

FARIBAULT COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
PRELIMINARY HEARING
COUNTY DITCH 21
MARCH 15, 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 Board Room, Blue Earth Minnesota for a continued preliminary hearing from February 16, 2016 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.

Chair Warmka called the meeting to order.

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Auditor-Treasurer Thompson reviewed the reason for the continued hearing.

Bruce Sellers, petitioner's attorney, explained the reason for the hearing and outlined the responsibilities of the County Board acting as Drainage Authority for County Ditch 21.

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Project Engineer Charles Brandel of I+S Group presented the various options that the drainage authority directed the engineer to investigate at the February 16, 2014 meeting. An amended report was presented dated March 10, 2016. Three alternatives were presented along with option 1 from the original engineer's report. Several items were discussed including open channels, routes, and the adequacy of the outlet. The engineer recommended that option 1 be considered and stated that the proposed option is feasible. There is a necessity for the project, it will be of public benefit and promote the public health after considering the environmental, land use and multipurpose water management criteria in Minnesota Statute 103E.015 subdivision 1, and the outlet is adequate.

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The meeting was opened for public comment. Discussions involved the cost of the project, the adequacy of the outlet, possible alternatives to the route of the open channel, possible alternatives that would store water. The engineer stated that more information on water storage options and possibilities will be addressed in a final report along with issues raised in the Department of Natural Resources advisory letter. Costs for individual landowners will be determined by the viewers and will be presented before a public hearing. The public comment portion was closed.

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County Board discussion took place.

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Loveall/Groskreutz motion carried to direct staff to prepare an order directing the engineer to proceed with a final report for the project using option one as presented in the preliminary report and amended

with option one in the engineer's amended preliminary plan dated March 10, 2016 and that the project petition meets statutory requirements, that there is a necessity for the project, that the proposed project will be of public benefit and promote the public health, after considering the environmental, land use and multipurpose water management criteria in Minnesota Statute 103E.015 subdivision 1 and that the outlet is adequate. Commissioner Young voted no.

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Loveall/Young motion passed unanimously to direct staff to prepare an order for the appointment of Chris Christenson, Mark Behrends, Robert Hanson and Dennis Distad as viewers for the improvement of County Ditch 21 to determine the benefits and damages for the improvement of County Ditch 21.

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The preliminary hearing was adjourned.

Tom Warmka, Chair

John Thompson, Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator