

Pinellas County

*333 Chestnut Street, Palm Room
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Minutes - Final

Thursday, September 18, 2025

2:00 P.M.

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting

Public Hearings at 6:00 P.M.

Board of County Commissioners

*Brian Scott, Chair
Dave Eggers, Vice-Chair
René Flowers
Chris Latvala
Vince Nowicki
Kathleen Peters
Chris Scherer*

ROLL CALL - 2:01 P.M.

Present: 7 - Chair Brian Scott, Vice-Chair Dave Eggers, Commissioner René Flowers, Commissioner Chris Latvala, Commissioner Vince Nowicki, Commissioner Kathleen Peters, and Commissioner Chris Scherer

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Don Crowell, Chief Assistant County Attorney; Derelynn Revie, Board Records Manager; and Katie Poviones, Senior Board Records Specialist, Deputy Clerk

Chair Scott requested that a motion be made to approve Commissioners Flowers and Peters' virtual attendance and to waive the requirement for Commissioner Peters to be on camera; whereupon, Commissioner Nowicki made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Eggers and carried unanimously.

Deviating from the agenda, Chair Scott invited staff members from Congresswoman Anna Paulina Luna's office, Deputy Chief of Staff Olivia Carson and District Director Sam Wilson, to join him at the podium and read a proclamation recognizing September 10, 2025, as a day of remembrance for Charlie Kirk.

INVOCATION by Reverend David K. Shelor, First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Commissioner Scherer****CITIZENS TO BE HEARD****1. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.**

David Lee, St. Petersburg
Lois Eannel, Palm Harbor
Anne-Maire Nurnberger, Palm Harbor
David Traylor, Palm Harbor (submitted documents)
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor
Ronald C. Walker, Largo
Greg Pound, Largo

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 2 through 7

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the Consent Agenda items be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

2. Vouchers and bills paid from August 10 through August 23, 2025.

Period - August 10 through August 16, 2025

Accounts Payable - \$21,148,655.36

Payroll - \$4,838,199.63

Period - August 17 through August 23, 2025

Accounts Payable - \$20,030,279.80

Payroll - None

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

County Administrator

3. Receipt and file report of non-procurement items delegated to the County Administrator for the period ending August 31, 2025.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

4. Receipt and file report of purchasing items delegated to the County Administrator for the quarter ending June 30, 2025.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Human Services

5. Ranking of firms and agreement with LucyRx Health Solutions, Inc. for pharmacy benefit services pertaining to the Homeless Program.

(Contract No. 25-0258-RFP) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in an annual amount of \$1,800,000.00 for a total contract value of \$9,000,000.00. Agreement is effective for 60 months, with a service start date of October 1, 2025.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Utilities

6. Joint Participation Agreement with the City of Largo for relocating and replacing water mains, hydrants, and appurtenances that are in potential conflict with road and sidewalk improvements along Rosery Road Northeast from Keene Road to Arvis Circle West and along Gershwin Drive.

Agreement approved, with an estimated project cost of \$1,800,000.00. Target construction dates are December 2025 to October 2026.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

7. Receipt and file report of civil lawsuits filed against Pinellas County as delegated to the County Attorney.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Airport

8. Second Amendment to the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport Airline Operating and Use Agreement.

Amendment approved, as outlined in the Staff Report.

Mr. Burton introduced the item and indicated that the Airline Operating and Use Agreement expires on September 30; that the proposed amendment provides additional time for the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) and Allegiant Air to negotiate the next five-year agreement; and that Sun Country Airline's operating agreement is also affected; whereupon, in response to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Burton indicated that the County is requesting an extension of one year.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Building and Development Review Services

9. First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreements addressing the collection of multimodal impact fees.

Amendment approved, revising Interlocal Agreements with Belleair Shore, Belleair Beach, Indian Rocks Beach, Kenneth City, Oldsmar, and Safety Harbor to comply with the requirements of House Bill 479.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Scherer, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

10. Resolution relating to waiving double the normal building permit and floodplain permit fees for storm reconstruction and repair.

Resolution No. 25-119 adopted, waiving double the permit fee for building permits and construction in a floodplain within the unincorporated County and communities of Belleair Beach, Belleair Shore, Indian Rocks Beach, Oldsmar, Kenneth City, and Safety Harbor, submitted from September 19, 2025, through December 31, 2025, for after-the-fact permits for work already commenced or completed on storm-damaged properties directly or indirectly impacted by Hurricanes Helene or Milton, subject to conditions as stated in the Staff Report.

Mr. Burton introduced the item and related that the intent is to work with residents to accomplish compliance without penalizing them by collecting the double impact fee.

In response to a request by Commissioner Eggers, Building and Development Review Services Director Kevin McAndrew indicated that, following adoption of the proposed fee waiver, the County would mail a letter to approximately 2,300 property owners who staff preliminarily identified as being in an area that was impacted by water inundation and likely sustained damage; that the letter will contain information regarding the importance of compliance; and that Communications will play a significant role in the County's efforts to incentivize and educate homeowners.

Responding to comments and queries by Chair Scott and Commissioner Eggers, Mr. McAndrew confirmed details regarding the inspection process for after-the-fact permits and provided information pertaining to the planned utilization of a support hub to review and issue permits, as well as an alternative method for certifying completed work that is concealed behind drywall.

Chair Scott indicated that the fee waiver expires on December 31; whereupon, Messrs. Burton and McAndrew provided brief comments regarding the importance of issuing after-the-fact permits in order to comply with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Florida Building Code.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

County Administrator

11. Agreement with Horne LLP for requirements of services for the management, administration and implementation of Community Development Block Grant -Disaster Recovery Program.

(Contract No. 25-0425-RFP) Agreement approved for a 36-month total contract value of \$565,656,023.17, which will go toward vendor implementation time and material costs, vendor fixed unit-based costs, and pass-through grant receipt funds, as outlined in the Staff Report.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Assistant County Administrator Matthew Spoor indicated that the next phase of the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) process is implementation; that the County received \$813,000,000.00 in grant funding; and that nearly 5,000 individuals have already provided their contact information and are awaiting assistance; whereupon, he expressed appreciation to various County departments and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for their assistance throughout this process.

Mr. Spoor indicated that the County's strategy with this program is to deliver recovery resources to residents as quickly as possible, while remaining compliant with federal and State requirements; and that, in order to achieve this, the Board decided to limit administrative costs to 3% instead of the typical 5%, which would allow more funding to go directly toward the community; whereupon, he noted that the County is consolidating grant management and implementation under one proven vendor and hiring five full-time employees who will be focused on oversight and accountability.

Mr. Spoor related that staff is requesting approval and execution of the contract with Horne LLP to serve as the County's disaster recovery and housing program manager. He also briefly discussed the process for selecting Horne and staff's reasoning for choosing a single vendor approach for implementation of the housing programs; whereupon, Mr. Spoor provided a brief overview of the three cost types in the proposed contract, milestones reached thus far, and activity delivery costs for each program.

Responding to comments and queries by the members, Mr. Spoor, with input from Mr. Burton and Attorney Crowell, provided information regarding various topics, including the following:

- Task orders in Horne's budget for each program
- Administrative costs associated with program implementation
- Staffing and programs in peer counties and municipalities
- Staff's commitment to providing regular updates
- Involvement of Pinellas County Clerk's Office staff in auditing and accountability
- County's ability to cancel the Horne contract for convenience
- Contract oversight and rationale for audits
- Federal regulations pertaining to the proposed contract

Thereupon, Mr. Spoor, with input from Mr. Burton, provided details regarding the first five "people-first" programs, program application workflow, work already completed by Horne, and the County's progress toward hiring the five full-time employees; whereupon, he briefly discussed next steps, relating that staff is seeking the Board's approval of the implementation vendor contract. Mr. Spoor also noted that staff hopes that applications will launch by October 20; and that a policy discussion with the Board regarding the first five "people-first" programs is scheduled for October 2.

In response to comments and queries by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Burton provided brief comments regarding the Board's upcoming policy discussion, work completed by Horne related to program policy guidelines, and the ability to shift funds between programs.

Responding to comments and queries by Chair Scott and Commissioners Latvala and Flowers, Horne Director Jenna Abbey, with input from Mr. Spoor, indicated that additional controls have been instituted to require testing, screenshots, and sign-off prior to any changes to Horne's system of record; and that the County will have ownership of all program documents and data. She also noted that while Horne did present some subcontractors as part of its team, Horne does not own any general contracting companies; and that all Horne employees are subject to a background check as part of the hiring process.

In response to queries by Commissioner Nowicki, Mr. Spoor clarified that Horne will be responsible for the selection and management of contracted personnel.

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

Aye: 5 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scherer

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Nowicki

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Peters

- 12.** Municipal Services Taxing Unit Special Project funding for Keep Tierra Verde Beautiful Median Enhancements located within the Monte Cristo, Entrada, East Shore, and West Shore neighborhoods in Tierra Verde.

Funding request approved in the amount of \$20,000.00. Authority delegated to the County Administrator to approve and execute the Keep Tierra Verde Beautiful 2025 Municipal Services Taxing Unit Funding Agreement.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Housing & Community Development

- 13.** Local government verification of contribution form for 2025 Housing Credit Financing Applications for the Grand Oaks affordable housing development project.

Form approved in support of the low-income housing credit application to the Florida Housing Financing Corporation. The County will provide a not-to-exceed amount of \$610,000.00 in matching funds.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Human Services

14. First Renewals and Amendments with Tarpon Springs Hospital Foundation, Inc. d/b/a Advent Health North Pinellas, BayCare Health System, Inc., and OHI West, Inc. d/b/a Orlando Health Bayfront Hospital for the Pinellas County Health program.

First renewals and amendments approved in the amount of \$1,800,000.00, providing funding to the partnering hospitals for services associated with the Pinellas County Health Program and Health Care for the Homeless program, as outlined in the Staff Report.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

15. Funding Agreement with Personal Enrichment Through Mental Health Services, Inc. d/b/a Eleos for the Crisis Stabilization Unit and Pinellas Integrated Care Team.

Agreement approved, providing funding in an amount not to exceed \$2,302,719.00, beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 20, 2028.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Management and Budget

16. Board Budget Amendment No. 1 realigning Fiscal Year 2025 Budget contingency reserves for expenditure within the Employee Health Benefits Fund.

Amendment approved, realigning \$3,000,000.00 from contingency reserves to medical claims and plan administration expenditure accounts within the Fiscal Year 2025 Employee Health Benefits Fund Budget.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Public Works

17. Award of bid to Hubbard Construction Company for Fiscal Year 2025 Pavement Preservation - Package 4.

Contract No. 25-0669-ITB-C awarded to Hubbard Construction Company in the amount of \$5,178,471.56 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. All work to be completed within 210 consecutive calendar days.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

18. Amendment No. 2 to the agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Pinellas County Shore Protection project at Pass-a-Grille.

(PID No. 002573A; FDEP Agreement No. 21PI1) Amendment approved, replacing attachments 1A through 5A in their entirety with revised Attachments 1A through 5A and increasing the funding amount by \$1,659,035.50 for a maximum amount of \$2,599,535.50. County match amount is also increased by \$1,659,035.50 to \$2,599,535.50. Agreement term expires on December 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Vice-Chair Eggers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Utilities

19. Second Amendment to the agreement with Ardurra Group, Inc. and the First Amendment with CDM Smith, Inc. for the Utilities Engineering Consulting Services.

(Contract No. 190-0457-CN) Amendment approved, increasing the contract amount by \$2,500,000.00 for a revised not-to-exceed expenditure of \$45,500,000.00. Contract effective through April 26, 2027.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Business Technology Services

20. Purchase authorization with Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company for on-premises data storage solutions and services.

(Contract No. 25-0822-PB) Resolution No. 25-120 and purchase authorization approved in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$4,628,466.00. Contract effective through April 30, 2030.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Forward Pinellas

21. Interlocal agreement with the municipalities of Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, Clearwater, Dunedin, Gulfport, Indian Shores, Largo, Madeira Beach, North Redington Beach, Pinellas Park, Redington Beach, Redington Shores, Seminole, South Pasadena, St. Petersburg, St. Pete Beach, Tarpon Springs, and Treasure Island to continue the status quo collection, distribution, and expenditure of multimodal impact fees.

Agreement approved. Authority delegated to the County Administrator to execute this interlocal agreement to meet the October 1 deadline imposed by the State.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Pinellas County Community Redevelopment Agency

22. Fiscal Year 2026 Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Work Plan.

Sitting as the Community Redevelopment Agency, the Board approved the Fiscal Year 2026 Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Work Plan, which includes \$15,575,600.00 in Tax Increment Financing.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

23. Fiscal Year 2026 Lealman Community Redevelopment Trust Budget.

Sitting as the Community Redevelopment Agency, the Board approved the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Lealman Community Redevelopment Trust Budget in the amount of \$15,575,600.00.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Assistant to the County Administrator Amy Davis, with input by Mr. Burton, indicated that \$2,000,000.00 was allocated to future land acquisition in order to quickly cover the anticipated cost of an average commercial property if such an opportunity presents itself.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Scherer

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Peters

COUNTY ATTORNEY

24. Resolution approving early extension of 2025 tax rolls.

Resolution No. 25-121 adopted, directing the Property Appraiser to extend the 2025 tax rolls and deliver them to the Tax Collector on or before October 3, 2025, upon authority of Section 197.323, Florida Statutes. Clerk directed to deliver the resolution to the Property Appraiser.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Scherer, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Scherer

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Peters

25. County Attorney Reports - None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

26. County Administrator ReportsEstablishment of the Board of County Commission's (BCC) 2026 meeting calendar

Mr. Burton indicated that, since the BCC Vice-Chair is typically selected as Chair for the following year, staff has historically worked with the Vice-Chair to establish the next year's meeting calendar; that staff worked with Vice-Chair Eggers to establish the 2026 meeting calendar; and that the calendar will be distributed, unless any objection is received from the members.

Next steps related to the selection of Johnston & Stewart Government Strategies as the County's State Lobbying Firm

Mr. Burton indicated that Senior Government Consultant Anita Berry will be the County's primary contact at Johnston & Stewart Government Strategies; that the members will be receiving an email querying as to the items they would like to include in next year's legislative program; and that staff will return to the Board to discuss the items for potential adoption in October.

Preparation and research for next year's budget

Mr. Burton indicated that the ideal time to further discuss budget-related items is during the fall, immediately following adoption of the budget; that the members will be receiving an email querying as to which items they would like to discuss; and that staff will compile the members' responses for consideration at a future work session; whereupon, brief discussion ensued.

COUNTY COMMISSION

27. Appointments to the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Karen LaCorte-Nies and Carol Weideman reappointed for three-year terms beginning on October 1, 2025.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Scherer

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Peters

28. Appointments to the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Commissioners Peters and Latvala reappointed for three-year terms beginning on October 1, 2025.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Scherer, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Scherer

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Peters

29. County Commission New Business:

Pertinent and timely Committee/Board updates, policy considerations, administrative/procedural considerations, and other new business.

The members provided updates regarding their assigned boards and committees and discussed various topics, as follows:

Commissioner Scherer

- Tour of Dunedin City Hall
- Meeting with Dunedin Mayor Maureen “Moe” Freaney
- Public Safety Coordinating Council
- Meeting with Representative Linda Chaney
- Consolidated Justice Information Systems
- Meeting with Chief Judge Shawn Crane
- Appreciation to the members for approving an additional employee for Business Technology Services
- Heritage Village volunteer appreciation lunch
- Tour of HCA Florida Northside Hospital
- Waldorf Astoria Residences sales gallery grand opening

Commissioner Nowicki

- Second Saturday ArtWalk in St. Petersburg
- 2025 Clearwater Ducks Unlimited Dinner
- Marine Industries Association of Florida panel
- Meeting with Feeding Tampa Bay

Commissioner Eggers

- Tour of Pinellas Park
- Meeting with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regarding charges to a business
- Appreciation to FDOT staff for their accessibility and professionalism
- Curlew Hills Memory Gardens 9/11 Memorial Ceremony
- Tampa Bay Water
- Heritage Village volunteer appreciation lunch
- Honor Flight

Commissioner Flowers

- Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas
- Recognition of Congressman Gus Bilirakis for his efforts to acquire funding for the construction of an affordable housing project for seniors

Commissioner Latvala

Commissioner Latvala indicated that he would like to make a motion to approve 39 applicants to serve on the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) for the 2025 school year; whereupon, in response to comments by Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Latvala provided brief comments regarding the geographic distribution of applicants and the number of returning YAC members.

A motion was made by Commissioner Latvala, seconded by Vice-Chair Eggers, that the Youth Advisory Committee applicants be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Scherer

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Flowers, and Commissioner Peters

- Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) Racetrack Read-Along event
- Ribbon-cutting reopening ceremony for the Florida Holocaust Museum
- Meeting with Yo Mama's Foods founder and CEO David Habib
- JWB CEO Search Committee
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
- Inaugural Scouting America Mayor's Community Leader Award Breakfast

Chair Scott

- Forward Pinellas
- PSTA
- Upcoming visit by the United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Lealman Exchange office hours
- Seminole Rotary Club
- Beach nourishment media event
- Recognition of Representative Berny Jacques for receiving the Largo Republican Club's Abraham Lincoln/Mac Norcross Award
- Heritage Village volunteer appreciation lunch
- Pinellas County Animal Services' canine/Commissioner photo shoot
- Appreciation to Office Specialist Catherine Fraser for her service to the Commission and residents
- Appreciation to Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller staff for their efforts related to recording votes with two Commissioners attending remotely

Meeting Recessed: 4:03 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 6:01 P.M.

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.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- 30.** Ordinance amending and revising Article XII, Chapter 58, of the Pinellas County Code of Ordinances, entitled Noise Ordinance.

Ordinance No. 25-17 adopted, approving the amendments and revisions as outlined in the Staff Report. Two emails of concern and one email in opposition have been received by the Clerk.

In response to the Chair's call for public comment, the following individuals appeared and provided brief comments:

Hillary Simpson, Seminole
Eric Garduno, Temple Terrace
Linda Pentia, no address provided

Building and Development Review Services Director Kevin McAndrew provided historical information regarding the Noise Ordinance and indicated that the overarching goal of the

Ordinance update is to provide expanded tools and options to provide a more meaningful regulation and enforcement of noise; whereupon, he discussed the proposed changes, including details related to updating definitions, adding enforcement as a consequence to property owners, reducing dependence on the utilization of a noise meter, and modifying requirements related to noise complaint affidavits that involve loud and raucous noise.

Mr. McAndrew also addressed concerns expressed by Mr. Garduno regarding noise caused by construction, indicating that staff is not proposing any changes to parameters associated with allowable hours for construction noise; that the only provision that would be added is that construction noise would constitute loud and raucous noise; and that the officer who arrives to enforce the Noise Ordinance will have flexibility as to whether to issue a ticket; whereupon, he noted that staff will return to the Board with an update if the Ordinance does not appear to be effective within a reasonable amount of time.

In response to comments and queries by the members, Code Enforcement Division Manager Jude Reazin, Mr. McAndrew, and Attorney Crowell discussed various topics related to the proposed changes to the Noise Ordinance, including the following:

- Process for responding to noise complaints received
- Enforcement options for properties with continuing violations
- Added flexibility for Sheriff's Office Deputies and Code Enforcement Officers
- Process associated with noise complaint affidavits
- Heightened fines for repeat violations
- Language related to allowable noise in cases of urgent necessity
- Increased accountability for property owners via Special Magistrate process
- Educational campaign to ensure community police officers and deputies are aware of the proposed changes
- Ability for property owners to acquire a noise waiver to complete construction work

A motion was made by Commissioner Latvala, seconded by Vice-Chair Eggers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

31. Resolutions to adopt final millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2026 (second public hearing).

A public hearing was held regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 final millage rates and budgets for Pinellas County; resolutions adopted, approving final millage rates (No. 25-122) and budgets (No. 25-123) for the Pinellas County General Fund and Health Department Fund; resolutions adopted, approving final millage rates (No. 25-124) and budgets (No. 25-125) for the Emergency Medical Services Authority, Pinellas Planning Council, Unincorporated Area Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU), Public Library Services District MSTU, Palm Harbor Community Services MSTU, Feather Sound Community Services MSTU, East Lake Library Services MSTU, East Lake Recreation Services MSTU, Greater Seminole Area Special Recreation MSTU, and the unincorporated portions of the Belleair Bluffs, Clearwater, Dunedin, Gandy, High Point, Largo, Pinellas Park, Safety Harbor, Seminole, South Pasadena, Tarpon Springs, and Tierra Verde Fire Protection

Districts; and Resolution No. 25-126 adopted, approving the total final Fiscal Year 2026 County Budget.

At the request of Chair Scott, Ms. Revie reported that 12 emails and one voicemail in opposition regarding the final budget have been received by the Clerk's Office; and that the Office of Management and Budget has received 63 phone calls.

Chair Scott reviewed the sequence of events for the evening's proceedings and indicated that representatives from the Property Appraiser's Office are available to assist anyone who has questions or concerns regarding their property's assessed value, exemptions, or classifications or information that appears on the Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice; and that those attending virtually may contact the Property Appraiser's Office.

Chair Scott indicated that even though Florida Statutes provide that a taxing authority may adopt tax levies and budgets for all of its Dependent Special Taxing Districts and MSTUs by a single unanimous vote, members of the general public can request that the Board discuss and adopt any of those items separately; whereupon, in response to his call for citizen participation, no one requested that an item be separately reviewed.

Thereupon, Chair Scott opened the second public hearing on the final millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2026.

Ms. Revie reported that this public hearing is being held in accordance with Chapters 129 and 200 of Florida Statutes; that the meeting has been duly noticed by the "Notice of Proposed Tax Increase" and the "Summary of the Proposed Budget" legal advertisements that were published in the September 14, 2025, edition of the *Tampa Bay Times*; and that affidavits stating proof of publication are to be received for filing.

Chair Scott announced that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), as taxing authority for the BCC Countywide, the Dependent Special Districts, and the MSTUs, as listed above, the BCC will proceed with the public hearing.

Mr. Burton indicated that the percentage increase in the millage rate for all budgets over the rolled-back rate, based on the maximum rates listed in the TRIM notice, to fund the Fiscal Year 2026 Final Budget is a 2.24% increase over the aggregate rolled-back rate; whereupon, he noted that the increases in the millage over the rolled-back rate are primarily due to the following:

- In the General Fund, including the Unincorporated Area MSTU and in the Emergency Medical Services Authority, revenue increases are required to support personnel and operating expenditure levels that are driven by inflationary factors and Board priorities. In the Pinellas Planning Council, sufficient revenues will exist, with a decreased millage, to support personnel and operating expenditure levels, as per the request of Forward Pinellas.

- In the Public Library Services District MSTU, Palm Harbor Community Services MSTU, Feather Sound Community Services MSTU, East Lake Library Services MSTU, East Lake Recreation Services MSTU, Greater Seminole Recreation Area, and seven Special Fire Protection Districts, revenue increases are needed to support increased expenditures by the agencies providing services for those district.
- In the other five Special Fire Protection Districts, sufficient revenues will exist, with a decreased millage, to support personnel and operating expenditure levels and Board priorities.

Chair Scott announced that the BCC will continue the hearing as the taxing authority for the BCC Countywide, Dependent Special Districts, and MSTU levies by taking public comment from citizens wishing to be heard regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Upon the Chair's call for public comment, the following individuals appeared and provided brief comments:

Doreen Moore, Madeira Beach
Holly Noah, St. Petersburg
Mitzi Gordon, St. Petersburg
Patti Sidote, St. Petersburg

Noting that public comment is complete, Chair Scott queried the members for any recommended changes to the final millage rates and budgets. Hearing none, he indicated that resolutions will now be considered to set the final Fiscal Year 2026 millage rates and budgets; that resolutions adopting the millages and budgets for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs require a unanimous vote; and that should a unanimous vote not be received, each resolution will be adopted separately; whereupon, Mr. Burton announced each of the resolutions, noting that the millage rates for each taxing authority are listed on Schedule A, which has been posted to the County website.

Resolution No. 25-122 adopted, approving the final Fiscal Year 2026 millage rates for the Pinellas County General Fund and Health Department Fund.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the final Fiscal Year 2026 millage rates for the General Fund and Health Department Fund be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Resolution No. 25-123 adopted, approving the final Fiscal Year 2026 budgets for the Pinellas County General Fund and Health Department Fund.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the final Fiscal Year 2026 budgets for the General Fund and Health Department Fund be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Nowicki

Resolution No. 25-124 adopted, approving the final Fiscal Year 2026 millage rates for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the final Fiscal Year 2026 millage rates for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Resolution No. 25-125 adopted, approving the final Fiscal Year 2026 budgets for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Scherer, that the final Fiscal Year 2026 budgets for the Dependent Special Districts be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Referencing the second page of the proposed resolution, for the adoption of the total final 2025-2026 County Budget, Attorney Crowell recommended that “attached” be removed from the second line of section two; whereupon, he noted that it simply refers to a document that is not attached.

Resolution No. 25-126 adopted, as amended, approving the final Fiscal Year 2026 total County budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the final Fiscal Year 2026 total County budget be approved as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Chair Scott closed the second public hearing on the final millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2026; whereupon, Commissioners Eggers, Latvala, and Flowers addressed comments made by citizens during the public comment portion of this item and discussed the annual budget process.

ADJOURNMENT - 7:27 P.M.

Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By _____
Deputy Clerk