

MEETING MINUTES
CHARLOTTE RANCHETTES STREET & DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 17, 2007
1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Nigel Morris, Michael Szuba, Ruth Cudzillo
County – Commissioner Adam Cummings, Thomas O’Kane, Marty Simone,
Mike Dallenbach, Dawn Harrison, Kim Raymond

Absent: James Howarth, William Faris

Excused: Robert Schaffer

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Minutes: The Committee unanimously approved the November 19, 2007, minutes.

Business:

- Mr. Morris discussed events that have transpired over the past year on the Committee. He stated that the majority of Charlotte Ranchettes’ residents like the current condition of the roads. Mr. Morris invited Commissioner Cummings to this meeting to share his ideas and thoughts on moving forward.
- Sewer Force Main
 - Ms. Harrison received an e-mail from Tom Jackson, stating that a report will be generated in January 2008. Mr. Szuba has not received any other information.
 - Mr. Morris suggested that north-end Committee members meet with the residents along Pelican to encourage them to sign their request for easement from the City of Punta Gorda. Mr. O’Kane stated that the County would not give the City permission to place the force main in the road easement. The residents need to be aware that the sewer line is not for them to hook into. A lift station would be required for that.
- Mr. Morris commented on the Administration Cost Overview presentation given by Mr. Simone at the last meeting.
- The Committee reviewed the 2006/07 actuals report.
- The Committee reviewed the October and November 2007 Activity Reports and Work Progress Reports.
- Ms. Harrison received a complaint from Scott Lemaster regarding the condition of Strasse Boulevard.
- Ms. Harrison received a complaint from a resident, who stated that vehicles are bottoming out at Gewant Boulevard and south of Poplar from a speed bump that was installed by a resident but later removed. This complaint will be investigated. Mr. Morris advised that this road will be included in the Phase Two plan.

- The MSBU will fund pipe replacements not directly related to the major stormwater ditches. The South Charlotte Stormwater MSBU funds culverts under the roadway that are from a major ditch. Roads that are torn up during a stormwater project will be fixed under that project.
- Mr. Morris stated that residents need to be informed about when stormwater work will begin in the area. Mr. Szuba suggested submitting a letter to the residents that will include members' phone numbers. Mr. Morris requested a meeting with Ms. Harrison, Mr. Tim Free, and Ms. Joanne Vernon regarding the project plan.
- Per Commissioner Cummings, there are few directions in which to go. He suggested making the MSBU larger or combining with other MSBU's. He said it is good the community has a neighborhood plan in place.
- Commissioner Cummings discussed the difference between an MSBU (Municipal Services Benefit Unit) and MSTU (Municipal Services Taxing Unit). He also discussed tax increment investment financing, which is based on estimations.
- Commissioner Cummings also addressed minimum levels of standards, which include paving. He discussed possible options of having minimum levels of standards for different types of areas. The residents expressed their concern about paving, which will make the roads a drag strip. It was stated that a device would need to be installed to slow traffic down. The residents discussed installing a "No Thru Trucks" sign to keep trucks off their roads. Ms. Betty Vaughn was concerned about Wal-Mart generating more traffic. Mr. O'Kane said the developers are currently working on a plan to create two roads, which they will pay for, to help with through traffic into Jones Loop.
- Per Commissioner Cummings, a lot of development is pushing to get in the other side of the Ranchettes, which will make land in the Ranchettes prime property. This would make paving more of a demand. It was stated that paving costs are increasing every year, but they are not generating enough revenue in this MSBU. The members inquired whether Commissioner Cummings can support County-wide assistance for the initial paving and then have residents fund the maintenance of the roads.
- Commissioner Cummings advised that an assessment rate has not been determined for the three large MSBU's. Mr. Morris stated they are currently being assessed per acre, which is working for their area. He asked Commissioner Cummings to forward that information to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), since the MSBU consultant is planning to standardize the methodology throughout the County.
- The final draft of the MSBU review will be submitted to the BCC in January 2008. Ms. Harrison will submit a project calendar to the members. Mr. O'Kane said that public comments are requested in front of the BCC, up to the final decision of the MSBU study.
- Mr. O'Kane stated that they have tried many other options for alternative funding sources, but none are available.
- Mr. Morris requested another meeting in January to discuss by-laws and hold elections.

Open Floor:

- Ms. Cudzillo stated that a stop sign is needed on Poplar Drive and Austrian Boulevard. The original sign was not replaced after Hurricane Charley.
- The Phase Two plan, with the exception of Mr. Faris' and Mr. Schaffer's sections, has been submitted to Ms. Harrison
- Mr. Dallenbach will submit a cost for brush cutting, as requested by the Committee.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, January 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at Charlotte County Public Works, 7000 Florida Street, Punta Gorda.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Harrison
Municipal Services District Representative



Nigel Morris, Chairman

DH:srb

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