

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES – SUBJECT TO CORRECTIONS
LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LYON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, MARSHALL, MN
SPECIAL MEETING COUNTY DITCHES
August 18, 2009

1:30 p.m. Meeting called to order by Chairman Stensrud. Members present: Fenske, Ritter, Goodenow, Nelson, Stensrud, Auditor / Treasurer VanOverbeke.

Absent: County Attorney Maes, County Administrator Stomberg,

Pledge of Allegiance

County Ditch 3 and 44

Hammer – I am going to recommend we collect 4% of the benefits. Nelson moved, seconded by Fenske to assess 4% to CD 3 & 44. Goodenow – Will that cleaning be next year? Hammer- I don't plan on cleaning it next year but the beaver problem we'll look at. All voted in favor.

County Ditch 12

We did about \$5,000 worth of work repairing tile. I would recommend 15% assessment. Goodenow moved, seconded by Nelson to assess 15% to CD 12. All voted in favor. Gene – There will be more to do there in Lyons Township. Goodenow – There is a max isn't there? Hammer – Twenty. Goodenow – On 15 it says there is a 2007 loan of \$21,000 are we paying that off? VanOverbeke – Yes.

County Ditch 17

Hammer – We did a fair amount of tile repair on that ditch. My recommendation is to collect 10% of the benefits. Ritter moved, seconded by Fenske to assess 10% to CD 17. All voted in favor.

County Ditch 18

Hammer - Byron Kosen is here and is the overseer. We have just about enough money to clean it. Kosen – Last time I talked to you I thought we were going to clean it. Hammer - I was out there with four different contractors we looked at the culverts. There is maintenance that needs to be done on the bottom. I have gotten a quote to have the Cottonwood trees removed. The deepest part of the ditch there are two beaver dams there that are holding up about four feet of water. Kosen – What about the head end? The way it looked to me they hooked the private line into the county line. They should have gone in on their own. Hammer- We have a couple of beaver dams that need to be removed, and some Cottonwood trees. There are some private and county tiles that are hooked up that aren't done quite right.

County Ditch 24

Hammer –There is some future tile repair and my recommendation is 10%. Goodenow moved, seconded by Nelson to assess 10% to CD 24. All voted in favor.

County Ditch 29

Hammer – The tile runs up into Garvin and the East there. There is about two miles of open ditch. Fenske moved, seconded by Ritter assess 10% to CD 29. All voted in favor. Ritter –You are talking future what is that? Hammer- At least 2011. It has almost two miles of open ditch. Goodenow – It was last re-determined in 1920.

County Ditch 34

Hammer - Dean Buysee is here and he is the overseer of county ditch 34. This is the system we are working on north of Minneota at this time. We have plenty of money in the account now to do the repair. We did a redetermination is 2003.

County Ditch 37

Hammer- Culverts and road crossings don't look to bad. I would recommend collecting 10%. Fenske moved, seconded by Goodenow to asses 10% to CD 37. All voted in favor.

County Ditch 39

That was the last redetermination we did. We were in a deficit but we have a settlement coming in.

County Ditch 55

Hammer – It is about 2 ½ to 3 miles of open ditch. My recommendation would be to collect 15%. Goodenow moved, seconded by Nelson to assess 15% to CD 55. All voted in favor.

County Ditch 63

Hammer – This is north of Ghent. The last time this ditch was cleaned was in 1988. It has been almost 20 years. I don't have a plan to clean it but it will need to be done. Nelson moved, seconded by Fenske to assess 5% to CD 63. All voted in favor

County Ditch 67

Hammer – It hasn't been cleaned since I have been here. My recommendation would be to collect 10% of the benefits. Goodenow moved, seconded by Ritter to assess 10% to CD 67. All voted in favor.

County Ditch 68

Hammer- The ditch is kind of long. There is one person that has about 30% of the benefit. We started cleaning at Meadow Creek. Goodenow moved, seconded by Fenske to assess 10% to CD 68. Fenske – This one landowner has 30% would it help if it was re-determined or do they have that much? Hammer – It was in 1966 it is not that old. This person wouldn't have much of a farm if it wasn't there. Goodenow – The water management area drains which way? Hammer – Southeast. There is not one drop of water in Meadow Creek right now. All voted in favor.

County Ditch 69

Hammer – I will be cleaning on the branch east of county road 9. Ritter moved, seconded by Goodenow to assess 2% to CD 69. Fenske – How much open ditch is there? Hammer – The portion east of county road 9 is about 3 miles. All voted in favor.

Concerned Citizen - On the ¾ of a million in ditch money is this money in a separate fund or how does it work? VanOverbeke – All of the ditches are within their own fund but they do not collect interest. The ditch money sits in the checking account. We have 95 ditches and if they got interest depending on what their balance was they would get on average \$4.25 per month. The ditches are also negative which means the county is carrying those that are negative. Byron – The negative balance is that what is coming in? You said we have to carry some negative balances. Goodenow – The state auditor makes us account for each ditch separately. Each one stands on its own. Byron – On the comments future ditch cleaning there are a lot of them. It looks to me that it is a good place to raise money. I told Hammer we are going to clean the ditch this year if we are going to collect it. If this is supposed to be enough to clean the ditch then that is what should be done. Hammer – That is still not enough to clean the whole ditch. Stensrud – We can't let them sit with a zero balance or not much in them. Goodenow – Part of the accounting is it stays with the ditch so the next time something needs to be repaired it is there. Nelson – Well things happen you get emergency washouts and it needs to be fixed. Concerned Citizen – Do you borrow money from the ditch account when you do other ditches? VanOverbeke – We are using reserves. Goodenow – We use it so that they don't have negative balances.

2:05 p.m. Ritter moved, seconded by Goodenow to close the county ditch hearing. All voted in favor.

Rodney Stensrud, Chairman

Attest: Loren Stomberg
Lyon County Administrator