

**MINUTES**  
**DD H-S 35-1 PUBLIC HEARING ON**  
**ENGINEER'S REPORT ON IMPROVEMENTS**  
**TO MAIN TILE, STORY AND HARDIN COUNTIES**  
**JUNE 8, 2016 AT 11:00 A.M.**  
**HARDIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE – ELDORA, IOWA**

Hardin County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Lance Granzow, opened the meeting. Also present were Hardin County Supervisors, Renee McClellan and Ronn Rickels; Story County Supervisors, Wayne Clinton and Rick Sanders; Landowners, Gerald Nelson, Nancy Herbrechtsmeier, Paul Herbrechtsmeier, Michael Terry Nessa, Robert Lee, Ray Guard, Leland Coburn, Robert Goodwin on behalf of Daniel Lundy, Dennis Neubauer, David Fincham, Alvin Clark, David Nelson, Keith Dubberke, Leonard Penning, Dan Remsburg, KP Mork, West Stolee, Steve Johnston, Larry Otta, Craig Torgeson with Torgeson Farms, Kevin Nessa and Jason Martin; Story County Engineer, Darren Moon; Lee Gallentine with Ryken Engineering; Story County Drainage Clerk, Scott Wall; Hardin County Drainage Clerk, Tina Schlemme.

Rickels moved, Clinton seconded to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

McClellan moved, Sanders seconded to open the public hearing after introductions of staff were made. All ayes. Motion carried.

Schlemme and Wall verified proof of publication.

Granzow conferred with Schlemme that a remonstrance had been filed before the start of the hearing and that it met the needed requirements to dismiss the improvement project.

Rickels moved, Sanders seconded to close the public hearing. All ayes. Motion carried.

Clinton asked to explain what a remonstrance meant. Schlemme explained that a remonstrance is a petition signed by the majority of landowners owning 70% or more of the land within the district and that it can only stop an improvement, not a repair.

A landowner asked what costs have been incurred so far as he feels he unfairly pays more than his neighbors. Schlemme displayed the payments made for this district. Although there were some costs associated to a repair that had been completed this year, the total for this improvement project showed \$5,975 to Ryken Engineering. Granzow explained that there are also publication costs and possible administration costs as well. A landowner asked how those costs would be paid. Granzow explained that all expenses will be assessed to landowners under the original, current classification.

Sanders wanted to discuss how the preparation of the engineer's report was approved. Although he is certain the outcome would have been the same, he would have appreciated if Hardin County would have tabled the decision until a joint meeting was held. It was discussed that Hardin County approved the creation of an engineer's report contingent on Story County's approval. Granzow stated that Story County could have tabled any decision as well before approving to hire Ryken Engineering. Sanders stated that going forward he would like to see a joint meeting held with both counties to discuss the details of the project.

A landowner voiced concern that they didn't see a breakdown of the cost per owner. Granzow explained that there would be a reclassification for an improvement so any numbers given would not have been accurate. Schlemme explained that if landowners requested that information, then she supplied them with an estimate based off the current classification. Schlemme stated that her and Wall had spreadsheets for today that showed those amounts but was invalid now that a remonstrance was filed. Wall stated that any Story County owners that wanted to see this could speak with him afterwards.

Gallentine then explained the process of a reclassification, which is based on a number of factors such as, soil type and proximity to the drainage facility. These factors together are the benefit for each parcel. Sanders stated they recently reclassified a drainage district on an \$850,000 improvement project and it substantially changed each landowner's individual benefit amount. He further explained that with the use of modern technology and data that the new classification was fair and equitable, although not all landowners liked it. He further explained that if landowners preferred a per acre assessment they should contact their State Legislator who proposed this method but was opposed by the Iowa Drainage District Association.

Leland Coburn asked about the original 2015 meeting that triggered these reports. Granzow stated the upcoming meeting would discuss that. Granzow conferred with Schlemme who stated that at the 2015 meeting, Coburn requested that the studies of DD 25 Main and H-S 35-1 be done. Coburn stated that was not his intention.

A landowner asked about grant money as there was a drainage project in Huxley that obtained grant money. Sanders stated he was not aware of that project and conferred with Wall that there is no grant money for drainage districts.

A landowner asked why the railroad wasn't fixed in 2015. Granzow stated the next meeting would discuss that. Sanders asked if there were any other issues/repairs that needed addressed. Granzow confirmed that there were no repairs needed for this district at this time, just the requested improvement.

A landowner asked why the options in the engineer's report included an open ditch. Granzow responded that this could not be discussed since the remonstrance was filed.

Sanders moved, Rickels seconded to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.