

Stanwood Drainage District

May 23, 2017

Chairperson Smith opened the public meeting at 6:00 p.m. Sup. Kaufmann, Sup. Bell, Sup. Gaul, Sup. Agne, Attorney Jim Hudson and Engineer Don Etlar and several individuals were present.

Right-of-way Hearing

Attorney Hudson reviewed legal procedures of the right-of-way purchases. In this project the Engineer determined there was not enough room therefore right-of-way was purchased to expand the current right-of-way. Discussion continued regarding the process. Engineer Etlar explained the cost of purchasing the land was \$1200.00 per acre along the entire ditch.

Two objections were filed by Royce Lehrman and David Siebels. Discussion and explanation was given and heard from the petitioners.

Moved by Sup. Kaufmann and seconded by Sup. Bell to accept the Report of Appraisers Open Ditch Right-of-Way.

Ayes: All

Annexation Hearing – 6:30 p.m.

Engineer Etlar explained the parcels listed for annexation are benefitting therefore it is recommended to be annexed. Handouts were provided. Attorney Hudson explained the difference of annexation and classification. Engineer Etlar determination of the parcels of annexation was based on material benefit, theory and basis.

There were no written objections.

Moved by Sup. Gaul and seconded by Sup. Agne to approve the Engineer's Report for Annexation.

Ayes: All

Classification Hearing – 6:50 p.m.

Attorney Hudson explained that in 1906 the drainage code was established to determine an assessment schedule for each parcel to pay an assessment for the relative benefit of the ditch.

Engineer Etlar discussed the factors that are used to develop the assessment figures. Maps were distributed to explain and show the following factors in the ditch. Wetness, Use, Proximity, Elevation, Run-off Adjustment and Need Factors. All these factors determine an assessable unit for each parcel of land then it shows what parcels are benefitting then the classification is based on the relative benefit. It was noted that the Wet Factor was averaged on all parcels located in the City of Stanwood. Discussion and questions were answered by Engineer Etlar.

There were four objections filed by David Siebels, Darren Lehrman, John Donohoe and Ricky Pruess. Attorney Hudson read each objection and answered their objection. Newman Abuisen representative from the Iowa DOT asked how many feet is the easement for the ditch? 66' of additional ROW was acquired. The upper ditch has a 100' easement and the lower ditch has a 140' easement.

Moved by Sup. Agne and seconded by Sup. Kaufmann to accept the Report of Classification.
Ayes: All

Sup. Smith informed the public of the status of hydro seeding. Discussion was ongoing about the weed problem. Sup. Kaufmann asked the landowners what their opinion was on having each of them plant a buffer strip. There were no consistency on that answer from the landowners.

General discussion was held on spraying the ditch.

Attorney Hudson noted that 20 days after the Board accepts the Classification Report any petitioner can appeal the decision in District Court.

Discussion was held on the completion hearing of the Open Ditch. Engineer Etlar stated that hearing will be with McClure Engineering. Attorney Hudson said he would be available to attend that meeting. The notice requirements will be sent to only the landowners along the ditch.

The Public Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.