

*Not Approved*

## **LARSEN DRAINAGE DITCH ANNUAL MEETING**

### **OCTOBER 21, 2016**

+Meeting called to order by Chairman Abe Eckstein. Those present: Chairman Abe Eckstein, Jerry Peterson and David Sleik. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. at the Town of Clayton Municipal Building. Also present was Dan Eckstein. Minutes from the 2014 Annual Meeting and the budget meeting to levy taxes for 2015 had been previously sent to each board member for review. Chairman Eckstein made the motion to approve, seconded by Jerry Peterson. Motion carried 3-0.

During the discussion Chairman Eckstein stated that both he and Tom Eckstein are being sued by the Department of Justice. Tom Eckstein is involved since he had done the excavating. The problem is that the Arrowhead River is a man made ditch and previously it was known as Mud Creek. During the 1960's the people living along the creek wanted the name changed to the Arrowhead River. The DNR stated that all operations for the cleanout must stop and that their rules were not followed since it is now a river. An archaeological study now has to be done due to the possibility of Indian artifacts in the area. Previously Roger Clark of Herrling & Clark was the attorney for the drainage ditch and is now retired. He worked with the Board and charged an hourly rate. Now the firm wants a \$10,000 retainer up front. The meeting with the State Department of Justice will be held on November 9, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. at the Herrling & Clark Office Building in Appleton. David Sleik stated that the cleanout is becoming extremely complicated since State Drainage rules, agricultural rules and DNR rules must be adhered to and they don't always agree. He said all these hurdles the Board needs to address and that is why the cleanout is taking so long. Along with rules, necessary permits, weather, and crops on the land it has all taken time. He feels the ditch will constantly have the need to be monitored due to tree growth and keeping the grass berm adjacent to the ditch in good shape. He also mentioned that this ditch is affected by the Lake Winnebago water system and how the Corp of Engineers operates the dam at Neenah.

The State Drainage Board Annual Meeting is coming up shortly in Portage and Chairman Eckstein wants the Board to go if possible. No date has been mentioned.

Work still needs to be done at Oakridge Road and Highway 45 and also County Road M and Highway 45. Trees still need to be removed. Culverts will be required to get access to the ditch for further cleanup. To estimate how much work and estimated costs are involved depends on equipment needed, legal fees, how much dirt needs to be removed and weather. Stone needs to be added to areas to control erosion. It was again stated that this will be an ongoing project and people need to realize that fact. Presently the balance on hand is \$215,160.24 as of October 2016. Approximately \$13,400 is received from taxes each year.

Recording Secretary asked that all bills be sent to the County Treasurer for payment. A newsletter will be sent out again and wants to include an itemized list on how the tax dollars have been spent to date.

Annual Meeting held October 21, 2016 Cont.

Chairman Eckstein mentioned that the drainage board should contact the State Drainage Board for assistance.

Jerry Peterson made the motion to adjourn, seconded by David Sleik. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 A.M.

## LARSEN DRAINAGE BOARD BUDGET MEETING

### OCTOBER 21, 2016

Immediately following the Annual Meeting Chairman Eckstein called the budget meeting to order.

Discussion followed and due to unknown cost of legal fees, work to continue the cleanout and necessary erosion controls it was agreed to leave the levy for the 2016 tax year as in the past.

Legal Fees	\$15,000
Ditch Cleaning	50,000
Administration	1,500
Brush & Tree Cutting	20,000
Mowing	10,000
Culverts & Stone	<u>30,000</u>
	\$ 126,500

David Sleik made the motion to approve the 2016 budget, seconded by Jerry Peterson. Motion carried 3-0

Jerry Peterson made the motion to levy the same tax amount as the previous tax year. This was seconded by David Sleik. Motion carried 3-0. The tax levy is as follows:

Parcels With Buildings - \$ 12.75  
Parcel Without Buildings - \$4.25  
Per Acre - \$1.34

The Larsen Sanitary District is levied \$2,250 and Northeast Asphalt \$3,750.

Meeting of October 21, 2016 Cont.

Chairman Eckstein made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Jerry Peterson. Motion carried 3-0.  
Meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Sievert, Recording Secretary