

MSBU BUDGET WORKSHOP (2005-2006)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MAY 4, 2005

A Workshop of the Board of County Commissioners was held at the Murdock Administration Complex, Room 229, in Port Charlotte, Florida. The following members were present: Chairman Sara J. Devos and Commissioners Thomas C. D'Aprile, Thomas G. Moore and Matthew D. DeBoer. Also in attendance were County Administrator Bruce D. Loucks, Deputy County Attorney Dan Gallagher, and Supervisor of Minutes Diane J. Nice. Commissioner Adam Cummings was not present. The meeting was called to order at **2:05 P.M.**

Ray Sandrock, Interim Budget Officer, stated the primary focus was MSBUs rather than MSTUs, which will be handled during the budget process, and the purpose of today's meeting was to provide an overview as July approaches to get a feel for some of the increases, i.e., going over the maximum, newly assessed properties, and newly created MSBUs that require public hearings, and a few not requiring public hearings that will not go over the maximum. Mr. Sandrock indicated staff from various departments were in attendance for more detailed questions.

MSBUs With Rate Changes Requiring a Public Hearing

1. Increases Above the Maximum Rate

A. Increase Due to Overall Work Program and New Programs

1. **Buena Vista Waterway** Mr. Sandrock reported current rates are \$100 per lot for vacant and occupied and proposed rates are \$679.62 for an increase of \$579.62, for dredging to be completed in 2006 with initial funds coming from external loans. Mr. Sandrock explained there are several MSBU's where dredging increases are requested and if the County goes with countywide dredging, there would be changes. **Commissioner Moore** asked about a time frame. Mr. Sandrock said it would be a one-year work program with a five-year payback. **Commissioner DeBoer** asked if it was all of the canals or spot dredging. Mr. Sandrock replied it was all canals. Judy Hunter, Municipal Services District

Representative, said this information was based upon a survey that was two years old prior to Charley, and the dredge is about 80,000 yards North of Edgewater, 20,000 yards South of Edgewater, plus channels in the Harbor that have not yet been considered. Ms. Hunter said there might be some spot dredging. **Chairman Devos** inquired as to how the cleanup would be affected and would all canals be finished by the September deadline. Thomas O'Kane, Public Works Director, responded affirmatively.

2. Gulf Cove Waterway

Mr. Sandrock reported the current rate is \$100.00 per ERU and the proposed rate is \$200.00 per ERU to cover future dredging not yet scheduled. **Commissioner Moore** inquired if a large participation is expected. Dawn Harrison, Municipal Services District Representative, said no, not many people were opposed, and the committee requested this increase.

3. Lemon Bay Street and Drainage Unit.

Mr. Sandrock advised present rates are \$25.00 for vacant and \$20.00 for occupied and proposed rates are \$30.00 for occupied and \$52.00 for vacant to cover recurring maintenance of asphalt, drainage and trim expenses. **Commissioner DeBoer** asked, if the minimum amount needed was known and was it possible to take every rate and establish that. Ms. Hunter indicated an attempt is being made to determine real maintenance costs based upon major road and utility infrastructure that has been repaired and replaced. **Commissioner Moore** commented that Boca Grande's "kitty" is growing since assessments are more than expenditures. Ms. Hunter said she did not have particulars on Boca Grande, but recalls during past couple years rate increases were brought to the Board and reserves in the fund were inadequate, meaning they do not have a reserve sufficient to run a program if major devastation happens; an effort is made to keep a minimum amount of 10% regular reserves and 20% cash reserves for a total of 30% of the funds in a reserve; and they want to keep it constant with a little bit of a bank account. **Commissioner DeBoer** said he was not talking about what was in the budget, but what was being done at this meeting and stated the maximum rate should be a set amount. Ms. Hunter indicated in the budget process for the Rotonda MSBUs on May 10, 2005 and May 24,

2005 and Rotonda MSBUs inside the circle are being combined at the Public Hearing with a rate reduction from \$70 to \$30.

4. Englewood East - Street & Drainage Unit

Mr. Sandrock reported current rates are \$45.00 for vacant and \$41.42 for occupied and proposed rates are \$185.00 for occupied and \$190.00 for vacant; the rate increase is for paving all roads within the MSBU within a four-year period beginning 2006; funds will initially be from external loans paid over a ten-year period. **Commissioner Cummings** asked Mr. O'Kane if all the paving programs would be done this year. Mr. O'Kane responded that Public Works was caught up with current bids for mid-county projects. **Commissioner Cummings** stated that previous conversations reflected that if the paving program were larger it would attract larger paving companies, such as Ajax and APAC, and now that the volume is greater there is more interest from these larger companies. Mr. O'Kane said an outstanding job was done on the Burnt Store Road job. **Commissioner DeBoer** said he would like to get together with Deputy County Attorney, Daniel Gallagher, and Mr. O'Kane to discuss the 150 lb. overlay, micro-resurfacing, and sand sealing. Mr. O'Kane suggested this meeting also include Chuck Coombs and Timothy Free. **Commissioner D'Aprile** stated he would like to be part of that meeting.

5. Manchester Waterway

Mr. Sandrock explained present rates are \$25.00 per ERU for vacant and occupied, the proposed rate is \$100.00 and the rate increase is to fund lock removal and a future dredging project. Attorney Gallagher said there have been several meetings, and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is presently reviewing the final draft of the permit and the project is ready to go upon final draft being released by DEP and Army Corps of Engineers.

6. Northwest Port Charlotte Street and Drainage Unit

Mr. Sandrock stated present rates are \$19.98 for occupied and \$25.00 for vacant; the Committee requested increases to \$20.00 for occupied and \$27.00 for vacant to fund vegetation control and the Committee also asked that a maximum rate be set at \$50.00 for both occupied and vacant

to avoid the expense of advertising and setting hearings in the future.

7. Pirate Harbor Waterway

Mr. Sandrock advised present rates are \$613.25 for both vacant and occupied, proposed rates are \$643.46 for vacant and occupied to fund the additional scope of work. The Committee requests a maximum rate to be set at \$828.25. Attorney Gallagher said the immediate increase of \$30.21 is specific to engineering that is being done on rock ledges for the 2300' and the Committee asked for an advertised maximum rate in order to accommodate the construction efforts that will be made in future years, once permitting is received.

8. Suncoast Boulevard Street and Drainage Unit

Mr. Sandrock informed the Board of the proposed change in methodology from acre to ERU, stated current rates are \$4.25/acre for occupied and \$6.45/acre for vacant and proposed rates are \$16.00/ERU for occupied and \$20.00/ERU for vacant. Mr. Sandrock advised changes take into account the future development of Suncoast Lake Subdivision, anticipating 205 more ERU's; the development will impact Suncoast Boulevard; they will be assessed as individual units; at the time of subdivision approval, the maximum rate will change to the highest, unless the Committee adopts and requests higher rates that automatically become the maximum rate. Ms. Harrison mentioned that a few years ago there was an attempt to raise the rate to create a reserve but interjection from the local people was received and nothing was done. **Commissioner DeBoer** expressed concern that the 20.00 will not be sufficient. Ms. Harrison agreed with **Commissioner DeBoer** because the present condition of the road was not taken into consideration. **(A brief discussion ensued on the sufficient amount and who is responsible for contributing to the condition of the road.)** **Commissioner D'Aprile** stated the developer should be responsible since construction traffic contributed to destruction of the road by not using the road on the property owned by the Board of Education. Ms. Harrison suggested the maximum rate be raised to \$50.00 and that the matter regarding developer's responsibility for road damage be taken up with the Community Development Department. Mr. O'Kane indicated

there is a requirement the developer use the other road. **Chairman Devos** recalled Attorney Mike Haymans represented the developer and indicated the road on School Board property could not be used because construction of a school was being considered prior to Charley. **Commissioner D'Aprile** expressed the belief that the developer is responsible for contributing to the road damages and should pay accordingly. Ms. Harrison stated she would research the agreement and contact Community Development Department staff.

9. Mid Charlotte Stormwater - GPC Basin

Mr. Sandrock explained current rates are \$71.58 per acre for occupied and \$65.07 per acre for vacant and proposed rates are \$166.18 for occupied and \$151.07 for vacant to cover changes in numerous structure and road crossings on canals North of Charlotte Harbor. Mr. Sandrock stated the new maximum rate would be \$166.18 per acre, which is high-end rate based on a twenty year financial projection done by Ms. Hunter; the significant increase should alleviate staff coming back next year with another increase since costs are escalating rapidly. Ms. Hunter suggested the maximum amount of \$200.00 be the advertised rate and assess only on actual expenditures. Chairman Devos agreed.

10. Mid Charlotte Stormwater - Mid Char Basin

Mr. Sandrock stated 9 and 10 involve the same issue and current rates are \$8.59 per acre for occupied and \$7.80 per acre for vacant and proposed rates are \$103.19 per acre for occupied and \$93.80 per acre for vacant with the same increases for the same reasons. **Chairman Devos** suggested these rates be changed to \$200.00. **Commissioner DeBoer** asked Attorney Gallagher to furnish more information on which structures are being done.

2. New or First Time Assessed

A. Increase Due to Overall Work Program & New Programs.

11. County Wide Dredging

Mr. Sandrock stated the proposed rate in 2006 of \$285.00 per ERU for navigable waterfront properties includes a County Wide ad valorem assessment of .05 mills and South Gulf Cove Waterway and Pirate Harbor are exceptions. Mr. Sandrock said there is an item on Tuesday's Board of County Commissioner Meeting for discussion on countywide dredging. **Commissioner DeBoer** suggested discussion be postponed to the next meeting.

B. Properties Added to Existing MSBUs - First Time Assessed.

12 - 20. Mr. Sandrock indicated first time assessed properties are being added for road and drainage work.

MSBU'S WITH RATE CHANGES NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING.

3. Rate Changes Below Maximum Rate

A. Increase Due to Overall Work Program

21. Gulf Cove Street and Drainage Unit

Mr. Sandrock reported current rates are \$22.75 for occupied, and \$25.38 for vacant, proposed rates are \$50.00 for occupied and \$52.63 for vacant, and increases are for recurring maintenance and reserves for future road improvements.

22. Sanitation District

Mr. Sandrock reported current residential rates are \$160.00 and the proposed rate is \$164.00, the increase is for hurricane expenditures not reimbursed by FEMA, non-eligible debris collection and operating expenses by Waste Management. **Commissioner D'Aprile** inquired if separate accounting was available for debris removal from private areas. Mr. Sandrock indicated yes for the most part because some private debris was picked up as public road debris, sites are being watched where debris is being done now, and those expenses can be shown.

B. Fire Assessment Increases

Mr. Sandrock stated increases, based upon the five-year plan approved by the Board in 2003, are to cover salaries, operating costs, equipment and renovations of fire stations. (Discussion ensued on how cost increases have escalated.) **Commissioner DeBoer** said he does not believe the five-year plan is working, current purchases are paid from excess sales taxes, and the plan should be reviewed to change rates based on increased cost of equipment, fuel, and maintenance. **Chairman Devos** said protection is needed for equipment.

C. Barrier Island Fire Unit

Mr. Sandrock reported increases are for new equipment and a new tanker truck. **Commissioner Moore** inquired of Attorney Gallagher if there were differences in the dredging drawings previously given to him. Attorney Gallagher said the map was a year old and will review it and advise of any changes.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:50 P.M.

Signature on File in Commission Minutes

**Sara J. Devos
Chairman**

ATTEST:

**BARBARA T. SCOTT, CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**By: Signature on File in Commission Minutes
Deputy Clerk**

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