

IN THE MATTER DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 6
WORTH COUNTY, IOWA

MINUTES

The Board of Supervisors of Worth County, Iowa, acting for and on behalf of Drainage District No. 6, Worth County, Iowa met at the Worth County courthouse at 9:30 A.M. CST, April 3, 2023.

Members present: Enos Loberg, Chairperson
A.J. Stone, Vice-Chairperson
Mark Smeby, Supervisor

Also present: Jacki Backhaus, Auditor
Valerie Paulson, Clerk
Landowners: Ron Levorson, Craig
Haugsdal, Mike Thompson, Steve Forland,
Gordon Hagen, Don Knudtson, Bruce
Helgeson

Second Informational Public Hearing for tree removal in DD #6 at 9:30 A.M.

Bid request letters were previously sent out on February 22nd by the drainage clerk to the following local contractors: Popp Excavating Inc, Helgeson Drainage Inc, Rogness Brothers Excavating Inc, Peterson Excavating & Drainage Inc, Al Excavating & Drainage Inc, and Mayers Digging Co. Two bids were received.

Al Excavating & Drainage Inc submitted two bids. The first bid is for tree removal only (approximately 2,900 ft) with an estimate of \$15,000. They noted this is to chain saw off the trees leaving the stumps, and they will pile and burn the trees. The second bid is for tree/stump removal, reshaping the bank and seeding (approximately 5,000 ft) with an estimate of \$39,250. They noted they will bury the stumps on top of the bank after the trees are burned up, this does not include riprap if needed. The contractor also noted that they will not be responsible for crop damage, they get to choose what side to put the trees on and spoil, and that they will only seed the side bank if needed.

Rogness Brothers Excavating Inc submitted one bid. This bid is for tree/stump removal, reshaping the bank and seeding (approximately 5,000 ft) with an estimate of \$98,750. They included a more detailed breakdown of the costs which include:

Clearing & Grubbing of Trees	2900 LF	\$76,850
Cleaning & Bank Shaping of Ditch 2 sides	26 STA	\$9,100
Cleaning & Bank Shaping of Ditch 1 side	24 STA	\$6,600
Seeding of Ditch 2 sides	26 STA	\$1,690
Seeding of Ditch 1 side	24 STA	\$3,600
Mobilization	1 LS	\$910
Total Bid		\$98,750

Discussion about billing/assessments and if we should use the old schedule or possibly looking forward at reclassification and annexation. We believe the last reclassification was done back in the 1960's. Landowners want more information on the cost per acre for reclassification and annexation. Mark Smeby believes it is around \$5/acre on the high side. Drainage clerk will reach out to the engineer and get more information on the cost.

Without a new reclassification schedule the old assessment schedule will be used for this project for DD 6 Lat 9 which is approximately 2,294 acres.

Craig Haugsdal has concerns about damages to his field since they will more than likely be doing work from his side of the ditch. Discussion about 50 feet of right-of-way was discussed.

Supervisors said they want to try and avoid crop damages but will look into covering crop damages or surface drains/tile damages caused due to the tree removal project.

Bruce Helgeson wants to make sure that the contractor abides to the stipulations in the contract.

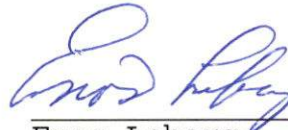
Public comment with concerns about maintenance in the future and how we keep the trees from growing back. The supervisors advised it is on a schedule to be sprayed every three years.

Ron Levorson said he has drone footage of the area. The ditch is fine to the north of the trees and there is no problem with drainage. The supervisors asked if anyone has heard of anyone up or down stream of the trees with drainage problems and no one has heard of any. They just want the trees removed to prevent future problems.

The majority of the landowners present decided to move forward with only the section which contains trees (approximately 2,900 ft). They want the trees and stumps removed, ditch/bank cleaned and reworked if needed, and reseeded. They do not care which contractor is used.


There were some confusion and questions about the bids submitted. Drainage clerk will reach out to both contractors and get a more detailed bid for the section needing work.

Motion by A.J. Stone, second by Mark Smeby, carried to close the public hearing.



Enos Loberg
Chairperson

ATTEST:



Valerie Paulson
Drainage Clerk