

FARIBAULT COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FINAL HEARING  
REDETERMINATION OF BENEFITS COUNTY DITCH 68  
JULY 29, 2013

The Faribault County Board of Commissioners acting as Drainage Authority for County Ditch 68 met at Hamilton Hall in the City of Blue Earth at 11:00 a.m. on July 29, 2013. The following members were present: Commissioners Greg Young, Bill Groskreutz, John Roper, Tom Warmka, and Tom Loveall. County Auditor-Treasurer-Coordinator John Thompson, Drainage Engineer Joe Mutchler, Viewers Chris Christianson, Mark Behrends, and Robert Hanson were also present.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Young.

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Auditor Thompson presented the affidavits of mailing, posting, and publication for the record.

\* \* \* \* \*

Chris Christianson presented the viewer's report and property owner's report. This was the third and only official meeting for the redetermination of benefits. Two previous meetings had been held for landowners to discuss the redetermination process with the latest being held on July 17, 2013. Some changes had been made to the viewer's report and were included on the updated Viewer's Report. A historical narrative of County Ditch 68 was given. Discussion was held on how the viewing process came up with benefits and damages as outlined in the Benefits and Damages Statement. It was stated the redetermination of benefits for County Ditch 68 was found to have 1473.54 acres of benefitted farmland and 32.62 acres benefitted roads within the watershed. The total amount of benefits found was \$2,274,544. Christianson also stated that they calculated that Judicial Ditch 6 would pay 5.9%, County Ditch 25 would pay 40.7%, and County Ditch 68 would pay 6.8% of any repair and costs of County Ditch 5 including the redetermination expenses and future repair and maintenance costs.

\* \* \* \* \*

Auditor Thompson stated that a final assessment letter would be mailed to landowners. The assessment could be paid in full before December 1st with an option to have the assessment collected through a special assessment on the tax statement which would be spread over 10 years at 4% interest on outstanding balances.

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was opened up for public comment. No member of the public was present to comment. The public comment portion of the hearing was closed.

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Discussion was held regarding the issue of trees being on the grass strip and ditch bank. The county policy of purchasing the easement in order to take off trees in a deliberate and scheduled manner with an option of leaving the trees for stability purposes will be followed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Loveall/Groskreutz motion carried unanimously to adopt the submitted and revised viewers report and direct staff to prepare an order with the following conditions:

- Made and completed under Minnesota Statute 103E
- Is complete and correct
- Damages and benefits have been properly determined
- Effective date of the grass strip and construction easement shall be October 1, 2013
- County adopts and confirms the new report
- Redetermined benefits and damages shall be used in place of the original benefits and damages and any subsequent proceedings related to County Ditch 68
- Chair shall be directed to sign said order

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The meeting was adjourned.

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Greg Young, Chair

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John Thompson, Auditor-Treasurer-Coordinator