

MEETING MINUTES
CHARLOTTE RANCHETTES STREET AND DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 22, 2007
10:00 a.m.

Attendees: Robert Schaffer, Michael Szuba, Nigel Morris, William Faris, Ruth Cudzilo, James Howarth
County- Thomas O’Kane (Director), Dawn Harrison (MSBU), Marty Simone (Finance), Kim Raymond (Finance)

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

New Business:

- Mr. O’Kane informed the Committee that County Administration has hired an outside consultant firm to review the MSBU system. The firm will submit their recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in March. Mr. O’Kane discussed three possible options that could result from this review:
 1. The MSBU system would remain the same.
 2. The MSBU system could be eliminated.
 3. The MSBU system could be modified to three MSBU’s (West County, Mid-County and South County).
- Per County Administration, there will be no assessment increases during this MSBU review unless the Committee submits a request to the BOCC.
- Mr. O’Kane advised the Committee about land lock properties that may be seeking to have access to the Charlotte Ranchettes for commercial purposes.
- Mr. O’Kane expressed his appreciation to the Committee members for volunteering to represent their community.
- Mr. O’Kane suggested establishing priorities and placing money in reserve for future projects. He stated that residents have requested hiring an outside contractor to do the road grading. Mr. O’Kane explained that all outside contractors have to abide by County Purchasing requirements to be eligible to bid on projects.
- Mr. Szuba supplied Ms. Harrison with documentation from the City of Punta Gorda regarding the force main that runs down Pelican Drive.
- Committee members gave a brief background of themselves and explained what experience they could bring to this committee.

Committee members were assigned the following terms:

Robert Schaffer	2 years
Michael Szuba	3 years
Nigel Morris	1 year
William Faris	2 years
Ruth Cudzilo	3 years
James Howarth	2 years

- The Committee members voted on the election of officers. Mr. Faris nominated Mr. Morris for Chairman. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the nomination. Mr. Szuba was nominated for Vice-Chairman, and the vote was unanimously in favor of his nomination. Mr. Schaffer volunteered to take minutes when Public Works is not present.
- The Sunshine Law was explained to the Committee. Ms. Harrison advised that meetings have to be advertised, and minutes need to be taken. Committee members were supplied with a copy of the "Roberts Rules of Order", which explains the format of meetings.
- Mr. Morris supplied each member with a draft copy of "Rules of Procedure". He asked that each member review the draft thoroughly, so that it could be adopted at the next meeting, with changes requested and approved by the Committee.
- Mr. Morris suggested that each member should be responsible for a separate geographic area within the MSBU. He presented a map of the MSBU, with each area broken out. He requested that each member take a section and become familiar with the residents and conditions of the area. In accordance with his request, the following was adopted.
 - ❖ William Farris – Northeast Section
 - ❖ Ruth Cudzilo – Northwest Section
 - ❖ Nigel Morris- Southeast Section
 - ❖ Michael Szuba- Central Section
 - ❖ Robert Schaffer- Southwest Section
- Mr. Simone informed the area, the County Attorney will not allow the addition of private roads into the MSBU.
- Ms. Harrison informed the Committee that South County Stormwater is responsible for maintaining all primary ditches. Mr. Szuba stated that the residents should receive a refund for paying to maintain the drive pipes on Grove.
- Mr. Morris requested that Public Works supply a map, with a list of property owners in each area, for the member responsible for that area.

- Mr. Morris requested that Ms. Harrison inform the appropriate committee member of any requests or concerns received from residents.

- Mr. Morris stated that in order to properly address road maintenance and drainage in the area, the ditches and swales need to be cleaned out. He discussed developing a work plan and finding alternatives that are cost-effective.
- The Committee was informed that all work within the Ranchettes has been stopped due to lack of funding.
- Mr. Morris stated he wants to develop a good relationship with the community and the County to avoid a repeat of past issues with the ditch and road maintenance on Strasse Boulevard.
- Ms. Harrison stated that a resident building on Pelican called with a complaint about the road. Mr. Szuba stated that this is a non-maintained road, and contractors have complained about its condition. The contractor will not send out his crews until the roads are repaired.
- The Committee reviewed the 2007/08 Budget. Mr. Simone said that, if a drainage study is needed, it should be included in the 2008 Budget, as it can be deleted later if it is not needed. Mr. Morris stated he would entertain a motion to make a recommendation to increase the assessment rate for the drainage study. After discussion, it was agreed that the Committee (being newly seated) was in no position to make such a recommendation; therefore, it was felt that the rate would remain the same. Mr. Szuba made a motion to approve the proposed 2007/08 Budget. Mr. Faris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.

Open Floor:

- Madelyn inquired why the tax rate is based on an acre and not frontage. Mr. Simone stated this is how it was originally set up.
- Betty stated that money is being wasted on the roads if the ditches are not being maintained.
- Mr. Morris stated they need to get a proper handle on the problems before they determine a plan.
- Bill stated that several topics need to be addressed. First, the County is mispending money, and the BOCC needs to explain the money breakdown to residents. Second, priorities need to be established for overall planning of the roads and drainage. Third, the properties have recently been surveyed, which could be valuable information.

- The Committee stated they would like to have an evening meeting to allow working residents to attend. They suggested holding the meeting at the Environmental Campus.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Harrison
Municipal Services District Representative

DH/cs

copy: File 27020001 – 070304dh