

MSBU BUDGET WORKSHOP (2006-2007)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MAY 3, 2006

A Workshop of the Board of County Commissioners was held at the Murdock Administration Complex, Room 119, in Port Charlotte, Florida. The following members were present: Chairman Thomas G. Moore and Commissioners Adam Cummings, Thomas C. D'Aprile, and Matthew D. DeBoer. Also in attendance were County Administrator Bruce D. Loucks, County Attorney Janette S. Knowlton, Finance Director Ann Navan, and Minutes Supervisor Diane J. Nice. **(Commissioner Devos was not present for the workshop.)** The meeting was called to order at **2:03 P.M.**

Ray Sandrock, Budget Officer, explained the purpose of the workshop is to review MSBUs that have proposed rate increases for FY 06/07; based upon discussion today, an item will be on the Board's agenda next Tuesday for approval of maximum rates and proposed FY 06/07 rates for public hearing notices to be mailed on June 20, 2006; the rates are usually set high and may be lowered during the budget process; the public hearings will be held on July 12 and 13, 2006; staff from Public Works, Charlotte County Utilities (CCU), and the Fire Department are present to discuss work programs; and outlined the agenda.

MSBUs With Rate Changes Requiring a Public Hearing

1. Increased Above the Maximum Rate

A. Increase Due to Paving/Drainage Programs and Sidewalks

**1. Charlotte Ranchettes Street & Drainage Unit
(Capital)**

Dawn Harrison, Municipal Services District Representative, advised two years ago, the Board requested a committee be established but no one has volunteered and there is no MSBU committee; the capital assessment is \$1,228.80 per acre for 20 years; the last of the assessment is 2026; the increase would

provide funding to pave approximately 39 miles of substandard dirt roads and truck paths; the project would commence in 2007; and the projected completion is five years. **Commissioner DeBoer** requested the average property size. Ms. Harrison explained 1.25 acres are required for building purposes. Mr. Sandrock reported the average size is 1.76 acres. **Commissioner Cummings** commented on the lack of money in the neighborhood, the property owners have never been willing to participate, suggested this might be the one instance requiring some type of subsidy, and pointed out there are parcels larger than the average size. Thomas O'Kane, Public Works Director, stated a few larger than five-acre parcels exist; recalled this area was platted but never constructed; and some of the roadways evolved outside of road rights-of-way. **Commissioner Cummings** expressed understanding of the project costs and the need for the work program but he is concerned about the inability of property owners to pay the assessments. **Commissioner D'Aprile** questioned the population and future development potential in the district. Mr. O'Kane stated there are clusters of homes as well as sparsely populated and vacant areas and recalled residents could not decide even two years ago on roads to be paved so nothing has been done. Mr. O'Kane stated a couple roads could be selected for paving but that will not solve overall drainage problems; staff has almost completed a major ditch clean out as a result of funding from the South County Stormwater Utility; debris clean out has been done; and telephone calls are frequently received from new residents requesting road work but there are no funds to perform the work. **Commissioner Cummings** stated more development has occurred at the north and south portions of the district. **Commissioner DeBoer** stated tax revenues from other areas of the County should not be used to subsidize people's investment choices; the people in this district should have established a committee long ago; and he has no objection to turning the roads back over to the residents so they can be maintained as private roads but as long as the roads are public, the County has a responsibility and liability to provide safe transport of the public on public rights-of-way.

2. Punta Gorda Non-Urban Street & Drainage Unit

Ms. Harrison stated there is no committee; the current rate is \$92.78 per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) for occupied, \$98.25 per ERU for vacant, and the proposed maximum rate is

\$150.00; the \$51.75 increase is to fund the resurfacing, rejuvenation, and micro-resurfacing of roads throughout the district; there are approximately 78 miles of roads; and \$50.00 of the assessment is dedicated to road paving and resurfacing.

3. Town Estates Street & Drainage Unit

Ms. Harrison explained she has been working with residents in the district; the current rate is \$165.16 per acre for occupied, \$175.00 per acre for vacant, and the proposed maximum rate is \$293.47 per acre; the proposed increase is \$115.31 per acre for occupied and \$118.47 per acre for vacant; the increase is for a 10-year term ending 2016; the project in 2007 will consist of repaving the 6 miles in the unit, the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) staff is currently replacing four road crossing pipes; the swales will be reworked in 2006 and, if needed, in 2007; and residents agreed the project is warranted at a town hall meeting.

4. Tropical Gulf Acres Street & Drainage Unit (Capital)

Ms. Harrison recalled the Board requested property owner participation during the budget process two years ago; today she was informed that a committee has been established; the proposed increase of \$449.27 for all properties is for a 20-year term ending 2016; the increase is to fund paving of 67 miles of roads and associated drainage improvements with phased drainage work to commence in 2007 and paving in 2008 after completion of each drainage phase; and project completion is anticipated within 7 years. **Commissioner D'Aprile** stated development in this district is not significant and questioned the need to pave roads where there are no houses. Mr. O'Kane stated the proposed plan will perform drainage work and bring the roadways up to County standards in phases and it is difficult to predict future development but people are moving into this area. **Commissioner D'Aprile** requested staff consult with the new committee to develop a work program. **Commissioner D'Aprile** requested clarification on the assessment levied when a house is built in the middle of two parcels. Ms. Harrison stated the assessment would be on two parcels based on ERUs and 80' width. Mr. O'Kane commented on the possibility of phasing the work based on conversations with the new committee and reminded the Board of

escalating material costs. **Commissioner D'Aprile** acknowledged the need for the work but his primary concern is the impact on property owners who would have to pay for more than one ERU. Mr. O'Kane indicated staff would work with the committee to develop an acceptable plan. **Chairman Moore** requested an explanation on the assessments levied on 40' wide lots. Ms. Harrison stated two lots would be necessary for building purposes and one ERU assessment would be levied and three 40' wide lots would be assessed at 1.5 ERUs. **Commissioner Cummings** concluded one ERU is based on 80' front footage. Ms. Harrison stated the assessment was originally based on front footage and then it was converted to ERU. **Commissioner Cummings** recalled a process was established to allow property owners to place a conservation easement over some of their property and consolidate lots into one unit thereby giving up the ability to subdivide the property in the future. Mr. O'Kane stated he would verify that process with Community Development staff. **Commissioner Cummings** stated he objected to the procedure in an Infill Area where densities were to be reduced and it should only be allowed in Suburban and Rural Service Areas but he lost the vote. Linda Free, Public Works Fiscal Supervisor, expressed understanding of the conversation easement plan requires the easement in place prior to any levy of a capital or special assessment and the exemption would last for the duration of that assessment. **Commissioner Cummings** requested the length of time to establish such an easement versus the time for the levy of this proposed assessment; pointed out the more people to exercise a conservation easement would increase the assessment on a per unit basis; if this area is to be used for affordable housing to the Burnt Store area, the increased assessment would be passed on and make such housing less affordable; and questioned if a conservation easement is used to reduce the number of ERUs charged and does this process prohibit the sale of the remaining developable units e.g. TDUs to offset costs as a one time revenue. Marty Simone, Public Works Fiscal Management Manager, explained if a conservation easement is in place and the property owner wants to sell the land, all taxes saved over the years must be paid and stated no developable units remain on property with a conservation easement. **Commissioner Cummings** recalled placing a conservation easement on property is part of the process of selling a development unit off of a piece of property. Mr. Simone offered to obtain confirmation from Community Development staff. **Commissioner**

Cummings questioned (1) if railroad crossings should be paid for out of the MSBU or from the broader MSBU process and (2) is Tribune (off of Tuckers Grade) more of a collector road where an option might be exercised in conjunction with a connector from the Burnt Store Area for funding from that development. Mr. O'Kane explained maintenance of railroad crossings are paid for out of MSBU funding but costs beyond normal maintenance are usually paid for out of Road and Bridge; Punta Gorda Non-Urban and Peace River Shores MSBUs have several roadways across railroads and recalled the State awarded a grant covering some of the cost of crossing gates in Peace River Shores. Ms. Free stated there are several MSBU railroad crossings; sales tax revenues are decreasing probably as a result of the increased gas prices; and this will impact the ability to do paving on Road and Bridge roads on the adopted list. **Commissioner DeBoer** agreed with **Commissioner Cummings** regarding conservation easements taking away ERUs; recalled, when he owned property, he was charged one ERU for a house on two lots; and stated it is not too late to work with the committee.

5. Deep Creek Street & Drainage Unit

Tara Musselman, Municipal Services District Representative, stated the committee originally endorsed the proposed work program; the proposed assessment increases of \$383.97 per ERU for occupied and \$399.27 per ERU for vacant properties would be for a 10-year period; the new maximum rate would be \$472.91; the increase is to fund replacement of all of the 191 road crossing pipes and 154 side lot outfall pipes prior to paving, paving all of the 80 miles of roads within the unit over the next four years as well as sidewalks along 7 roads for a total of 61,080 lineal feet or 11.57 miles; the plan begins with pipe replacement in 2007, pipe replacement and paving in 2008 and 2009, with final paving in 2010; after the town hall meeting, the committee recommended removal of sidewalks from the program; another town hall meeting will be held this month and she can seek a new endorsement if that is Board direction. **Commissioner D'Aprile** suggested staff work with the committee regarding sidewalks. Ms. Musselman explained she has met with both Property Owners Associations and reviewed the program; and most of the owners want the sidewalks but indicate they should be paid for out of sales tax revenues. Mr. O'Kane advised sidewalks were left on the assessment because they can be

eliminated during the budget process but they may not be added later. **Commissioner Cummings** requested verification that the last assessment levied for paving was \$300 per annum. **Commissioner DeBoer** indicated it was not that much. **Commissioner Cummings** recalled the community requested the last paving program. **Commissioner DeBoer** stated approximately 10 years ago all of the roads were resurfaced and in between a couple of the main roads were resurfaced with surface treatment on remaining roads. Ms. Free pointed out the paving was finished in 1992. Ms. Musselman explained a cul-de-sac that was breaking down was done in 2002 but the last paving was prior to her tenure starting in 1992. **Commissioner DeBoer** pointed out the paving life cycle is getting short. Mr. O'Kane reported sidewalks along Rio de Janeiro were constructed with sales tax revenues because they connected to schools.

6. **Greater Port Charlotte Street & Drainage Unit**

Ms. Musselman advised no committee exists for the Unit; the proposed increases are \$160.00 per ERU for occupied, \$165.27 per ERU for vacant, and a maximum rate of \$225.00; the rate would be ongoing; \$150.00 of the increase would be dedicated to a resurfacing program on approximately 60 miles of roads per year; it is estimated that all roads within the Unit can be paved within 10 to 15 years; and the balance of the increase would be used for recurring maintenance costs. **Commissioner Cummings** recalled some MSBUs have elected 20-year paving cycles but micro-resurfacing is required to extend the life to 15 years and questioned if a problem would exist dealing with the last five years of the assessment. Mr. O'Kane stated this includes maintenance; rejuvenation is done sometimes three to five years after paving to extend the life cycle and keep it from hardening; micro-resurfacing is a slurry seal for roadways; and the life cycle might be extended to 20/25 years if properly maintained. **Commissioner Cummings** questioned the process after 20 years. Mr. O'Kane explained the condition of the pavement needs to be considered; it does not mean that all roads must be reconstructed or repaved after 20 years; another resurfacing may be done; a lot of the roads being done have very little base e.g. soil/cement up to .50 or .75 inch and the current standard calls for at least 1.5 inches of asphalt.

**7. South Golf Cove Street & Drainage Unit
(Capital)**

Ms. Musselman advised no committee exists for this Unit but the maintenance Unit committee has endorsed the project; the proposed increase for occupied and vacant properties and the maximum rate are \$199.59 for a term of 10 years; and it will fund the resurfacing of 10 miles of roadways in the phase V area where water and sewer were recently installed. **Chairman Moore** questioned if the water and sewer construction are prompting the paving project. Ms. Musselman explained paving was done after completion of each phases with water and sewer. Mr. O'Kane stated this is the last phase of South Gulf Cove.

B. Increase Due to Overall Work Program/New Work Programs (including Dredging)

**8. Charlotte Ranchettes Street & Drainage Unit
(Maintenance)**

Ms. Harrison explained no committee exists; the current rate is \$100.00 per acre; the vacant, occupied, and maximum rates are \$220.00 per acre; the \$120.00 per acre increase will fund one full grading cycle a year; currently about 15 miles of roads are being graded; and the increase would cover the expense of material for the road grading and four to five pipe failures per year.

**9. Cook & Brown Street & Drainage Unit
(Capital)**

Ms. Harrison advised no committee has been established; the current rate is \$14.50 per acre for occupied and vacant; the proposed rates for occupied, vacant, and maximum are \$20.00; the \$5.50 increase would fund the work program and provide an adequate reserve; and there are about 6.4 miles of roads in the district. **Commissioner Cummings** expressed concern about the low assessment and the need for a significant increase in the future. Ms. Harrison stated the current assessment collections provide about \$80,000 per year; the cost of the work program is \$112,000; the cost of the work program for next year is \$20.09 per acre; the proposed assessment should provide funds to build a reserve; the balances will be reviewed annually; and if

possible, the assessment will be reduced. Mr. O'Kane recalled Community Development and Engineering staff have been successful in getting the pits at the east end of Cook Brown Road to agree to reconstruct portions of the roadway at their end so this will help with the maintenance. Ms. Free explained a future paving program for the district is scheduled outside of the five-year Capital Improvements Program; this would be a part of the loan and assessment group at that time and the assessment for paving would be increased; and only maintenance is currently being done. **Commissioner Cummings** requested the number of undeveloped versus developed lots. Ms. Free stated she did not have that information.

**10. Gardens of Gulf Cove Street & Drainage Unit
(Maintenance)**

Ms. Harrison advised a committee exists; the current rates per ERU for vacant, occupied, and maximum are \$261.61; the proposed per ERU maximum, vacant, and occupied rates are \$546.61; the proposed \$285.00 per ERU increase is to fund an expansion of one of the retention ponds as well as support the work program and help to build reserves. Ms. Free added \$100.00 of the current \$261.61 assessment is for maintenance and \$161.61 is dedicated to paying for debt service of the paving that occurred two years ago; the \$100.00 earns about \$98,000 per year; the work program cost for 2007 is \$233,000 including \$100,000 for the lake expansion that was requested by the community; the reserves are at an unacceptable level; and once the drainage project is completed, a review will be performed on the balances and the rates will be dropped within a year or two.

11. Harbour Heights Waterway Unit

Ms. Harrison pointed out a committee exists; the proposed assessment and maximum rate are \$5.00 per canal front footage as requested by the committee; a town hall meeting was held with 97 people in favor versus 3 in opposition to the increase; engineering is planned for 2007 with dredging to begin in 2008; and an estimated 49,500 cubic yards of material will be removed.

12. South Punta Gorda Heights West Street & Drainage Unit

Ms. Harrison stated no committee exists; the current rate is \$0.00 for occupied and \$3.23 for vacant; the proposed maximum rate is \$53.41; the proposed increases are \$50.00 for occupied and \$50.18 for vacant; the increase would fund drainage and pipe replacement in anticipation of paving in 2008; it would also provide reserves for current and future maintenance needs; and there are about 11.2 miles of roadways in the district.

13. Tropical Gulf Acres Street & Drainage Unit (Maintenance)

Ms. Harrison explained no committee exists; the current rates are \$38.02 for occupied and \$41.38 for vacant; the proposed maximum rate is \$100.00 per ERU; the \$40.00 increase for all properties would secure funding for maintenance until paving and drainage rework are completed; approximately 13 miles of roads are graded; and after some of the roads are paved, maintenance costs would be reduced;

14. Gulf Cove Street & Drainage Unit

Ms. Musselman reported the committee endorses the proposed work program; the proposed increases are \$50.00 for occupied and \$51.07 for vacant with a new maximum rate of \$103.70; and the increase will fund pipe replacement necessary prior to paving scheduled in 2009.

15. Hayward Canal Area Waterway Unit

Ms. Musselman stated no committee exists; the project was developed by the Stormwater Project Manager based on estimated needs; the proposed assessment is for \$54.92 for fiscal year 2007 with a maximum rate of \$529.97 for an estimated term of five years; the increase would fund design and engineering in 2007 for a future dredging project; the dredge planned for 2008 is estimated at 7,500 cubic yards; the maximum rate would be re-evaluated once the quantity is verified; prior to the July public hearings, she will be contacting all property owners to inform them of the proposal and to determine if they are in agreement with the assessment and need.

16. Manchester Waterway Benefit Unit

Ms. Musselman advised the committee endorses the proposed work program; the assessment increase is \$105.13 for five years; the new maximum rate would be \$205.13; and the increase would fund maintenance dredging of the entire unit including Flamingo and Como Waterways with an estimated 30,000 cubic yards being removed.

17. West Charlotte Stormwater Unit

Ms. Musselman stated the committee endorses the proposed project; the assessment increase is \$25.00 for occupied and \$22.73 for vacant per acre; the new maximum rate would be \$50.00 per acre; the average parcel is .25 acre; the increase would fund the aggressive primary ditch clearing program, recurring work program and mandated stormwater programs; and Public Works is working on a five-year plan to have all primary ditches cleaned and grubbed.

2. New or First Time Assessed

A. Establishment of a New MSBU

18. Pirate Harbor Wastewater

Debra Smith, Utilities Financial Manager, reported the proposed assessment will provide funding for expansion of the sanitary sewer system in the unit; the services have been requested by property owners; the proposed assessment is \$403.24 per ERU for vacant and occupied; the total number of ERUs is 387; the requested maximum rate is \$443.56; anticipated commencement of construction is September 2007 with completion in September 2008; in mid-2004 the Association solicited signatures in support of wastewater services and asked CCU to begin the process; a draft engineering study was done in late 2004; the revenue source would be a State Revolving Fund loan with a 20-year payback; updates through out the process have been provided to the Association's President; and another meeting will be scheduled with the Association. **Commissioner Cummings** cautioned only meeting with the Homeowners Association since there is a divide in the community and suggested also meeting with the

second group. Ms. Smith stated this will be one of the first meetings and staff will be working with the community.

19. Rotonda Meadows Wastewater

Ms. Smith explained the proposed assessment will allow expansion of the sanitary sewer system and reclaimed water system to serve properties in the unit; these services have been requested by property owners; the total number of ERUs is 2,697.1; the proposed rate is \$560.86 for vacant and occupied and the requested maximum rate is \$616.95; construction is estimated to begin July 2007 and completion in July 2009; Dr. Coy first contacted staff in the summer of 2004; numerous meetings have been held with Association Members of which the last one was held on April 19, 2006; the Association did a mailing to member to gage acceptance of the project and the information has been posted on the Association's website for members viewing; and the funding source is a State Revolving Fund loan with a 20-year payback.

20. Rotonda Sands Wastewater

Ms. Smith pointed out this MSBU is directly related to Rotonda Meadows and a lot of the members belong to both MSBUs; staff has been working with Dr. Coy since 2004; the number of ERUs is 2,532; the proposed rate is \$625.51 with a maximum requested rate of \$688.06; this will provide funding to expand the sanitary sewer and reclaimed water systems; staff has been working with the Association and a similar mailing and posting on the website has been accomplished; construction is anticipated to start in July 2007 and completed in July 2009; the project is being expedited; and the funding source is a State Revolving Fund loan with a 20-year payback.

21. West Tarpon to Orange Drive Wastewater

Ms. Smith advised the assessment will allow the expansion of the sanitary sewer system in the US 41 area from West Tarpon to Orange Drive; these services are a part of the US 41 Beautification project being done in conjunction with Public Works; the total number of ERUs is 57; the proposed rate is \$448.03 with a maximum proposed rate of \$492.83; this component of the US 41 Beautification project is not financed by the 2002

Sales Tax; Public Works had a conceptual design meeting at which CCU staff attended along with area residents; and the funding source will be an internal loan through one of CCU's funds since it is less than \$300,000 with a 20-year payback.

**22. Farabee Road Street & Drainage Unit
(Capital)**

Ms. Harrison advised no committee exists; the proposed rate of \$11.19 per acre will fund paving of 4.4 miles including rework of roadside swales; and the project would commence in 2007 with completion within a year.

23. Farabee Road Street & Drainage Unit

Ms. Harrison reported no committee exists; the proposed rate of \$3.00 per acre will provide funding to replace approximately 7 pipes and make sure funding is available for future maintenance needs; and territory was added to the district so "acres" is first time assessed.

19. Rotonda Meadows Wastewater
20. Rotonda Sands Wastewater

Mr. O'Kane stated the same approach would be utilized on maintenance of roads in Rotonda Meadows and Rotonda Sands MSBUs as was used in South Gulf Cove e.g. as soon as utility work is completed, paving and drainage work would be scheduled and an assessment for the paving would be brought back to the Board.

24. South Bridge Waterway Unit

Ms. Harrison explained this is a new unit and no committee exists; citizens have signed a petition in support of dredging; the proposed assessment of \$150.00 per ERU will fund the preliminary work for survey, engineering, and permitting in 2007; and construction costs will be determined after completion of engineering work.

25. Suncoast Waterway Unit

Ms. Harrison stated this is a new unit with no committee; the proposed maximum rate is \$1,723.37 with \$133.07 per ERU

beginning with the 2007 assessment; the assessment will fund future design phases of the maintenance dredge project; the construction costs will be evaluated once quantities are known; estimated removal is approximately 12,000 cubic yards; in 1992 a resolution was adopted for developing the project that was done; and she is working with citizens to get a petition signed.

26. Alligator Creek Waterway Unit

Ms. Musselman stated the committee has endorsed the work program; the proposed assessment and maximum rate of \$100.00 are a first time MSBU assessment; the Board amended the ordinance changing the Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) to an MSBU in January 2006; the assessment term is five years; and the program includes permitting and straightening of the S-curve at the mouth of Alligator Creek.

27. Edgewater North Area Waterway Unit

Ms. Musselman advised this is a new unit with no committee; the proposed assessment and maximum rate are \$20.12 per ERU for a term of five years; the work program includes one-half the cost of dredging the mouths of the Elcam and Sunrise channels; and the Board directed this unit to split the costs of the program with the Buena Vista Area Waterway Unit.

28. Grove City Waterway Unit

Ms. Musselman stated this is a new unit with no committee; the proposed assessment is \$29.94 with a maximum rate of \$728.12; the assessment would provide funding in 2007 for engineering and design of a future dredge project; approximately 26,000 cubic yards has been estimated for removal; the dredge is scheduled in 2008; the maximum rate would be re-evaluated after dredge quantities are verified; and expressed the belief that **Chairman Moore** will be holding a town hall meeting to obtain a consensus on the project prior to July.

29. Little Gasparilla Island Waterway Unit

Ms. Musselman explained this new unit does not have a committee; the proposed assessment and maximum rate of \$31.00 are to fund markers as requested by residents; and the markers will create a

speed zone from the Intracoastal Waterway to the north end of the Island.

Mr. Sandrock explained public hearings on the next three MSBUs will be held in July 2006 and properties are to be added to current territories.

B. Properties Added to Existing MSBUs - First Time Assessed

30. Punta Gorda Non-Urban Street & Drainage Unit (Capital)

Ms. Musselman stated there is no committee; the proposed rate of \$161.09 is a decrease of \$110.29 per ERU for vacant and occupied for marl roads; the proposed rate for Colony Court is a decrease of \$296.06 for a new assessment rate of \$52.66; the proposed rate for Magnolia is a decrease of \$283.94 per ERU for a new rate of \$86.50; and the decreases are based on current costs below original estimates.

31. Rotonda West Street & Drainage Unit

Ms. Musselman advised a committee exists; last year properties were transferred from Rotonda Heights MSBU into this unit; the proposed assessment is \$156.54 with a maximum of \$191.54 of which \$106.54 is for paving over 10 years and \$50.00 for ongoing maintenance for the added units; and the newly added area streets are being paved this year with funds from the Rotonda West MSBU.

32. South Gulf Cove Waterway Unit (non-waterfront properties)

Ms. Musselman explained the committee endorses the project; the proposed assessment is \$25.00 with a maximum of \$50.00 for the newly added dry lots; these properties were added in a public hearing in February 2006; the proposed assessment is one-half of that being levied on waterfront properties.

Ms. Sandrock pointed out the remaining MSBU rates do not exceed the maximum and no public hearings would be required in July 2006.

MSBUs with Rate Changes Not Requiring a Public Hearing

3. Rate Changes Below the Maximum Rate

A. Increase Due to Overall Work Program

33. Northwest Port Charlotte Non-Urban

Ms. Harrison reported the committee requested the \$23.00 assessment increase on all properties for drainage work, road resurfacing, and to provide adequate reserves.

34. Pirate Harbor Waterway Unit

Ms. Harrison explained a committee exists; the proposed increase to all properties is \$156.54; this will accomplish additional dredging of the main access channel and removal of a rock ledge; the term is 10 years ending 2017; the proposed assessment was approved by the committee; the maximum rate of \$191.54 was approved by the Board during the last budget hearing; she was advised today of some environmental issues that may eliminate or delay the project; and recommended deferral of the rate increase portion for actual construction costs until a determination has been received from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; and currently design, permitting, and feasibility is being done. Mr. Sandrock confirmed the rate might be changed at the final budget public hearing.

35. Boca Grande Street & Drainage Unit

Ms. Harrison advised the committee endorses the proposed project; the assessment increase of \$15.00 will fund exotic animal control; and the proposed rate does not exceed the \$70.00 maximum rate.

36. Greater Port Charlotte Street & Drainage Unit

Ms. Harrison explained no committee exists; the proposed decrease is \$154.27 for the capital assessment on Hollis Avenue; fiscal year 2007 is the fifth and final year for payback; and

the rates have been adjusted to address actual costs of the project.

B. Fire Assessment Increases

Residential
Commercial/Industrial
RV Spaces
Vacant Mobile Homes
Vacant Lots
Acreage in Developed Area
Agricultural Acreage

Mr. Sandrock reported these assessments are increasing by 9% over the current year that is part of the five-year plan; the assessment on single family residences will go from \$136.46 to \$148.74; the increases will fund personnel for three new stations that will be coming on line next year; and staff is available to answer questions. There were no questions.

Ms. Free pointed out increases of 2007 assessment rates for dredging proposals in the new MSBUs for \$30.00 to \$50.00 will fund the design phase; maximum rates are based on estimated cubic yardage removal; the numbers are flux until the quantities are known; and increased rates will be brought to the Board prior to moving forward with dredge projects.

Commissioner Cummings exercised a point of personal privilege to update the Board on today's Water Authority meeting by stating the Authority's attorney will continue to negotiate on the interlocal agreement because some resistance has occurred dealing with this Board's position for first right of refusal; pointed out he was under the impression at the Authority's prior meeting that staff would modify the agreement but now that issue is in question e.g. whether the first right of refusal will be accepted or establish a percentage split; it seems uncertain whether the City of Punta Gorda would get guarantees of water with the interconnect; the discussions were discouraging because he believed that a consensus had been reached on the agreement; and an extension of time will probably be granted for mediation.

Book 64, Page 413
May 3, 2006

MEETING ADJOURNED: 3:25 P.M.

Signature on file in Commission Minutes
Thomas G. Moore
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

djn