

MEETING MINUTES
CHARLOTTE RANCHETTES STREET AND DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 31, 2007
10:00 a.m.

Attendees: Robert Schaffer, Michael Szuba, Nigel Morris, Ruth Cudzilo
County - Dawn Harrison, Kim Raymond

Absent: William Faris, James Howarth

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Approval of March 22, 2007, Minutes:

- Mr. Szuba requested clarification on the second page, 8 bullets down, last sentence. He said it should read, "if the County were to pursue a prescriptive easement, then it would have to demonstrate continuous maintenance for four years."
- Mr. Morris requested that the statement from Mr. Faris (on the last bullet of page three) be removed. He also requested that the last sentence be revised to read, "if a minority would not grant easements, then presumably they could be obtained by eminent domain."
- Mr. Szuba made a motion to approve the March 22, 2007, minutes with the noted changes. Mr. Schaffer seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Business:

- The Committee discussed the MSBU study. Ms. Harrison stated that numerous errors were located throughout the report. The study proposed that the County combine into three MSBU's (South County, Mid-County, and West County). Ms. Harrison stated that the ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) methodology will be updated and consistent throughout the County. Mr. Morris inquired whether during this process, the Committee is wasting time. He stated there has been no input from the citizens, only the County. Ms. Harrison stated the consultants are planning to meet with some of the committees before the final draft is written. Mr. Morris requested that one member from this Committee meet with the consultant. Ms. Harrison stated there will be an issue about areas with dirt roads being included in this merge. Mr. Szuba's understanding of the consultant's presentation is that the MSTU's would fund the three areas, and the MSBU's would exist for beautification. Mr. Morris stated that he is confused with the status of the study at this point. Ms. Harrison stated there is so much information to review. No date has been submitted for the final draft to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

- Mr. Schaffer inquired about the difference between a special assessment and ad-valorem tax. Ms. Harrison explained that ad-valorem tax is based on the value of the property. If the value is below a certain amount, then the resident is exempt from the tax. Ms. Harrison stated she will supply any updates about the MSBU study to the members.
- Ms. Harrison received a phone call from a resident at 8525 Strasse Boulevard. The resident has made frequent complaints about failed pipes, and the wrong pipe was replaced. Mr. Morris requested all resident requests be passed along to the appropriate member, according to area of responsibility. Ms. Harrison stated the resident wanted to meet with someone at the site. This could be a possible safety issue and cannot be left with committee members. Mr. Morris stated he would follow up on this with the caller. He requested all the members need to be informed about all situations. Their goal is to save money by preventing unnecessary charges.
- Mr. Morris discussed the inventory report of all swales. Mr. Szuba stated the exact location of the swale would be necessary, along with acquiring a number system. Mr. Morris stated that in order to achieve a good base map, the pipes and swales would need to be included. Mr. Szuba stated there is confusion on deciphering between a ditch and a right-of-way, especially on Grove Boulevard. Mr. Morris stated the South County Stormwater ditches need to be mapped out. Ms. Harrison stated the SCSW MSBU is responsible for all the major ditches in South County, and they completed the ditches in Town Estates this year. Mr. Szuba stated the washouts the Stormwater MSBU created should be repaired at their expense and discussed the washouts on Strasse Boulevard. Mr. Morris stated the swale on the west side of Strausse is discontinuous. He stated that, if the road was graded to the nearest culvert, this would help the problem.
- Ms. Harrison informed the Committee that the Director of Public Works and Manager of Maintenance and Operations will not permit the material from the swales to be placed on the roads.
- Mr. Morris stated this Committee needs to be prepared to inform Public Works about how they want to spend their \$200,000 in 2007/08. Meanwhile, the members need to work together to get through this with no available money.
- Mr. Morris suggested this committee meet once a month to keep each other updated and current with the status of the inventory.
- Mr. Schaffer stated that the residents he has spoken with are fairly new to the area, and they do not know what they want.
- Mr. Szuba inquired about maps for the delineated wetlands. Mr. Morris mentioned a website for the wetlands that includes aerial photographs. It was

stated that delineation is best determined on the ground. Mr. Morris stated the swales in the wetlands are clean.

- Ms. Harrison discussed the garbage in the ditches, which will cost money to have hauled away.
- Ms. Harrison stated Public Works would like to build one road each year in the Ranchettes. Mr. Morris stated that members need to prioritize their areas and focus on the roads that benefit the residents within the Ranchettes (not the through roads leading to CR 74).
- Mr. Morris suggested members continue with the inventory and refer the information to the maps.
- Ms. Harrison reiterated to the members that they have until November to establish a budget for 2008/09. The money for 2007/08 will be available on October 1, 2007.
- Mr. Morris requested a meeting with Mr. Thomas O’Kane to discuss his concerns. Ms. Harrison stated she will invite Mr. O’Kane and Mr. Alan Holbach to the next meeting.
- Mr. Morris suggested members meet with the engineers between the meetings.
- Mr. Szuba inquired about the status of the Central Charlotte County Drainage District (CCCDD) meeting. Ms. Harrison stated there could possibly be a meeting in July but will inform the members of the exact date. Mr. Szuba stated the CCCDD collected money for drainage, per acre in Section 12 and part of Section 1, and did not spend it. This money needs to be placed in the MSBU fund. Ms. Harrison stated she will not get involved with this situation, but the Committee needs to pursue it. Ms. Harrison stated that, if the drainage issue was from a major crossing pipe into a major ditch, the SCSW MSBU would be responsible.
- Activity Reports, through the current date, were submitted to the members.

Open Floor:

- Russel Million informed the Committee about a collapsed culvert on Gewant Boulevard, between Ameropa Drive and Clara Drive. Mr. Morris stated he was aware of this and the culvert has a hole in it, which, can be repaired. Ms. Harrison said it needs replaced. Mr. Morris requested that the pipe be replaced and that he be notified when Public Works is going out to fix the pipe.

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- A resident inquired about the member responsible for Sweden Boulevard, north of Pelican Drive. Mr. Morris informed him to send all his concerns and requests to Mr. Bill Faris.
- For the next meeting, the Committee requested a map of South County's Stormwater Storm Plan, along with the dedicated ditches.

The next meeting will be held on June 28, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Public Works, 7000 Florida Street, Punta Gorda.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Harrison
Municipal Services District Representative

DH/cs

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