

**PUBLIC HEARING – COUNTY DITCH #12
REDETERMINATION OF BENEFITS
April 3, 2018**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 for the public hearing for the redetermination of benefits for County Ditch #12. Chairman Olson called the hearing to order with Commissioners Athey, Backer and Berning present. Commissioner Sandberg was absent. Also present were Neil Schmidgall, Dennis Wulf, Ditch Inspector Darwin Karsky, Viewers Mark Dietz and Gary Haugen, Ditch Attorney Kurt Deter, Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Attorney Deter reviewed the purpose of the meeting. He stated that the viewers would present their report and there would be an opportunity to ask questions.

Auditor Knutson reported that the notice was mailed, posted and published as required.

Viewer Dietz provided history on the ditch, explained their process for determining benefits/damages and reported that additional acres have been added. In addition, 14 acres of land owned by Russ Swenson have been removed from the report since the report was mailed to landowners. An updated map was also presented showing percentage of benefit by parcel.

Chairman Olson asked for public comments. Mr. Wulf asked questions on the maintenance cost estimate and total benefits. It was explained that at the present time, the only costs to be paid will be for the redetermination. Any future repair costs will be paid under the new percentages. Mr. Wulf stated that part of Mr. Schmidgall's land is a swampbuster wetland, which would need to be mitigated if any changes were made. Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to close the oral portion of the hearing at 11:12 AM.

Mr. Deter reviewed the approval criteria for the board's consideration. Motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the Findings of Fact and Order approving the Redetermination of Benefits. Mr. Deter stated that there is a 30-day appeal process. Mr. Deter stated again that any future expenses will be allocated based on the new report.

Chairman Olson declared the hearing adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor