

Drainage District #37 Meeting of Private Trustees
10:00 a.m. October 6, 2022
Clay County Administration Board Room

The October 6, 2022 meeting of the Drainage District #37 Trustees was called to order by Chairman Allen McGranahan at 10:00 a.m. in the Clay County Administration Board Room.

In attendance in person were trustees Allen McGranahan and Bill Gerdeman; guests Luke Langner and LeAnn McGranahan. In attendance by phone were trustee Rod Dillard; clerk Connie Swan; engineer Collin Klingbeil of Jacobson-Westergard & Associates, LLC; guests Brent Swart and Linda Carter.

The minutes of the September 29, 2022 meeting were approved as presented and will be posted on the pickerelrun.com website.

No bills were presented.

Allen stated that the primary purpose of the meeting was to decide on whether to accept one of the base bids or alternate bids received in response to the plans and specs that had been prepared for the tree removal project. Collin prepared a bid summary, which is posted online at pickerelrun.com, and which outlines the eight bids received, one of which could not be opened because the bid bond enclosed was not on the correct form. Collin was pleased with the number of bids received and stated that having several bids provides some confidence that bid amounts are in the ballpark. Reutzel Excavating submitted the lowest base bid of \$695,680 and alternate bid of \$828,376.

Collin has done due diligence on Reutzel Excavating, and feels confident that the company has the necessary equipment available, and is capable of fulfilling the job requirements.

A guest poised the question to Collin of whether he was surprised that the bids received were higher than anticipated. Collin responded that he was, but had learned more after talking with contractors prior to bids being received.

The base bid will involve more hand work, but also leave behind more mess. The bid alternate allows for access lanes where necessary and a cleaner job when completed. The bid alternate does not include all of the trees in the right of way, but only whatever is necessary to be removed in order to reach target trees.

Rod asked for clarification on the tree count/tree units. The previous engineering report from Bolton & Menk had estimated 227,000 tree units. This number has been adjusted down significantly, as there are many parts of the right of way and additional access area that will not need to have trees removed.

Luke asked about trees over the outlets. Collin indicated there are not a lot of trees over most of the outlets.

Allen made the motion to, over a longer period of time, do removal projects similar to what was completed in the spring of 2022. The motion died for lack of a second.

Collin did not feel that a piecemeal approach would result in significant savings. Bill expressed the desire for the contractor to work with landowners if the bid alternate was accepted. The trees in the base bid will be removed without exception.

Bill moved to accept the bid alternate of \$828,376.50 from Reutz Engineering, with the understanding that the contractor will work with landowners on those trees that are part of the bid alternate, but there be no negotiation on removal of targeted trees. Second by Rod. Motion carried. Collin will get the contract prepared.

In other business, it was noted that Rod's one-year term expires in January 2023 and there will need to be an election.

Bill moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Rod. Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Swan, Clerk