

PUBLIC MEETING
June 3, 2003

Middlemas Road RID Rate Increase Hearing

Chair Anita Varone called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Commissioners Tinsley and Murray were both present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Marni Bentley, Carol Hanel, Sharon Haugan, Millicent (Miley) Solich, Amy Orser and Carole Byrnes.

Marni Bentley stated that there was a public hearing on this earlier. A letter was received requesting an evening meeting and the Board of County Commissioners decided at that time to hold another meeting. Marni stated that she sent out new notice of the rate hearing to all of the property owners in the district. Marni received one phone call regarding this district from Karr and Carey Cleveland. They support the rate increase. Staff does recommend approval of the draft resolution increasing the rates within the Middlemas Road RID from \$26.00 to \$51.00.

Commissioner Murray asked why there needed to be such an increase in the rates.

Carol Hanel stated that in 2006 Middlemas Road would be in need of another chip seal, and they are not generating enough revenue to have the money in place to the chip seal at that time to keep the roads preserved. We are suggesting a rate increase at this time, so the money will be in place and they won't have to take out an Intercap Loan.

Amy Orser, 1019 Middlemas Road, asked what the projected cost was of the chip seal in 2006, what will happen if there is not enough money in the fund to pay for the chip seal. Amy also asked if this money in their fund was their money or if the County could take from it and pay it back, what is the sunset date for the RID, is it possible to flatten the road when they come to chip seal.

Carol Hanel stated that they are basing the cost on the last chip seal, which was \$14,486. If the cost is not increased now, the fund will be about \$5000.00 short.

Anita Varone stated that normally in a public hearing, public testimony is taken, questions are not usually allowed. Since there are only two people here, it will be allowed.

Carol Hanel stated that the approximate cost of the chip seal is \$14,500.00.

Anita Varone stated the second question was, are the funds for the RID used for other purposes or do they stay in the RID. Anita added that they stay in the RID. Statutorily they stay in the RID and are to be spent only on the Middlemas RID situations. Your account does earn interest. Anita stated that there is not a sunset date. It's perpetual because you will always have roads out there.

Sharon Haugan stated that another question was about flattening the road. At the time of the chip seal, the engineers take a look at the road. The decision would be made when the project design was being done.

Carol Hanel added that there should be a little crowning in the road to keep the water off the road. The worst thing on the road is water sitting, and if you have a puddle in front of your house then that is something that will need to be looked at.

Anita Varone stated that her and Commissioner Murray just talked about the water in the road, and if that is a problem now, it is something that should be looked at now. Commissioner Tinsley is in agreement also.

Miley Solich asked how much money is collected each year with interest with the people on Middlemas Road. Miley added that they pay taxes for other county roads to be fixed and maintained, and wanted to know if Middlemas Road is eligible for some of that money.

Commissioner Murray stated that County money goes to collectors and arterials. Middlemas Road is not.

Miley Solich said that lately Middlemas Road has been an arterial.

Commissioner Murray added that he is aware that people are driving on Middlemas Road to get to Oro Fino. And on your way to this meeting, you drove on roads that someone else is paying for. As soon as you cross the city limits, city residents are paying \$100-150 a year for an RID. The reason we don't put County Road money in

streets, is we don't have enough money to maintain the 300 plus miles of paved road that we have. So we don't contribute to the RID in any subdivision.

Miley Solich stated that the second Oro Fino Subdivision uses Middlemas Road exclusively because their road is twisty and it is easier for them to get into their subdivision using Middlemas' straight road. There is a speed sign that was put up, but it is not abided by. Another request is a removable speed bump. This can be removed when the snow plowing begins.

Anita Varone stated that statutorily speed bumps are not allowed on public thorough fairs. If these are put in, the County risks the chance of losing their insurance option with MACo.

Commissioner Murray added that it has to do with the liability. If people are speeding, you need to contact the Sheriff's office. And we are now aware of it, so we can contact the Sheriff's office and let them know that you need enforcement.

Commissioner Tinsley stated that the City Police has a program where they put a mobile radar gun with a display screen on it on certain streets that are having problems. What it does is make people who travel the streets all the time, more aware of what the speed limit is. It may alert people the speed that they are going. We can check with the Sheriff's office to see if they have this program.

Commissioner Murray stated that Staff could do a traffic count. There are three entrances into Oro Fino, and if it's obvious that Oro Fino is using Middlemas Road more than any other street, we can expand this. The idea of an RID is benefiting property owners paying the RID. If the neighbors are benefiting from using Middlemas Road because that is the main road traveled then they can pay into it also.

Sharon Haugan stated that she could work with Eric Mullen, our traffic accountant, and try to fit that in within the program. We would also, if we can determine of benefiting properties, we could come back to the Commission with a recommendation for consideration.

Commissioner Varone asked if the people in Oro Fino are using Middlemas Road and this study indicates that this is taking place, would or could your recommendation be that we combine the two RID's into one.

Sharon Haugan stated that since the other RID serves roads that this one doesn't, we would have to review the statute to see what would be the most appropriate. Sharon added that we collect \$1138.00/year on the RID and as for the interest; it depends on what we are getting. It is usually around \$30-\$40/year.

Miley Solich added that we you look out from her driveway and the level of her lawn, the road is extremely crowned. I am having the same trouble with flooding as Amy Orser is having.

Anita Varone said that this was an immediate problem, and needs to be looked at right away.

Carol Hanel stated that she would have an engineer go out and take a look at it.

Amy Orser asked if Canal Drive part of that RID?

Carol Hanel answered that yes it was.

There being no other public comments, Anita Varone closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Tinsley made a motion to approve the Resolution Levying and Assess a tax upon all benefiting property within the Rural Maintenance District 1987-4 and 4C Middlemas Road, raising the annual assessment from \$26.00 to \$51.00 per lot and authorize the chair to sign. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:50pm