

FARIBAULT COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
PRELIMINARY HEARING  
COUNTY DITCH 21  
FEBRUARY 16, 2016

The Faribault County Board of Commissioners met as the Drainage Authority for County Ditch 21 at 1:30 p.m. in the Faribault County Ag Center, Blue Earth, Minnesota for the preliminary hearing on CD21. The following members were present: Bill Groskreutz, Tom Loveall, John Roper, Tom Warmka, and Greg Young Commissioners. County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator John Thompson, Drainage Manager Merissa Lore, Project Engineer Charles Brandel, and Petitioner's Attorney Bruce Sellers were also present.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Warmka.

\* \* \* \* \*

Groskreutz/Loveall motion carried unanimously to approve the affidavit of mailing as presented by Auditor-Treasurer-Coordinator Thompson.

\* \* \* \* \*

Petitioner's Attorney Bruce Sellers discussed the project and the process for an improvement based on Minnesota Statutes 103E. 215. Sellers pointed out the engineers report will show that the four criteria found in Minnesota Statute 103E.261 Subdivision 5 have been met and these are the criteria that the board should consider to move the project forward.

\* \* \* \* \*

Project Engineer Charles Brandel of I+S Group presented the engineers preliminary report. Items discussed were the report, the systems prior and present condition, maps, drainage co-efficiencies, various options, road authority responsibilities, costs as presented in the report, separable maintenance considerations, buffers, various design components detailed in the report. The engineer stated that the preliminary report showed that project was feasible, necessary, would be of public benefit, and promotes the public health, after considering the environmental, land use, and multipurpose water management criteria in section 103E.015 subdivision 1 and that the outlet was adequate. The engineer recommended that a final survey and report be ordered by the drainage authority.

\* \* \* \* \*

Auditor-Treasurer-Coordinator Thompson read the Department of Natural Resources Preliminary Advisory letter for the record. Brandel stated that the comments would be addressed in the final report

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was opened for public comment. Public Works Director Mark Daly questioned if the County could replace their culverts outside of the project. Brandel answered in affirmative. Ryan Hagedorn read a letter from a landowner opposed to the project based on estimated costs. He also stated that the route of the improvement should follow the tile line and natural flow of the water. The engineer

stated that a tile in place of an open channel could add \$800,000 to the project. Lee Manthi stated he was in favor of the project as the system was in poor condition. Martin Johnson, representing a landowner asked how benefits were determined and that he didn't agree with the reports benefits and opposed the project. He was informed how the viewers would determine actual benefits and damages on the system. Bruce Sellers stated that statute doesn't take into account the cost of a project. Projects were approved based on a cost/benefit analysis determined and if the system met statutory criteria. Steve Lawrence stated he was in favor of the project. Wayne Lawrence spoke in favor of the project. The public comment portion of the hearing was closed.

\* \* \* \* \*

The County Board discussion was held. The engineer answered questions including the adequacy of the outlet, the design of 2 stage ditches and double stacked culverts, if options of a shallow ditch were considered, tile breaking watershed lines, peaks and flows, the number of interstate crossings, how tile connections would be made when fields were system tiled, and other questions. The board asked the engineer to consider an option using more tile and less open ditch in various areas.

Young/Groskreutz motion carried unanimously to recess the hearing until March 15, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in the County Board Room and consider options using more tile through portions of the system and possible changes in the route of the improvement.

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was recessed until 1:30 p.m. on March 15, 2016 in the County Board Room.

---

Tom Warmka, Chair

---

John Thompson, Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator