



August 7, 2007

David Kelly
General Manager
100 Rotonda Circle
Rotonda West, FL 33947

Subject: Golf Course and Rotonda Drainage

Dear Mr. Kelly:

This letter is in follow-up to our July 25, 2007, meeting with the Rotonda West Association, during which we discussed the drainage systems and responsibilities. Certainly, there are plenty of responsible parties involved and, for the most part, I think there is agreement on where the responsibilities lie. However, there are several gray areas on which we have trouble reaching agreement. It is these gray areas that I would like to address to see if we can reach some common ground.

First, the golf course is assessed a fee for the Street & Drainage MSBU. As I tried to explain, these funds are used only for the drainage of areas accepted for maintenance by the Board of County Commissioners. Those areas generally fall within the public rights-of-way and dedicated easements. We repair, replace, clean, and maintain pipes, culverts, swales, and ditches that meet the criteria. The revenue from the MSBU funds these activities. Golf courses are not accepted areas. It is important to note that, if the golf course areas were accepted, the current assessment would be set at a higher rate to account for the additional maintenance responsibilities and workload.

From the discussions, it appeared that the main point of dissention pertains to easements within the golf course property. Regardless of the ownership or dedication, they are on private property and, from the County's standpoint, are your responsibility to maintain. I know that you disagree, and you have made the case that these drainage areas also carry runoff from County streets. Unfortunately, we are at an impasse, which does not get the problem solved. As a consequence, the possibility of localized flooding will continue to exist, putting private properties at risk of being damaged.

PUBLIC WORKS

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David Kelly
Page Two
August 7, 2007

I suggest that we try to reach a compromise, in an effort to move toward resolving the problem. I would like to offer that we split the cost of initial maintenance of the swales/ditches that run behind the individual properties, within the easement on golf course property. We would have to address these on a case-by-case basis and proceed as the budget allows, deciding which are the highest priority.

If this offer has merit for you, please contact me or Alan Holbach at (941) 575-3600 as soon as possible, so that we can conclude our discussions and begin resolving some of these problems.

Yours truly,



Thomas F. O'Kane, Jr., P.E.
Director of Public Works

TFO:srb

copy: R. Alan Holbach, Maintenance & Operations Manager
Tara Musselman, Municipal Services District Representative
Julie Pittman, Manager
Dr. Bill Coy, Rotonda West Street & Drainage Advisory Committee
John Peszko, Rotonda West Street & Drainage Advisory Committee
Connie Volpe, Rotonda West Street & Drainage Advisory Committee
Charles Dodd, Rotonda West Street & Drainage Advisory Committee
Olga Durham, Rotonda West Street & Drainage Advisory Committee
Dick Buszka, Rotonda West Street & Drainage Advisory Committee
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