

Ditch Improvement Process

The summary of steps necessary to make ditch improvements

1. A petition is filed by an owner or public body and must be accompanied by a \$1,500.00 bond plus \$5.00 for each parcel of and in excess of 200 listed in the petition as being benefited
2. The proposed improvement is viewed by the board of county commissioners, the county engineer, and other interested people (30-120 days after petition is filed). Any amendments must be filed within 21 days of the view.
3. The first hearing is held and the county engineer files his preliminary reports, including a statement of his opinion as to whether benefits from the project are likely to exceed the estimated cost (30-90 days from the view)
4. The county engineer makes surveys, plans, and specifications for the improvements; prepares a schedule of assessments of benefits and damages, and files this information with the clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
5. The final hearing is held (25-90 days after the engineer files his plans in #4). Any exceptions to the engineer's schedule of benefits and damages must be filed on or before the date of the final hearing. The board hears evidence, amends, corrects, and approves assessments, and orders the engineer to let the contracts for construction.
6. The engineer receives bids at the time fixed, if no appeal has been taken to the court of common pleas.
7. Upon completion of the contracts, the assessments are adjusted pro rata from the estimated cost to the final cost. This assessment, plus the maintenance for one year based upon estimated costs, is levied upon each parcel of land as stated in the schedules
8. The improvement is maintained by the county with funds obtained by an annual assessment upon the benefited property owners.