

BENTON COUNTY DITCH AUTHORITY

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Benton County Board Room

The Benton County Ditch Authority met in special session on February 2, 2021 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Board members Scott Johnson, Steve Heinen, Jared Gapinski, Ed Popp and Beth Schlangen (virtual) present. Also present was Chris Byrd, County Engineer; Monty Headley, County Administrator; Beth Stay, Administrative Support Specialist; and Vicki Feuling, Administrative Assistant.

Chair Popp called the meeting to order at 9:47 AM.

Johnson/Gapinski to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously per roll call vote.

Heinen/Johnson to approve the meeting minutes of January 19, 2021 as written. Motion carried unanimously per roll call vote.

Chris Byrd, County Engineer, explained that the next item on the agenda is consideration of three Professional Services Contracts with *H2Over Viewers, LLC* to complete the Redetermination of Benefits for several county ditches within the County (one contract for County Ditch 3; one contract for County Ditches 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 14; one contract for County Ditch 9). He noted that this item was tabled at the last meeting as Board members had questions about potential additional hourly fees *H2Over Viewers* could charge. Bryan Murphy, *H2Over Viewers, LLC*, stated "...in the history of hundreds of contracts, we have only charged our hourly rate one time...the reason we have that in there is because our position is to deliver data...and factual results...sometimes some of these things get tied up a little bit more in political issues...an example I can think of...there was a landowner where we visited a site at least a half dozen times...and went over all the things we've already gone over again...that's the only time I can think of where we charged an hourly rate...we want that "per acre" rate to be the only thing we charge for...we want a reputation of being a company that works for what we say we are going to...we like to charge by the acre because it gives everybody an upfront cost...we also include the landowner packet that we print, package, mail...we want to shoulder as much of the burden of this project as we can off of your county staff...we definitely take this all the way through to the final hearing...and any continuation hearings that are required...basically, from start to finish...upon the 30-day appeal period, we deliver a document to the Auditor that allows him or her to upload the numbers that we provide directly into the tax system..." Byrd added "...if we get a surcharge of an hourly rate, it would be a cost to that particular system..."

Johnson/Gapinski to approve the three separate Professional Services Agreements between Benton County and *H2Over Viewers LLC* to complete the Redetermination of Benefits (one contract for County Ditch 3; one contract for County Ditches 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 14; one contract for County Ditch 9), and authorize the Chair to sign. Motion carried unanimously per roll call vote.

Chair Popp adjourned the meeting at 9:54 AM.

Edward D. Popp, Chair
Benton County Ditch Authority

ATTEST:

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator

