

MINUTES

**HARBOUR HEIGHTS WATERWAY
MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT (MSBU)**

**ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2015**

**10 a.m., Public Works Conference Room
7000 Florida Street, Punta Gorda**

Members Present: Joseph Fleming, Chairman, Kenneth Wangler, Vice-Chairman, Lee Phillips, Larry Rand and Maggie Scott

Members Absent: None

County Staff: Dan Quick, Mike Dallenbach, Dawn Harrison, Matt Logan, Chuck Mopps and ~~Karly Greene~~

Guests: Sign in sheet attached

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. A roll call was taken that determined a quorum was present.

Changes to the Agenda / Motion to Approve Changes:
None

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from February 13, 2014 were unanimously approved as written.

Citizen Input on Agenda Items (3 Minute Limit):

- Susan Kovacs stated her belief that the meeting should be convened, commented on San Marino canal, spoke to history related to assessments, and indicated the amount of taxes she has paid due to the amount of property she owns.
- Bob Edmonds, Santa Barbara Drive, noted the past MSBU proposal, expressed his belief the previous plan should be followed through, asked that the Committee stick to the plan
- Jeff Good Canal, noted issues he faces navigating his canal and noted problems related to mangrove growth.
- Holly Kovacs, Discovery Drive, expressed her belief that there is preferential treatment to a specific area of Harbour Heights as 3 committee members reside there.
- Mr. Fleming noted the establishment of ERU's is not decided by the Committee, asked that the Ms. Kovacs contact the BCC, indicated brush clearing is included in the project, and requested Mr. Good to contact Mr. Mopps after the meeting regarding the seawall.

Unfinished Business:

- Explanation of the 2 year delay in dredging: Mr. Fleming indicated the delay is due to Marine Fisheries regulations, specifically the Smalltooth sawfish. He noted that the smalltooth sawfish resides within Charlotte County and its official habitat ends at the I-75 Bridge. Mr. Fleming explained that the countywide permit is being held back due to the protected species. Mr. Mopps affirmed that the permit as submitted more than a year ago, explained

that National Marine Fisheries dedicated parts of Charlotte Harbor as a habitat of the smalltooth sawfish, indicated he applied for an extension of the permit, stated DEP re-issued the permit in a short amount of time, commented all County projects are being held up due to the lack of response by National Marine Fisheries, and noted a Congressional Inquiry was requested.

Mr. Quick stated he was informed by the Deputy County Administrator that the Federal Representative will be in the area the week of February 9, 2015 and noted the County Engineer will be meeting with the Representative to discuss issues being faced. Mr. Mopps stated the surveys for the project were completed more than a year and a half ago, noted cross sections would be taken to see if there has been a substantial change in data. Mr. Fleming questioned costs for the survey. Mr. Mopps indicated the yearly hurricane survey is already conducted, noted sand bar issues, commented on maintenance, stated collections have been occurring for an additional 2 years, affirmed funds should be available for any additional costs, and spoke to the bidding process. Ms. Harrison stated once additional information is received the members would be provided the information.

Mr. Fleming questioned the Activity Report related to annual work order. Ms. Harrison indicated that related to work that is to be done throughout the year, explained the professional engineering costs, project management, and noted survey information. Mr. Rand asked additional detail of the Engineering costs. Ms. Harrison indicated the scope of service, specifications, and information provided to the State Agencies regarding the permit.

- Analysis of the needed assessment – Mr. Phillips indicated his confusion surrounding the cost of actual dredging and removal of material, asked that updated information be provided so that an assessment could be recommended. The Committee agreed that additional information would be needed for a recommendation. Ms. Harrison indicated the matter could not be delayed much further, noted the bottom line would not be known in the deadline, and stated the finance department recommends \$200.00. Mr. Rand motioned to fall in line with Finance's recommendation at \$200.00, seconded by Mr. Phillips and passed unanimously. Ms. Lisby stated \$375,000 is budgeted for FY 16 and affirmed the \$20,000 for the hurricane survey is budgeted in FY 17.

New Business:

- Election of Chair & Vice – Mr. Rand motioned for the members to remain the same, there were no other nominations, and the members accepted the nominations.

Citizen Input on MSBU Items (5 Minute Limit):

- Mr. Lupton expressed his concern that information is not available to the Public. Ms. Harrison stated information can be requested from her and she would provide it. Mr. Lupton asked if the Canal Association had bylaws, noted he resides on the Desoto Canal, and stated they plan to have their own maintenance schedule. Ms. Harrison indicated any work done would require property owner consent, permits, and noted the Legal Department would need to be contacted for the Desoto Canal to be removed from the MSBU.
- Mr. Edmonds agreed that information should be given to the public, expressed his preference for the information to be easy to obtain, noted the ability exists to relay information via several websites, and commented on the Canal Association and his concern for work to be done by the members.

- Mr. Dallenbach noted the Project Status Updates via the Public Works Homepage and provided an information card for all attending the meeting. Mr. Fleming stated information could be included in the Beacon and websites to broadcast the information throughout the Harbour Heights area.
- Mr. Wohld commented on ERU assessments, listed changes in taxes that he has paid, and detailed a list of suggestions for dredging tax distribution and reduction ideas. Mr. Fleming commented on the differences between MSBUs and MSTUs and suggested the Ms. Harrison be contacted for further direction.
- Ms. Susan Kovacs commented on the number of Committee members residing on Voyageur Drive related to dredging and stated that the Committee members voted themselves back in. Ms. Harrison noted the Committee members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and advised that every year the Committee elects a Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. Kovacs indicated that most of the Committee paid a smaller amount than the rest of the community. Mr. Fleming stated the Committee cares
- Ms. Holly Kovacs stated the group is fighting to increase taxes. Ms. Harrison indicated the Committee voted to set the rate at \$200.00 that would be a decrease of \$200.00

Advisory Board Open Discussion:

- Mr. Phillips asked if a separate contractor was being hired to cut back the brush and noted difficulties of navigating the canals. Ms. Harrison indicated brush cutting was included within the dredging project scope of service. There was discussion related to past brush cutting and permission received, current pepper brush removal.
- Mr. Phillips noted the Alternate position is still available on the Advisory Committee and suggested someone to volunteer as a member.

Schedule Meetings / Items for Next Agenda:

The next meeting is scheduled February 19, 2015 at 7 p.m. and will be held at the Harbour Heights Civic Association as a joint meeting with the Harbour Heights Maintenance Association.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Submitted by: Karly Greene
Public Works Department


Chairman's Signature / Date

11/22/2016

CHARLOTTE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION
HARBOUR HEIGHTS WATERWAY UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE ROSTER

MEETING DATE: Friday, January 30, 2015

MEETING TIME: 10:00 A.M. – Public Works Conference Room

**INFORMATION SUPPLIED ON THIS FORM BECOMES
PUBLIC RECORD**

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