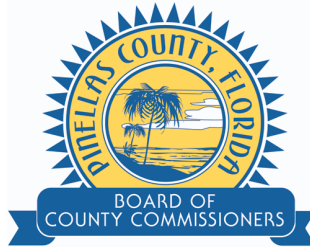


Pinellas County



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

9:30 A.M.

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting

Pinellas County Cooperative Extension

12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo

Board of County Commissioners

Pat Gerard, Chair

Dave Eggers, Vice-Chair

Charlie Justice

Janet C. Long

Kathleen Peters

Karen Williams Seel

Kenneth T. Welch

ROLL CALL - 9:30 A.M.

Present: 6 - Vice-Chair Dave Eggers, Charlie Justice, Janet C. Long, Kathleen Peters, Karen Williams Seel, and Kenneth T. Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Pat Gerard

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Don Crowell, Chief Assistant County Attorney; Jeanette Phillips, Chief Deputy Clerk; and Amelia Hanks, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

Office of Technology and Innovation Director Bryan Zumwalt introduced himself and announced that he would be the Technology Moderator for the virtual meeting; and that Chief Assistant County Attorney Don Crowell would serve as Process Moderator; whereupon, he conducted a roll call of the members.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

All public hearing items have been properly advertised. Affidavits of Publication have been received and are on file in the Board Records Department.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Countywide Planning Authority**1. Ordinance amending the Countywide Rules (second public hearing).**

Ordinance No. 20-20 adopted amending the Rules pertaining to the Residential Rural future land use category. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of the amendments, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

Forward Pinellas Principal Planner Linda Fisher referred to a PowerPoint presentation and provided background information regarding the proposed amendments. She related that residential future land use categories were consolidated in 2015 as part of the Countywide Plan update, eliminating the Residential Rural category; that certain low density communities such as the East Lake Tarpon area are protected by community overlays; and that recent annexations into the City of Tarpon Springs have allowed a doubling of the density with only City approval, causing community concern.

Referring to Resolution No. 20-9, Ms. Fisher indicated that the Board had requested that the Residential Rural category be restored; that the proposed ordinance restores the category, clarifies the map amendment process, and includes non-substantive housekeeping amendments; and that a Countywide Plan Map amendment is anticipated for presentation at the October 6 Commission meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Welch, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2. Ordinance establishing Chapter 42, Article XV County Code relating to an Infectious Disease Elimination program including syringe exchange, providing program definitions, requirements, and operational guidelines.

Mr. Burton introduced the item; whereupon, Department of Health in Pinellas County Director Dr. Ulyee Choe and Assistant Director Gayle Guidash conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed Syringe Exchange Program.

Ms. Guidash presented information regarding the Infectious Disease Elimination Act (IDEA), relating that it provided for a five-year pilot Syringe Exchange Program in Miami-Dade County, intended to prevent the transmission of blood-borne diseases. She reviewed successes resulting from the program, and highlighted provisions of the IDEA Exchange Expansion Bill, signed into law in 2019, relating that County Commissions can authorize similar programs by ordinance; and that state, county, or municipal funds cannot be used to operate the program.

Indicating that the proposed ordinance serves as a first step, Ms. Guidash related that it provides a skeleton for a program that could take up to a year to develop; whereupon, she reviewed responsibilities of the County Commission, the Program, and the Department of Health. Continuing the presentation, Dr. Choe referred to various graphs and discussed trends and statistics related to accidental drug deaths, opioid-related deaths and emergency room visits, hepatitis, and HIV transmission related to intravenous drug use. He noted that the program would provide the opportunity to test for diseases, with a link to care to prevent further spread.

Operation PAR Chief Executive Officer and Opioid Task Force Co-Chair Dianne Clarke spoke in support of the ordinance. She presented statistical information regarding overdose deaths and indicated that the program would build on current outreach efforts, providing the opportunity to educate and serve people who are not currently being reached; and that it would bring health and behavioral health partners together to develop a comprehensive system of care for the community.

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri related that he has been involved with the issue for several years in his role as the Chair of the Legislative Committee for the Florida Sheriffs Association; and that the Association had opposed the original IDEA Exchange Expansion Bill, as it was modeled too closely after the Miami-Dade County program, but had supported it after

improvements were made. He indicated that certain provisions in the statute are not addressed in the proposed ordinance, noting the importance of the following:

- Onsite counseling or referrals for drug abuse prevention, education, and treatment
- Starter kits to include only items specifically authorized, including Narcan/naloxone
- Eliminating provision for mobile distribution; limit to bricks-and-mortar facility

Responding to queries by Commissioner Welch, Dr. Choe related that there is no time limit with regard to passing of the ordinance, clarifying that it is the first step toward developing a model for the program, and Commissioner Welch suggested holding a workshop for discussion prior to moving forward.

Upon further queries by Commissioner Welch, Ms. Guidash discussed options for operation of a program involving multiple entities, the status of similar programs in other Florida counties, and zoning considerations. Attorney Crowell provided input, pointing out that the statute allows for fixed locations and mobile health units; whereupon, Sheriff Gualtieri expressed further concern regarding the location of program operators, including the possibility of mobile distribution, noting that there could be significant impact on the community.

Discussion ensued, and the members expressed their agreement with the concerns and recommendations of the Sheriff and Commissioner Welch's suggestion for a workshop. Responding to queries by Commissioner Seel, Ms. Guidash related that Miami-Dade is the only Florida county with a Syringe Exchange Program currently in operation; that she will obtain information regarding program costs; and that the University of Miami, a private entity that operates the program, obtains grant funding through various foundations, such as the Elton John Foundation. Dr. Choe stressed that one of the biggest challenges will be procuring a private funding source, as governmental funds cannot be used; and that funding will be directly proportional to how robust a Pinellas County program will be.

Following further discussion with input by Mr. Burton and Assistant County Administrator Lourdes Benedict, the members indicated their consensus to direct staff to work with the Sheriff, the Department of Health, and other stakeholders to review and revise provisions of the ordinance for presentation and discussion in a workshop. Sheriff Gualtieri pointed out that nothing prohibits the County ordinance from being more restrictive than the statute, and Attorney Crowell concurred.

The following individuals presented their comments regarding the proposed ordinance under Agenda Item No. 3:

Greg Pound, Largo
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor
Joseph H. Saunders, St. Petersburg
April Lott, Directions for Living, Clearwater

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

3. Public Comment.

Greg Pound, Largo, re Pinellas Government

David Waddell, Clearwater, re Bayside Reserves property

Glenda Militanog, Gulfport, re school opening

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 4 through 19 (Items 6, 12, and 15 addressed under Regular Agenda)

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the Consent Agenda items be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

4. Minutes of the virtual regular meetings held June 23 and June 30, 2020.

5. Vouchers and bills paid from July 5 through July 18, 2020.

Period: July 5 through July 11, 2020

Accounts Payable - \$11,285,532.64

Payroll - \$3,947,138.60

Period: July 12 through July 18, 2020

Accounts Payable - \$27,381,569.87

Payroll - None

Reports received for filing:

7. Dock Fee Report for the month of July 2020.

8. Juvenile Welfare Board Quarterly Financial Statements for the period ended June 30, 2020.

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

9. Affidavit of Publication of Legal Notice published in La Glaceta regarding Notice of Forfeiture of Unclaimed Money pursuant to Section 116.21, Florida Statutes (Circuit/County Court of the 6th Judicial Circuit, Criminal, Civil, and Finance Divisions).
10. Tax Collector's certification of the Recapitulation for the 2019 Tax Roll.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Administrative Services

11. Award of bid to Tamco Electric, Inc. for light-duty electrical repairs.

Bid No. 190-0299-B in an average annual amount of \$361,515.00 for a 60-month total of \$1,807,575.00, awarded on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications. Chair authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.
13. Quarterly report of claim settlements for the period of April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

County Administrator

14. Receipt and file report of non-procurement items delegated to the County Administrator for the period ending July 31, 2020.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

16. Notice of new lawsuit and defense of the same by the County Attorney in the case of Signe Schmit v. Pinellas County; Circuit Civil Case No. 20-003166-CI-8 - allegations of negligence resulting in personal injuries.
17. Notice of new lawsuit and defense of the same by the County Attorney in the case of Raymond Mireles v. Pinellas County; Circuit Civil Case No. 20-003080-CI-19 - allegations of negligence resulting in damages.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Sheriff's Office

18. Receipt and file report of Sheriff's Office grants received and service contracts for the quarter ending June 30, 2020.

- 19. Receipt and file report on the Law Enforcement Trust Fund for the quarter ending June 30, 2020.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Reports received for filing:

- 6. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2020-13 dated July 13, 2020 - Follow-Up Audit of the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative Operations and Internal Controls.

In response to comments and concerns expressed by Vice-Chair Eggers, Cooperative Executive Director Cheryl Morales provided a brief update regarding implementation of the recommendations contained in the original audit. She indicated that she is working with the Cooperative Board Chair to make changes to the Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and Interlocal Agreement; and that other issues have been prioritized and will be addressed; whereupon, she agreed to provide the Commission with periodic progress reports.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

Administrative Services

- 12. Declare surplus and authorize the sale or donation of miscellaneous County-owned equipment.

Authorization granted. Excluding any interested governmental entities, not-for-profit agencies, or Social Action Funding List designees, assets are to be liquidated through public auction conducted by GovDeals.com under provisions of the existing approved contract. Distribution of proceeds approved as recommended in the Staff Report.

Responding to query by Commissioner Seel, Facilities and Real Property Division Director Andrew Pupke related that the success of the program providing for donation of assets to various agencies has been average, depending on the items being offered; whereupon, he agreed to provide information regarding donations made and entities receiving notice of available items.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

Utilities

- 15.** Ranking of firms and Agreement with Mason Blau & Associates, Inc. for professional architectural services for the Logan Lab improvements project.

Ranking of firms and Contract No. 189-0325-NC approved in the amount of \$886,711.00 (including \$80,000.00 for owner contingency services). The design, permitting, bidding, and construction administration phases are expected to be completed within 1,295 consecutive calendar days. Chair authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

In response to query by Commissioner Seel, Utilities Director Megan Ross related that overall construction costs for the facility will be approximately \$6 million, programmed for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023; and that the project will be included in a countywide Community Development Block Grant application.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

- 20.** Local State of Emergency.

Mr. Burton related that that the proposed resolution would extend the Local State of Emergency from August 14 through August 21 and provided information regarding continuing efforts to combat the pandemic, noting that masks, education, social distancing, and limiting gatherings have had a positive impact locally; whereupon, he announced the opening of a new testing site at Ruth Eckerd Hall, indicating that testing information is available on the front page of the County website.

At the request of Vice-Chair Eggers, Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Director Dr. Ulyee Choe provided information regarding Super Skilled Nursing Facilities dedicated to caring for COVID-19 patients from long-term care facilities, noting improvements in the number of hospital beds occupied by COVID patients in the last week and urging those needing medical help to seek it. He indicated that the seven-day rolling

positivity rate is low at 4.9 percent; and that everyone should continue to social distance and wear masks. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Medical Director Dr. Angus Jameson provided input, concurring and indicating that while the overall picture is improving, there will likely be peaks and valleys, and it is important to continue efforts to reduce the disease in the community, particularly with the opening of schools and other events.

Dr. Choe indicated that the county is disproportionately impacted by death and severe outcomes due to its high population of vulnerable citizens, and responding to comments and queries by Vice-Chair Eggers and Commissioner Justice, commended the efforts of fire departments, EMS workers, and other community partners in addressing the needs of long-term care facilities by providing personal protective equipment and testing. He related that the goal is to provide the facilities with immediate, point-of-care tests, but he is unaware of the timeframe for doing so.

Later in the meeting and responding to query by Commissioner Welch, Dr. Choe related that the School Board will be holding a workshop today, but to his knowledge, the schools are still set to open on August 24.

Upon call for public comment, the following individuals expressed their concerns:

Dawn Bohler, St. Petersburg
David Waddell, Clearwater
David Happe, Tarpon Springs

Following comments by Vice-Chair Eggers and Commissioner Welch, Attorney Crowell provided an update pertaining to a COVID-related lawsuit.

In response to queries by Vice-Chair Eggers, Mr. Burton related that a Pinellas CARES Program update will be presented under Agenda Item 31; and that workforce training under the program would be provided under a contract with CareerSource Pinellas.

A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Welch, that the order extending the Local State of Emergency be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

Resolution No. 20-73 adopted extending the Local State of Emergency established in Resolution No. 20-16 until 3:00 P.M. on August 21, 2020.

Human Services

21. Addendums to the agreements with the Florida Department of Health and Operation PAR Inc. for the Health Care for the Homeless program.

Addendums approved providing funding in an amount not to exceed \$667,539.00 from the Health Resources and Services Administration for additional staffing and supplies to respond to COVID-19 (Florida Department of Health, \$492,539.00; Operation PAR, \$175,000.00).

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

Management and Budget

- 22.** Fiscal Year 2020 Board Budget Amendment No. 3 to realign appropriation from the General Government cost center to the Sheriff cost center within the General Fund.

Amendment approved realigning \$2,341,610.00 from the General Fund Reserves for Contingencies to cover unanticipated costs due to COVID-19.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Welch, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

Public Works

- 23.** Construction agreement and addendum between the County and Florida Department of Transportation to install fiber optic cable in new and existing Advanced Traffic Management System/Intelligent Transportation System conduit on State roadways.

FDOT Construction Agreement No. 2020-C-799-00012 and addendum approved (no cost to the County). Chair authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

- 24.** Federally funded subaward and grant agreement from the Florida Division of Emergency Management for Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IV Hazard Mitigation Grant program funding for the replacement of span-wire-supported traffic signals with mast arm traffic signals.

(PID 004183A. FEMA Agreement No. H0394/Project No. 4337-303-R) Agreement approved providing funding in the amount of \$3,906,317.00 (total project cost, \$5,996,592.00; County match, \$2,090,275.00). Agreement ends July 31, 2023. Chair authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Welch and Vice-Chair Eggers, Transportation Division Director Ken Jacobs confirmed that the signal replacement is a phased effort, with the subject project concentrating on evacuation and east-west routes. He indicated that approximately half of the signals have been converted to date; that several key intersections along Gulf Boulevard have recently been completed; that upgrades occur in conjunction with major roadway projects; and that East Lake Road is scheduled for improvements in the next ten-year period.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

Solid Waste

- 25.** Agreement with Keep Pinellas Beautiful, Inc. for Adopt-A-Program management services for a 36-month base contract and option for one 24-month term extension.

Contract No. 190-0060-SS approved in the annual amount of \$325,484.92 for a 36-month contract value of \$976,454.76. Term extension provides for price adjustments as set forth in the Staff Report. Chair authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Welch, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

- 26.** Annual certificate of the Lealman Solid Waste Collection and Disposal District Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll.

Sitting as the governing body of the Lealman Solid Waste Collection and Disposal District, the Board approved the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll for the period of January 1

through December 31, 2020. Chair authorized to certify the roll to the Tax Collector prior to September 15, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Justice, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

COUNTY ATTORNEY

27. Initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Kristine Wilder - action for protection of an animal.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

Following the vote, Attorney Crowell clarified that due to the urgent nature of the matter, the Chair had authorized the County Attorney to move forward with legal action to take possession of the animal; and that the request is for ratification of the action and authorization to continue the process.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the Chair's action be ratified. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

28. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Anthony Knaver v. Bruce A. Mills; HUD Case No. 04-20-9950-8; PC Case No. 20-007 - alleged housing discrimination.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

29. Resolution regarding the Pinellas County School Board's proposed referendum question to continue an additional one-half mill levy.

Resolution No. 20-74 adopted superseding Resolution No. 20-55 and placing a measure on the ballot for the November 3, 2020 General Election proposing a four-year extension of the additional one-half mill ad valorem tax for School District operating expenses.

Attorney Crowell related that a similar resolution was approved by the Board on June 23, 2020; and that, due to an error by the School Board, action is needed to ratify the current proposed referendum question.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Welch, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

30. County Attorney Reports.

Referring to previous Board discussion as to postponing the collection of ad valorem taxes, Attorney Crowell provided an update regarding the statutory process, noting that 2019 taxes became delinquent as of May 1, 2020 and the tax certificates have already been sold; that the interest rate is very low, and the property cannot be sold for two years; that 2020 tax bills will not go out until November; and that he is unsure whether the Board could intervene in the process at this time.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

31. County Administrator Reports:
- Hurricane Update
- CARES Act Funding

Hurricane Update

Emergency Management Director Catherine Perkins provided an update on hurricane plans and preparations, indicating that the department has surpassed its goal of 43,000 shelter spaces and now has approximately 44,000; and that new evacuation routes will be implemented with each hurricane to address the individual storm's projected direction, speed, and anticipated storm surge; whereupon, she related that Marketing and Communications staff will need to prepare adequate notifications to the public regarding any evacuation changes.

In response to query by Vice-Chair Eggers, Ms. Perkins indicated that she would research whether the bed tax will be imposed when hotels are utilized as emergency shelters; whereupon, she discussed the following protocols that will be implemented to increase safety in shelters:

- Temperature checks and symptom screenings
- Social distancing
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) for volunteers and members of the public
- Support staff for the shelters, including Sheriff's deputies

Ms. Perkins related that four schools will be used as shelters; that funding opportunities are being explored to support projects related to hurricane preparedness; that a generator will be installed in the Lealman Exchange; and that enhancements to Pinellas County mobile applications will allow citizens and staff to access hurricane alerts and real-time data; whereupon, she discussed the following topics:

- Upgrades to the County communications system
- Education and outreach to mobile home parks
- A small business summit
- Hurricane hygiene kit distribution
- Outreach in the faith-based community

Ms. Perkins noted that it is important to prepare in any way possible for hurricanes, including learning evacuation routes and having knowledge of public shelter locations; whereupon, Mr. Burton indicated that the cities will be involved in the hurricane preparation process.

In response to queries by Commissioner Welch, Ms. Perkins indicated that she will provide an analysis of past and present requirements regarding shelters; that evacuation plans will be executed with due diligence and caution; that individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 and their families can contact the Health Department to determine the appropriate shelter to go to; and that special needs individuals will be provided PPE and screened for COVID-19 as they enter the shelters.

CARES Act Funding

Office of Management and Budget Strategic Performance Management Analyst Aubrey Phillips, with input from Mr. Burton, provided an update regarding the Pinellas CARES programs, discussing the following topics:

- The expansion of the Financial Assistance Program on July 7
- An increase in financial assistance payments to individuals
- High call volumes
- Efforts to decrease talk and wait times
- Addition of case reviewers to address the application backlog
- Two smaller grant programs that have been launched to support nonprofits and licensed childcare facilities
- Allocation of \$8.4 million to cities

- Funds used for drive-through community testing sites and PPE supplies
- Financial support for the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County and the Community Health Centers
- Launch of a workforce reemployment, training, and job placement program
- Micro-grant program for nonprofit arts organizations
- Implementation of the local business grants program starting on August 24
- Streamlined application process for businesses
- Training for community navigators

In response to queries by Vice-Chair Eggers, Ms. Phillips indicated that the CARES Act funds need to be spent by December 30; that the federal government is considering expanding that deadline; and that the \$170 million allocation discussed today is separate from other CARES funding that the County may have received.

COUNTY COMMISSION

32. Appointment/reappointment to the Pinellas County Housing Finance Authority (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Clerk Phillips read the names of the applicants into the record and suggested that the members proceed with a nomination or voice vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that Steven Beal be reappointed for a four-year term. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch


Absent: 1 - Chair Gerard

33. County Commission New Business Items.

Commissioner Long indicated that she would like to provide an update regarding the mental health program implemented by the John Morroni Legacy Foundation at the next workshop.

ADJOURNMENT - 12:35 P.M.

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By 
Deputy Clerk




Chair