Kessler regarding the situation. Hugh Glasgow asked about the truck loads of dirt that was trucked in. Hendricks stated that did not happen, but Clint Kessler had pictures of disturbed dirt that was leveled off. Vance asked about the culvert under the road. Connie Gramarossa made a motion to follow the recommendations of the County Surveyor. Brad Adamsky stated that at the April 9 meeting, the Board determined, based on a preponderance of the evidence, there was a manmade obstruction that the Board gave the respondent a certain period of time to remove. Since that time, we have found out that the obstruction is more in depth and was not completely removed. So, the Board is ratifying the previous decision, giving them a deadline to remove the obstruction, per the surveyor's updated report, within a set amount of time. If the respondent does not do that, the county can bear the responsibility of doing the work, at the respondent's cost. The Board already made the determination that this was an intentional manmade obstruction. Mitzner clarified that the original obstruction was not removed. This was not addressed at the regular Drainage Board meeting because all of the parties were not present then but are present today. The motion on the floor was to have six inches of dirt removed for 100 feet so the water can run to the old ditch. Pat Vance seconded. Dale Skorski approached the Board. He stated that dirt was not brought in, but grass was removed and leveled off. He made a ditch, and the water was running. He stated the culvert that was installed was cutting straight through. He stated that someone had dug along there, and the area was flooded all the way back 1,500 feet and it delayed his project. He was agreeable to remove the six inches per Hendricks. The motion carried unanimously. Skorski read a statement

into the record regarding the culvert and meeting onsite with Hendricks, Kessler, and Vater and in part stated he will open the trench at the specified area. Water has been draining into this. He is doing this at his expense. It is not to be implied to be a permanent solution and may be revoked at will. He requested that the Drainage Board cease activity regarding placing water flooding or mitigation responsibility on himself. He wished that his statement be entered into the record. Mitzner asked for a motion for how soon this was to be taken care of. Skorski will have until May 23, and he will call Tony Hendricks when he does this because Tony will make sure it is done correctly this time. If the work is not done by May 23, then the County Highway will come in and take care of it and it will be put on Skorski's tax bill. Pat Vance motioned for this. Connie Gramarossa seconded. Motion carried. Tom Vater asked if this could be discussed at the next meeting to make sure it is done. Mitzner stated this would be in Tony's report and it would be on the agenda. Dale Skorski stated he will send Hendricks a picture of the completed work, but Mitzner stated that Hendricks will be onsite when the work is being performed to give approval or not. Vater said he has owned the property since 1996 and has never had a problem with neighbors saying there was too much water flowing until the property was bought by Skorski. Skorski commented. Jeff Mitzner adjourned the meeting.

Christine Keil, Secretary

Dated: May 20, 2024