

BELLE PLAINE TOWNSHIP
Ditch Alteration Policy

**A Policy Regarding Request for Township Ditch
Alteration by Private Property Owner(s)**

Purpose of Policy: The adoption of this policy is to provide a mechanism for private property owner(s) seeking to reestablish or alter a Township road ditch for private storm water drainage. The Township recognizes the need to establish a process to allow ditch alteration in a controlled and consistent manner and to ensure that private property owner(s) requesting work done on a road ditch which benefits a single property is not funded with public money and will be at the proponent's expense.

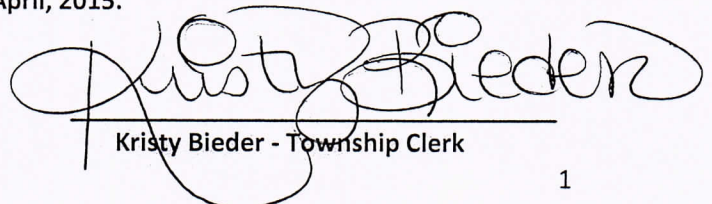
Policy Principles: Ditches and drainage courses were installed and continue to be constructed as a viable means of collecting and conveying storm water. These drainage courses provide a critical outlet for public and private surface drainage, roadway sub-grade drainage, and preventing surface runoff from pooling on the roadways and/or surrounding property. Ditch alteration by a single property can cause disruption in the flow of water and can impact the integrity of a road and a drainage system for many others.

Policy: Belle Plaine Township will determine if the work is a public or private project by conducting an onsite evaluation of the requested project on a property-by-property basis. Work will either be considered private, part private/public, or public, all at the sole discretion of the Township Board, and;

- 1) after determination that the work is private:
 - a) The private property owner will be responsible for the full cost of the project.
 - b) Written confirmation from the proponent(s) agreeing to pay all costs associated with the ditch alteration project shall be required.
 - c) Completion of a Township Road Right-of-Way Permit. (exempt to security of \$10,000)
 - d) Request to utilize Township contractors and or paid staff will be permissible with the understanding that the private property owner will be responsible for the cost to hire said contractor(s)/staff.
 - e) Detailed description along with cost to complete project will be submitted for approval.
 - f) Inspection by Township official during and upon completion of project. If work is not done to the satisfaction of the Township official and if there is no action taken to correct said issue(s) the township will perform the work and the landowner will be invoiced and/or taxes will be assessed for the cost to put the road right-of-way back into working order.
 - g) The private property owner shall assume all liability for, and save the Township harmless from, any and all claims for damages, actions or causes of action arising out of the work to be done pursuant to this Policy.
- 2) after determination that the work is part private/public:
 - a) 50/50 cost share between the private property owner and the Township. Cost of the project will be split evenly.
 - b) Township will assume all aspects of the project, land owner will receive cost estimates prior to the project starting and township will invoice the property owner.
- 3) after determination that the work is all public:
 - a) Township will assume all aspects of the project and be responsible for the full cost of the project.

Adopted by Belle Plaine Township this 7th day of April, 2015.


Board Chairperson


Kristy Bieder - Township Clerk