



TEXAS TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Loeks called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Due to the absence of Clerk Beutel a motion was made by Loeks and seconded by Roberts, motion carried, to appoint Trustee Kerr as acting clerk.

ROLL CALL

Acting Clerk Kerr called the roll, and the following Board Members were present: Supervisor Loeks, Treasurer Roberts, Trustee O'Neill, Trustee Hammon, Trustee Boven, and Trustee Kerr. Clerk Beutel was absent. Also present were Superintendent Wilson and approximately 40 interested persons.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSS LAKE LEVEL PROJECT AND STATE FUNDING

Supervisor Loeks explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the \$2.2 million dollar State Grant allocated to Texas Township for flooding. He personally talked with Representative Morse about the grant, and she informed him that it was not specifically designated for the Crooked/Eagle Lake Project, but projects related to flooding. The bond amount for the Crooked/Eagle Lake Level Project was originally \$5.3 million dollars (net of the FEMA Grant), with Kalamazoo County being assessed 12% of the cost (\$636,000), Texas Township 10%, (\$530,000,) with the remaining amount (\$8,885.55 for a full share) being assessed to properties that benefit from the project. He proposed that the full \$2.2 million dollars go toward the Crooked/Eagle Lake Project, lowering the balance to be Bonded to \$3.1 million dollars. The reduced bond amount will lower the assessments for the Township, and benefited properties.

Supervisor Loeks recommended keeping the County's assessment at the original amount of \$636,000, with the Township paying the reduced assessment of \$310,000 with the difference of \$220,000 being allocated toward the impending Pine Island Drain project. Benefited parcel assessment for the Crooked/Eagle Lakes project would be reduced to \$4,629.77 which is a savings from the original assessment of 48%.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board listened to public comment:

- Concern expressed that any grant money would go towards the Pine Island Project. The Township should pay the full amount of the original assessment of \$530,000.
- Crooked Lake and Eagle Lake residents lobbied for the state grant and therefore should receive 100% of the \$2.2 million dollars.
- Pine Island had nothing to do with the flooding mitigation and did not contribute financially toward the short-term solution.
- The Township has already budgeted for the full assessment and should continue to pay that amount.
- Why wasn't the County and Township assessment based on the full amount of the project prior to receipt of any grants.
- The amount of money Crooked/Eagle Lake residents had to pay to mitigate damage to their homes should be taken into consideration.
- Pine Island is a separate project and funds should not be allocated to a project that has not been started.

Supervisor Loeks iterated that Pine Island properties were part of the Flooding Task Force and paid the special assessment towards the short-term flooding project. Their assessment could probably be 3x



that of Crooked/Eagle Lake properties as that cost would be spread over 35 properties as opposed to the 465 for the Lake Level Project. The Board must take into consideration all the residents of Texas Township and a reasonable solution would be for the Township to contribute funds towards that project.

Trustee Boven questioned how much the Township paid towards the short-term solution. Supervisor Loeks estimated around \$1 million dollars. Supervisor Loeks stated that for the Township to apply for the FEMA Grant, a Hazard Mitigation Plan was required. The Township spent \$25,000 to create that Plan. The Township will continue to look for ways to reduce assessments; we have requested additional FEMA grant funding, but it could be a while before we hear.

The Crooked/Eagle Lake project should begin in approximately 3.5 weeks and those individuals that prepaid the special assessment will be refunded the difference by the Kalamazoo County Drain Office.

Treasurer Roberts explained that the Pine Island project was not included in the Township's 2023 Fiscal Year Budget, as no one knew about the project. She explained how and when the special assessment will be placed on tax bills.

In response to a question concerning the Pine Island lawsuit with the County, Supervisor Loeks explained that Texas Township was not part of the suit and therefore has no knowledge of the proceedings. He explained that the drains in the Pine Island development were private and property owners petitioned the County to take them over, just as the property owners on Crooked/Eagle Lakes petitioned to have a legal lake level set. The Township will be assessed for 10% of the cost, as it is with the Crooked/Eagle Lake Project.

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Boven, motion carried, that the Township apply 100% of the State Grant for flooding of \$2.2 million dollars to the Crooked/Eagle Lake Legal Lake Level project, keep the Kalamazoo County Assessment at \$636,000, and the Townships assessment at the reduced amount of \$310,000.00.

PUBLIC COMMENT – NON-AGENDA

An individual requested that the allocations of the project discussed at the meeting be posted on the Township's web site.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by O'Neill, seconded by Hammon, motion carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:50 p.m.

Submitted: August 15, 2023

Approved: August 28, 2023, as submitted

Linda M. Kerr
Acting Clerk