

MEETING MINUTES
TOWN ESTATES STREET & DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 5, 2007
10:00 a.m.

Attendees: Mary Barnt, Robert South, George Walker, Dorothy Bennett, Linda Wilson
County – Dawn Harrison, Marty Simone, Alan Holbach, Mike Dallenbach,
Kim Raymond

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes: Mr. Walker requested that the October 25, 2007, minutes be edited on page one, under New Business, to read Robinhood Drive instead of Shalimar Drive and to indicate that this incident was witnessed by a resident. The Committee unanimously approved the revised minutes.

Old Business:

- Ms. Harrison informed the Committee that the mowing contract is \$6,000 a year--five cycles, at \$1,200 per cycle. Mr. Cornwell advised that the 37 vacant lots constitute 1½ miles of mowing and that vacant lots pay a higher assessment to pay for mowing. The contractor has a hard time determining whether property is vacant or occupied. Mr. Cornwell said that vacant property owners should not have to pay more if there is no distinction and both are being mowed. The majority of the mowing is on occupied lots. Mr. Cornwell requested that the MSBU withdraw from the mowing contract. Ms. Harrison advised that they cannot withdraw at this time, due to the timing of the process. Mr. Walker stated that safety mowing is only needed at the intersections. Mr. South said that the contractor is only mowing the shoulder instead of the entire right-of-way.
- The Committee discussed removing or spraying the Brazilian peppers. Mr. Holbach stated that the majority of peppers are located on private property, not in the right-of-way. The County can only maintain what is in the right-of-way.
- Brush mowing is scheduled in the area around March.
- Ms. Harrison explained, in order to be consistent throughout the County, all the MSBU's will be converting to ERU's (equivalent residential unit).
- The MSBU consultant's presentation on October 31, 2007, is available online. The next workshop is scheduled in January 2008. The decision about combining into three MSBU's will be in February 2008.
- Mr. Cornwell inquired whether the Committee has the power to form a deed restriction to maintain its own rights-of-way. Ms. Harrison stated they would have to form a Town Estates Community Association and collect dues to cover the cost of mowing. Mr. Holbach said the County does not enforce deed restrictions.
- Ms. Harrison stated that there are survey cut sheets for all swale work.
- The Committee discussed details of the paving process. It would be more cost effective to have all six miles paved at one time to avoid multiple mobilization costs. A ten-year loan would be taken and assessment rates increased to cover the cost. Mr. South said

they feel they are being forced into paving in order to meet the minimum level of standards. Mr. Holbach responded that the County is responsible for the infrastructure. It is more cost effective to pave the roads before they show distress, to avoid reconstruction of the base. The Committee requested that Mr. Jeff Keyser, Project Manager for paving, attend the next meeting to discuss the history and condition of the roads.

- Mr. Simone spoke with Wes Millard, Transportation Engineer, about the “No Thru Trucks” signs. Mr. Millard stated that an ordinance is needed prior to the erection of any sign. However, this area has been researched, and there is insufficient truck traffic to warrant a sign. Mr. Walker said the community wants these signs, because trucks deteriorate the roads. Mr. Walker made a motion not to increase the assessment rate to pave unless these signs are posted. The motion was not seconded. The Committee was advised to report numerous trucks traveling through their area to Public Works. Mr. South stated that signs posted by Greenrich and Bermont Road are not covered by an ordinance.
- Mr. South suggested a town hall meeting to discuss paving and receive citizen input. He suggested sending out a questionnaire and informative brochure prior to the meeting. A tentative date of March 18 was discussed.
- Mr. South made a motion to have paving included in the 2008/09 budget and to limit the increase to \$45.43 per acre. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried, with the Committee voting four for and one opposed.
- Mr. Cornwell requested that Public Works re-evaluate the rate for mowing vacant rights-of-way, since owners of vacant property are currently paying for everyone.
- The assessment rate for Town Estates was increased in 2004/05 to set aside funds for drainage and paving but, since Hurricane Charley, costs have increased and the money has been used for drainage work.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in the Charlotte County Public Works Conference Room, 7000 Florida Street, in Punta Gorda.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Harrison
Municipal Services District Representative

DH:srb

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