

**FLOOD SALES TAX COMMITTEE
AGENDA FOR MARCH 20, 2017**

Cass County Commission

Conference Room

1:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approve minutes from previous meeting
3. Flood sales tax fund update
4. Status of previously approved projects
5. Review of projects and selection of projects to be funded in 2017
6. Other business
7. Adjournment

cc: Local Media

**FLOOD SALES TAX COMMITTEE
JULY 18, 2016—1:30 PM**

1. MEETING TO ORDER

Commissioner Ken Pawluk called a meeting of the Flood Sales Tax Committee to order on Monday, July 18, 2016, at 1:30 PM in the Commission Conference Room, Cass County Courthouse, with the following present: County Administrator Keith Berndt; County Auditor Michael Montplaisir; Joint Water Resource District Representative Rodger Olson; County Commissioner Ken Pawluk; and County Commissioner Rick Steen.

Also present were County Commissioner Chad Peterson; County Commissioner Arland Rasmussen; County Commissioner Mary Scherling; and County Engineer Jason Benson.

2. MINUTES APPROVED

MOTION, passed

Mr. Olson moved and Mr. Steen seconded to approve the meeting minutes from May 2, 2016, as presented. Motion carried.

3. TOWER TOWNSHIP/CASS 32 DRAINAGE PROJECT

County Engineer Jason Benson was present to review the drainage project request. Mr. Benson said he has been working with members of the Tower Township Board and landowners along Cass County Highway 32, west of the Maple River, to implement a drainage project to reduce damage to roads and crops during high water periods. For the drain project to be initiated, a \$50,000 payment must be submitted to the Maple River Water Resource District in order to cover the administrative and engineering costs associated with developing the project. Those who would benefit from the project will vote on whether or not the special assessment district and project can go forward; if the project is approved, the \$50,000 payment will be returned and the costs will be rolled into the overall project assessment district.

Tower Township and ten landowners have pledged \$30,000 towards the payment; the remaining \$20,000 has been requested to be funded by flood sales tax funds.

Mr. Pawluk asked if the drainage project would have a negative downstream impact. Mr. Benson said the goal would not be to move water early on in a spring flood event, but to draw the water down slowly throughout the spring and summer. Mr. Olson said the project has not been developed yet, but initial concepts would use piping, which would not overflow ditches and would allow for a control structure to slow or eliminate flow if needed.

Mr. Olson said the aforementioned landowners are also open to looking at retention if more funds from the Red River Joint Board would be available.

Mr. Rasmussen asked if any landowners have cited potential detriments to their properties. Mr. Olson said there have been some concerns brought forward; Moore Engineering will study how to mitigate the impacts to these landowners.

Mr. Rasmussen asked if approving this project would set a precedence for future drainage project requests throughout the county. Mr. Benson said this project is eligible for flood sales tax funds as there is a direct benefit to county infrastructure.

Mrs. Scherling asked what amount the county would be responsible for. Mr. Benson said the amount would be determined based on the overall benefit to the county; the county would also be given a number of votes for the assessment district based on the overall benefit to the county.

Mr. Steen clarified that the request being considered today is to partially fund the study to develop the project. If the project is approved, the money funded by the county will be returned.

MOTION, passed

Mr. Berndt moved and Mr. Steen seconded to approve funding \$20,000 towards the bond payment to the Maple River Water Resource District in order to fund a study for Drain 77, along Cass County Highway 32 in Tower Township. Discussion: Mr. Steen asked if the project would provide over \$20,000 worth of benefit to Cass 32. Mr. Benson said that amount of benefit would be seen during a flood event, in addition to avoiding road closures and negative impacts on nearby landowners. Mr. Pawluk asked if Cass County would be part of the assessment district. Mr. Benson said yes. On roll call vote, the motion carried with Mr. Steen, Mr. Montplaisir, Mr. Berndt, and Mr. Olson voting “Yes”; Mr. Pawluk voting “No”.

4. FLOOD SALES TAX FUND UPDATE

Mr. Montplaisir said approved flood sales tax project costs paid this year total \$174,000. The fund currently has over \$4 million, including \$921,000 in encumbrances; the unencumbered balance is \$3,224,000.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.