

MEETING MINUTES
CHARLOTTE RANCHETTES STREET & DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
July 24, 2008
3:00 p.m.

Attendees: Nigel Morris, Michael Szuba, Ruth Cudzillo, William Faris, Robert Schaffer
County - Mike Dallenbach, Tim Free, Tara Musselman, Kim Raymond

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes: The Committee unanimously approved the May 1, 2008, minutes as submitted.

Business:

- The Committee reviewed the FY2008/09 draft budget, Nine-Month Actuals, and the Year-to-Date Activity Report. Ms. Musselman reported that, as of July 1, 2008, the MSBU has a balance of a little over \$3,000. According to the reports, we have allocated \$223,000 to be collected in 2007/2008, but only \$207,000 has been collected.
- Ms. Musselman explained the direct and indirect costs, which are determined by the Budget Office. Mr. Morris requested the history of direct and indirect cost charges to their MSBU.
- Mr. Morris stated that a lot of work has been completed this year. Public Works has repaired the washouts on Strausse Boulevard. Mr. Free and Mr. Dallenbach said the sides of the road need to be stabilized until they are re-built. They recommend using rip-rap or fabri-form, but both are expensive. Mr. Free advised that the ditch from Strausse Boulevard to the airport is scheduled to be cleaned in about three weeks. Mr. Morris requested that members notify the residents in that area.
- The Committee discussed that there are no County rights-of-way in the Charlotte Ranchettes. The City of Punta Gorda will have to get approval from the residents for an easement to install the force main. It was stated that, once approval is given for the easement, the City of Punta Gorda should be required to maintain the ditch. Mr. Morris recommended that the residents give approval for the easements to allow the pipe installation, which will not be an inconvenience.
- Ms. Musselman reported that she has met with Mr. Faris to discuss the breakdown of employee charges. Mr. Faris had suggested that the County deliver material to them, and they could grade out the roads themselves. The County Attorney responded that the residents cannot do that, due to liability issues.
- Mr. Szuba said there are craters on Gewant Blvd., from State Route 74 to 600 feet south of Poplar. The Committee requested an estimated cost to fill and grade.
- The Committee was informed that there is a washout on Maris Drive, at the intersection of Acorn Boulevard and Alan Boulevard, just past the culvert.
- Ms. Musselman received a resident complaint about the pipe that leads into Alligator Creek Waterway, on the west side of Alfred Boulevard. If a problem is found, the repair will be funded by the South Charlotte Stormwater Utility.
- The Committee discussed using millings as fill for the roads. The MSBU would only be charged for hauling the material. A resident inquired if they could pick up the material but was informed that would be a liability issue.

- Mr. Morris said they need to begin discussing increasing the assessment rate. A night meeting with the residents was suggested to explain the charges for the work already completed and the remaining balance. Mr. Faris stated they could discuss raising the assessment rate for 2009/10 at the same time. Mr. Morris questioned the method to use when explaining this topic to the residents. Ms. Musselman will check into using South County Regional Park's conference room for the meeting. Ms. Musselman stated that, once a new assessment rate is submitted with the budget, the rate can only be lowered, not raised. Mr. Morris requested that each member establish a map of his/her area to help in determining a plan. This will help in establishing a new tax rate. The Committee discussed sending out an informational flyer to the residents.
- There was discussion about re-setting the culverts during the ditch cleaning process, since they are too high.
- Ms. Musselman will refer complaint calls to the Committee members. She explained that the cost for the Customer Service Investigators is included in Public Works' overhead cost. Mr. Morris said the members are volunteering their time to help the community save money. He stated that each member needs to spend time within his/her area to determine what work needs to be done.

Open Floor:

- A resident inquired about the cost of the new Public Works computer software and how long will they be charged.

Member Comments:

- Ms. Cudzilo stated she is resigning. Ms. Musselman requested a resignation letter.
- Mr. Faris inquired about the contractor bid process. He was informed that specifications need to be written, along with the guidelines of the contract, before being sent out to bid. The Committee can be involved in establishing the bid specifications.
- Ms. Cudzilo stated that brush in the right-of-way has become overgrown. Ms. Musselman advised members to submit any line-of-sight issues to Public Works, since this is a safety concern.

Review of Progress of Area Sub-Committees:

- Mr. Morris stated this process is to get the members on board to handle certain areas and allow better communication with the residents. Mr. Morris said there is no progress to report for his area. Mr. Szuba stated that some of the residents in his area are going to report any problems to him. Mr. Faris advised that he is working on it. Ms. Cudzillo reported that no work needs to be done in her area.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 28, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at 6106 Gewant Boulevard.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Musselman
Municipal Services District Representative

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Nigel Morris, Chairman