



Town of Fort Myers Beach

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Town Council

From: Terry Stewart, Town Manager

Date: October 27, 2011

Re: Emergency Seawall Repair

This memo will provide info for your consideration regarding an emergency repair initiative on the seawall and surrounding area next to the gazebo at the end of Old San Carlos Boulevard. Included with this memo is an email from Public Works Director, Cathie Lewis, providing more detail about this emergency repair.

In brief, a prior Lee County utility pipeline project appears to have created a shift in the seawall, allowing tides and current to wash out under it. Over time, this has created safety concerns for the public due to an existing and growing void under the seawall, sidewalk and surrounding area.

With this in mind, I instructed Town staff to remove a section of the sidewalk in order to determine the result of the damage. As this was accomplished, we learned the damage was much more than suspected. Based upon information provided to me about our prior agreement by Lee County with reimbursement to us for costs up to \$80,000, coupled with the emergency nature of the project, I authorized staff to move forward with contracting for immediate repairs. The overall cost was expected to be in the neighborhood of \$70,000.

In the midst of this project, we experienced unusual high tides and inordinately heavy rainfalls. This contributed to additional collapse of the surrounding area and has added additional cost. As a result, I am bringing this to your attention in order to request your acceptance of our Emergency designation for the work and for authorization of the cost associated with project completion as noted by Ms. Lewis. Total cost is projected to not exceed \$130,000.

Terry Stewart

From: Cathie Lewis
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2011 6:46 PM
To: Terry Stewart
Subject: OSC Seawall

During a County construction effort to install new water and wastewater infrastructure under the bay to service FMB, the contractor, Danella Construction, encountered a problem as they were passing a pipeline under the seawall at OSC. The pipe intrusion caused the seawall to shift causing seawater to intrude behind the seawall creating a void. The County's contractor installed H beams and supports along the seawall to provide support for the wall. The seawall within the public right-of-way is tied into the seawall along the adjacent property. I believe this wall was constructed prior to or at the same time as the swing bridge was installed, both very old.

The void was also stabilized and filled. The segment under the sidewalk close to the seawall continued to wash out because of the void under the seawall. The adjoining property has remained stable.

In order to permanently repair the situation, the seawall needed repair. The only way to accomplish this would impact the adjoining seawall segment on private property.

An Agreement was drafted whereby the Town would pay the engineering, permitting and construction costs up to approximately \$80,000 (to be reimbursed by the County) that would provide the repair to all the affected seawall area. The adjoining property owner would then pay for the repair to their property and the Town would use whatever was left from the \$80,000 to put toward the repair of its seawall.

The property owner would not agree to the arrangement and so the project stalled.

PW was requested to "fill the sinkhole" before season. Of course there was no way to simply fill the hole without repairing the seawall. Once the sidewalk was removed and the area cleaned out to inspect the situation, the back of the wall began to deteriorate, causing an emergency situation. The price estimate from SUSI was \$70,000 to make the correction. Town Manager authorized the work to proceed.

As expected there has been many difficult situations that have been encountered during this project. The area being worked is directly over the swing bridge wing walls causing additional work. The area collapsed causing damage to the adjacent property's seawall and with rain and tides associated with Invest 95 additional precautions had to be installed. Once the area was stabilized and the storm passed, the work has progressed well. Every day has been a new challenge with one thing or another, however the contractors that are being used are extremely qualified and experienced and also have been very willing to work through the challenges.

The most difficult work was completed today and so the remainder of the work will be standard seawall reconstruction. With the additional work needed to stabilize the area and repair the adjacent area a change order has occurred in the amount of \$55,000. Barring any unforeseen circumstances (the area is still quite unstable and the forecasted weather may have an impact) the total cost will not exceed \$130,000.

It is the intention to seek reimbursement up to \$80,000. from Lee County.

I can answer any questions you may have regarding this.

Cathie Lewis
Public Works Director
Town of Fort Myers Beach
2523 Estero Blvd.