

Pinellas County

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



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, May 20, 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 - 2:00 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; Jewel White, County Attorney; Derelynn Revie, Board Records Manager; and Ashley Pabilonia, Board Reporter

INVOCATION by Reverend Andrew B. Hunsicker, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Dunedin**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS****1. Youth Advisory Committee Presentation.**

- Nysa Dhamani, Chair
- Muskan Parmar, Vice-Chair
- Sofia Olsen, Secretary

Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) members Mses. Dhamani, Parmar, and Olsen referred to a PowerPoint presentation and provided information regarding YAC meetings, participation, tours completed within the community, this year's long-term project, activities and service projects, logo design and selection, and future goals.

In response to comments and queries by Commissioners Flowers and Eggers, Mses. Dhamani and Parmar discussed YAC's tour of Animal Services and the importance of investing in mental health initiatives for teenagers; whereupon, Commissioners Latvala and Peters commended the YAC members for their work and wished them luck in their future endeavors.

3. 2025 Emergency Medical Services Professional of the Year Awards:

Emergency Medical Dispatcher

- Scott Waitekus, Sunstar Dispatcher

Emergency Medical Technician

- Jason Biggs, City of Seminole Fire Rescue

Paramedic

- Derek Currier, Firefighter/Paramedic, Dunedin Fire Rescue

Pinellas Federal Credit Union

- Mr. Yariel Alvarez, Director of Branch Operations

Deviating from the order of the agenda, Chair Scott recognized the Pinellas Federal Credit Union for its support of the Emergency Medical Services Professional of the Year Awards for the past 35 years; whereupon, following a video highlighting the recipients' hard work and achievements, Chair Scott introduced them and presented them with their awards. Mr. Alvarez also presented each awardee with a check.

4. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week Proclamation:

- Craig Hare, Director, EMS & Fire Administration

Chair Scott invited Mr. Hare to join him at the podium and read a proclamation recognizing May 18 through 24, 2025, as Emergency Medical Services Week.

5. Older Americans Month Proclamation:

- Anne Marie Winter, Executive Director, Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas

Chair Scott invited Ms. Winter to join him at the podium and read a proclamation recognizing May 2025 as National Older Americans Month; whereupon, she provided brief comments related to her organization's partnership with the County and other organizations, services provided to seniors in Pinellas and Pasco Counties, and funding concerns.

2. Memorial Day Proclamation:

- Mary "Kathy" McEnany, surviving spouse of Equipment Operator Petty Officer 2nd Class Keith Allen McEnany, United States Navy

Chair Scott invited Ms. McEnany to join him at the podium and briefly discussed the late Mr. McEnany's life and service in the United States Armed Forces.

6. Partner Presentation:

Fiscal Year End September 30, 2024, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Audit Results

- Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

- Jeff Wolf, CPA, Forvis Mazars, LLP

Mr. Burke provided an overview of the annual financial audit process, including the compilation of financial statements for the Clerk's Office, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), and Constitutional Officers.

Referring to several County financial reports issued by the Clerk's Office for Fiscal Year 2024, including the Annual Debt Report, the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and the Citizens' Guide to County Finances, Mr. Burke indicated that one of the most important responsibilities of the BCC and the Clerk is to be good stewards of taxpayer monies; and that while the BCC decides how taxpayer dollars will be utilized through the budget process, the Clerk's Office ensures that disbursements meet budgetary guidelines and the public purpose test; whereupon, he noted that the County holds a small amount of debt when compared to other counties.

Mr. Burke acknowledged the Finance Division's financial leadership team for their contributions and emphasized the importance of transparency in financial reporting. He also provided brief comments related to the Clerk's Spending in the Sunshine website, which includes publicly accessible information regarding employee salaries and disbursements, and indicated that the County was selected to conduct a presentation regarding the website at the Government Finance Officers Association; whereupon, Mr. Burke briefly discussed awards received by the County for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Mr. Wolf noted that a document was distributed to the members as part of a required communication pertaining to governmental auditing standards; whereupon, referring to a PowerPoint presentation, he discussed responsibilities of the Clerk's Office and his firm pertaining to the audit and provided an overview of various reports, other deliverables, and comparative data from similar counties.

Thereupon, Mr. Wolf indicated that his firm found no significant difficulties, unusual accounting conventions, or disagreements with management; that no adjustments were made; and that his firm had an unmodified opinion pertaining to the Independent Auditor's Report, which is the highest-level assurance that the County can receive regarding the correctness of its financial statements.

Chair Scott and Commissioners Eggers, Flowers, and Nowicki commended Messrs. Burke and Wolf and their respective staff for their hard work and provided brief comments regarding the report.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

7. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

Jane Wollowick, Largo (submitted documents)
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor
Greg Pound, Largo
Ron Walker, Largo
Phyllis Young, St. Petersburg

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 8 through 27 (Item No. 23 addressed under Regular Agenda)

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, to approve the Consent Agenda. 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

8. Vouchers and bills paid from April 13 through April 26, 2025.

Period - April 12 through April 19, 2025

Accounts Payable - \$22,423,913.09

Payroll - None

Period - April 20 through April 26, 2025

Accounts Payable - \$21,270,531.66

Payroll - \$4,849,731.91

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Reports received for filing:

9. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2025-03, dated April 4, 2025, Investigation of Sixth Judicial Circuit Truancy Teen Court Employee Misuse of Time.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

10. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2025-04, dated April 15, 2025, Follow-up Investigative Review of the District Cooling and Central Energy Plan Operations and Maintenance Service Agreements.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

11. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2025-05, dated April 18, 2025, Follow-up Audit of the Sunstar Ambulance Contract.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

12. Quarterly Donation Listing of \$1,000 or Greater for the quarter ending March 31, 2025, Resolution No. 21-117/Donation Policy.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

13. Pinellas County Community Redevelopment Agency Financial Statements for the Year Ended September 30, 2024.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

14. St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport Enterprise Fund Independent Auditor's Report, Schedule of Passenger Facility Charges Collected and Expended (as reported to the Federal Aviation Administration) and related compliance reports, dated April 18, 2025.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

15. Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County Annual Financial Report submitted to the State of Florida.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

16. Juvenile Welfare Board FY25 Q1 Financials.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

17. City of Clearwater Ordinance No. 9814-25, adopted April 3, 2025, annexing certain properties.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

18. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTSConstruction and Property Management**19. Adjustment and reconciliation of County fixed asset inventories for scrapped, junked, stolen, unaccounted, cannibalized, and traded-in items.**

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

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

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

County Administrator**21. Receipt and file report of non-procurement items delegated to the County Administrator for the period ending April 30, 2025.**

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ATTORNEY**22. 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.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILSHousing Finance Authority**24. Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County: 2024 Annual Report.**

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

25. Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County: 2024 Housing Trust Fund Report.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Sheriff's Office

26. Receipt and file report of the Law Enforcement Trust Fund for the quarter ending March 31, 2025.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

27. Receipt and file report of Sheriff's Office grants received and service contracts for the quarter ending March 31, 2025.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Business Technology Services

23. Award of contract with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for Comprehensive Security Risk Assessment Services.

Contract No. 25-0238-RFP awarded to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$499,325.00 on the basis of being the highest-ranked firm and being recommended by Business Technology Services (BTS). Contract term of 12 months with a provision for one 12-month extension for unanticipated delays.

In response to comments by Commissioner Nowicki, BTS Chief Information Officer Jeff Rohrs provided information regarding a \$165,000.00 professional fee in the proposed contract that is reserved for optional additional services. He indicated that the purpose of the fee is to allow staff to quickly address any critical items identified during the Comprehensive Security Risk Assessment; and that the fee has traditionally been part of contract approval so that any security issues can be remediated immediately without prior approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

Responding to queries by Chair Scott and Commissioners Nowicki and Eggers, Mr. Rohrs also provided details related to the contract and potential uses for the \$165,000.000 professional fee.

Commissioner Flowers provided brief comments regarding the significance of having the funds for optional additional services ready for utilization, if needed; whereupon, Chair Scott noted the importance of the Comprehensive Security Risk Assessment.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Construction and Property Management

28. Third Amendment to the agreement with VSC Fire & Security, Inc. for fire protection system services.

(Contract No. 23-0476-ITB) Amendment approved, increasing the contract amount by \$2,377,753.00 for a revised not-to-exceed total contract amount of \$4,370,368.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, 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

County Administrator

29. Resolution designating and approving an updated list of Code Inspector job titles.

Resolution No. 25-42 adopted, designating and approving an updated list of Code Inspector job titles, as outlined in the Staff Report.

In response to a query by Chair Scott, Mr. Burton provided brief clarifying information regarding designation requirements and confirmed that there is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, 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

Economic Development

30. Amendment One Renewal One to Data Sharing Agreement between the Florida Department of Commerce and Pinellas County Economic Development.

Amendment One Renewal One approved, allowing the Florida Department of Commerce to continue providing Pinellas County Economic Development with its Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data. Agreement extended through June 1, 2028.

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

Emergency Management

- 31.** Second Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Pinellas County School Board for Capital Improvement Program Funding of Hurricane Shelter Retrofitting of Pre-identified Pinellas County Schools.

Amendment approved for an increase in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, for a revised total funding amount up to \$5,500,000.00.

Commissioner Flowers expressed concern regarding potential closures of Pinellas County Schools facilities that also serve as emergency shelters; whereupon, Mr. Burton indicated that Emergency Management Director Cathie Perkins will ensure that the topic is discussed when she meets with Pinellas County Schools staff.

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

Housing & Community Development

- 32.** Resolution approving the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Citizen Participation Plan.

Resolution No. 25-43 adopted, approving the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Citizen Participation Plan, as outlined in the Staff Report.

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

Human Services

- 33.** City/County Opioid Abatement Funding 2025-2026 Priority List recommendations for the Board of County Commissioners approval for submission to the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Priority list approved for submission to the Florida Department of Children and Families, as outlined in the Staff Report.

Referencing an email received by the Commissioners regarding whether opioid abatement funds will go directly to services, Commissioner Peters provided brief comments related to goals for utilization of the funds.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Peters, 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

- 34.** Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board 2025-2026 Priority List recommendations for the Board of County Commissioners approval for submission to the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Priority list approved for submission to the Florida Department of Children and Families, in compliance with the Interlocal Agreement Governing Use of Pinellas County Regional Opioid Settlement Funds (Interlocal), as outlined in the Staff Report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, 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

Management and Budget

- 35.** Resolution authorizing the waiver of the "Indigent Care Fee" requirement contained in Pinellas County Code Section 2-427(4), that there be charged a fee of one-quarter of one percent of the Bonds for use by Pinellas County in serving the medically indigent in connection with the issuance by the Pinellas County Health Facilities Authority of its Healthcare Facilities Revenue and Revenue Refunding Bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$25,000,000.00 on behalf of St. Mark Village, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation for a project to be located in Palm Harbor, Florida.

Resolution No. 25-44 adopted, authorizing the waiver of the Indigent Care Fee requirement contained in Pinellas County Code Section 2-427(4), as outlined in the Staff Report.

In response to a query by Chair Scott, Mr. Burton confirmed that this item has no fiscal impact on the County.

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

Public Works

- 36.** Maintenance Agreement with Haven at Palm Harbor, LLC for the utilization and maintenance of Bee Pond Road right-of-way.

Maintenance agreement approved, granting requested privileges and renewing every five years unless terminated by either party, as outlined in the Staff Report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, 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

Utilities

37. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application with the Florida Division of Emergency Management for the replacement of ten emergency backup power generators to critical pump stations.

Grant application approved. Requested grant amount is \$2,250,000.00. County match is \$750,000.00.

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

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Business Technology Services

38. First Amendment to Cyber Response Team and Legal Services Agreement.

Amendment approved, revising the self-insured retention amount from \$250,000.00 to \$500,000.00 and updating hourly rates for legal personnel, as outlined in the Staff Report.

Responding to queries by Chair Scott, Business Technology Services Chief Information Officer Jeff Rohrs provided clarifying information regarding the reasons for the cost increases associated with the self-insured retention amount and hourly rates for legal personnel.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, 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

Housing Finance Authority

39. Resolution approving the issuance of Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds by the Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County to finance a multifamily residential rental housing project Riverside Apartments.

Resolution No. 25-45 adopted, allowing the Housing Finance Authority to issue multifamily housing revenue bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$44,158,595.00, for the benefit of OK Riverside LLC, a Florida limited liability company, or its affiliate, duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, 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

40. Resolution approving the issuance of Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds by the Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County to finance an affordable multifamily residential rental housing project Olea on 126 Apartments.

Resolution No. 25-46 adopted, allowing the Housing Finance Authority to issue multifamily housing revenue bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$30,000,000.00, for the benefit of Largo 126 Apartments, Ltd., a Florida limited partnership, or its affiliate, duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, 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

41. Resolution approving the TEFRA hearing for the refinancing of the Clear Bay Terrace multifamily housing residential housing project through the reissuance of its Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds by the Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County.

Resolution No. 25-47 adopted, allowing the Housing Finance Authority to authorize a public hearing in connection with the refinancing of the Clear Bay Terrace multifamily residential rental housing project, through the reissuance of its multifamily housing revenue bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$15,400,000.00, for the benefit of Clear Bay Terrace VOA Affordable Housing, LP, A Florida limited partnership, or its affiliate, duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida.

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

42. Resolution approving the TEFRA hearing for the refinancing of the Creekside Manor multifamily housing residential housing project through the reissuance of its Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds by the Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County.

Resolution No. 25-48 adopted, allowing the Housing Finance Authority to authorize a public hearing in connection with the refinancing of the Creekside Manor multifamily residential rental housing project, through the reissuance of its multifamily housing revenue bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$15,500,000.00, for the benefit of Creekside Manor VOA Affordable Housing, LP, a Florida limited partnership, or its affiliate, duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, 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 ATTORNEY

43. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. JK Consulting, LLC - action for foreclosure of Special Magistrate lien.

Initiation of litigation approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, 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

44. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. The Estate of Russell J Douton; all heirs known and unknown - action for foreclosure of Special Magistrate lien.

Initiation of litigation approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, 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

45. County Attorney Reports - None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

46. County Administrator Reports

Hurricane Season 2025 Update

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Hurricane Season 2025*, Emergency Management Director Cathie Perkins provided brief comments regarding the 2025 Pinellas County Hurricane Guide and noted that copies are available online and at all libraries; whereupon, she provided information regarding various topics, including the following:

- Emergency shelter operations, usage, and best practices
- Efforts to secure additional staffing for shelters and more step-down shelter locations
- Status updates related to programs offered by the State and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Creation of a Shelter Training Task Force
- Pinellas County Special Needs Evacuation Program
- Hurricane survey offered by the University of South Florida
- Coordinated efforts by internal and external partners
- Hurricane preparedness events

In response to queries by Commissioner Peters, Mr. Burton discussed efforts by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office to improve post-hurricane barrier island access and organization of incoming external resources.

Thereupon, Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy, with input by Mr. Burton, discussed planning efforts by Public Works, including pre-season maintenance, hurricane preparedness events, and sandbag distribution opportunities. She also provided details regarding debris management preparation and noted that a municipal coordination event focused on the debris management process is scheduled for May 22.

Ms. Levy briefly discussed coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office related to post-hurricane traffic control, including purchasing of sine inverter units and installation of manual transfer switches; whereupon, she indicated that staff is working to streamline and automate reporting from the field emergency operations center.

Responding to comments and queries by Commissioners Latvala, Eggers, and Scherer, Ms. Levy provided information regarding the upcoming municipal coordination event, pre-storm maintenance and inspections in Tarpon Woods, and discussion among local Public Works directors regarding debris management sites. She indicated that she will coordinate with Code Enforcement Division Manager Jude Reazin and Building and Development Review Services Director Kevin McAndrew regarding a path forward related to storm management in Tarpon Woods.

Thereupon, Mr. McAndrew highlighted the subject areas of policy, process, education, and partnerships, indicating that each has been critically important with regard to storm recovery and will have greater significance in the future; whereupon, he provided information regarding key takeaways and improvements within each subject area and discussed various topics, including the following:

- Importance of having third-party resources in place
- Lessons learned and process improvements related to substantial damage determinations, reassessments, and permitting
- Acquisition of an alternative to FEMA's Substantial Damage Estimator Tool
- Usage of an in-person support hub for future hurricane recovery situations
- Education regarding limiting demolition, the FEMA Individual Assistance Program, and conveying the importance of taking pre-storm photos
- Internal and external partnerships

In response to queries by Chair Scott, Mr. McAndrew provided additional details related to acquiring an alternative to FEMA's Substantial Damage Estimator Tool, including the potential for advance approval and necessary resources; whereupon, Mr. Burton discussed progress toward preparation of a Request for Proposal pertaining to the alternative substantial damage model.

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR)

Mr. Burton discussed the grant and indicated that there will be an application process to acquire funding; and that applications will be evaluated before being brought to the Board for consideration.

Phasing out water fluoridation to comply with Florida Senate Bill 700

Mr. Burton provided an update regarding the phasing out of water fluoridation in compliance with Florida Senate Bill 700, indicating that the County will be compliant prior to the deadline.

COUNTY COMMISSION

- 47.** Appointments to the County Council for Persons with Disabilities (Individual Reappointments/Appointments by Commissioners Scott, Eggers, Latvala, Flowers, and Peters).

Todd Jennings, Ross Silvers, Doreen Caudell, and Deborah Figgs-Sanders reappointed and Connor Carlisle appointed for two-year terms beginning on May 23, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Latvala, seconded by Vice-Chair Eggers, that the item be adjourned. 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

- 48.** County Commission New Business:
Pertinent and timely Committee/Board updates, policy considerations, administrative/procedural considerations, and other new business.

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

Commissioner Scherer

- Meeting with State Attorney Bruce Bartlett, staff from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Forward Pinellas Executive Director Whit Blanton, and Public Works Section Manager Tom Washburn
- Tours of the Lealman Exchange and East Lake Community Library
- Meeting with East Lake Recreation Director of Operations Mark Sanders
- Tri-County Board of County Commission (BCC) meeting
- Meeting with City of South Pasadena Vice Mayor Tom Reid
- Investiture ceremony of Sixth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Nicole Pearlman
- Meeting with Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose
- Value Adjustment Board
- Consolidated Justice Information Systems

Commissioner Latvala

- Visit St. Pete-Clearwater Besties Awards
- Clearwater Police Department annual Fallen Officer Memorial Service
- Pinellas County Fallen Officer Memorial
- Beth Dillinger Foundation “Value Me” Luncheon and Fashion Show Fundraiser
- Youth Advisory Committee
- Juvenile Welfare Board

Thereupon, Commissioner Latvala suggested that the United Way be invited to conduct a presentation to the Board regarding the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed Report.

Commissioner Peters

- Visit St. Pete-Clearwater Besties Awards
- Beth Dillinger Foundation “Value Me” Luncheon and Fashion Show Fundraiser
- Pinellas County Fallen Officer Memorial
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) NAMIWalks Pinellas County event
- Tampa Bay Water
- Recognition of Detective Cory Pope for being named the St. Petersburg Police Officer of the Year by the Northeast Exchange Club
- Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board
- Recognition of the 114th Anniversary of Governor Albert Gilchrist’s signing of the Pinellas independence bill

Commissioner Nowicki

- Early Learning Coalition
- Visit St. Pete-Clearwater Besties Awards
- Dive Care, Inc. fundraiser
- St. Pete Italian Fest
- Barrier Islands Government Council meeting
- Recognition of Detective Cory Pope for being named the St. Petersburg Police Officer of the Year by the Northeast Exchange Club
- Council of North County Neighborhoods meeting

Commissioner Flowers

- Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas
- Council of North County Neighborhoods meeting
- 2025 Prayer Breakfast hosted by the St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc. AKAdemy Showcase and Graduation Celebration

- Forward Pinellas
- National Association of Counties Annual Conference and Exposition
- R'Club Child Care, Inc. 14th Annual Celebration Breakfast
- National Council of Negro Women St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section 83rd Anniversary Celebration
- R'Club Child Care, Inc. Board of Directors meeting
- Pinellas Education Foundation Board of Directors meeting
- Council of Neighborhood Associations St. Petersburg meeting
- Hillsborough/Pinellas Workforce Development Consortium
- Fred G. Minnis, Sr. Bar Association 25th Anniversary Scholarship Banquet
- Appreciation to teachers and support staff for their hard work during this school year
- Recognition of grandson's moving up ceremony at Northeast High School

Commissioner Eggers

- Appreciation to staff for reviewing the Sunderland Bayou Boat Ramp area
- Forward Pinellas
- Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation Hurricane Expo
- Meeting with City of Tarpon Springs City Manager Charles Rudd and Mayor John Koulianos
- Pinellas County Fallen Officer Memorial
- Palm Harbor Hero Fest
- Tampa Bay Water
- Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area Leadership Group
- Tri-County Board of County Commission meeting
- Commercial Real Estate Women Tampa Bay 16th Annual Economic Summit
- Memorial Day events

Chair Scott

- Appreciation to Pinellas County Sheriff's Office deputies for their presence at BCC meetings
- Local Coordinating Board
- Bayou Court Apartments ribbon-cutting ceremony
- Heritage Village Turner Bungalow Collections Exhibit grand opening
- Visit St. Pete-Clearwater Besties Awards
- Beth Dillinger Foundation "Value Me" Luncheon and Fashion Show Fundraiser
- Tierra Verde Community Association meeting
- Lealman Exchange remote office hours
- Pinellas County Fallen Officer Memorial
- St. Petersburg Republican Club
- Council of North County Neighborhoods
- City of Oldsmar Memorial Day Ceremony
- Meeting with Tarpon Springs Mayor John Koulianos
- Pinellas Citizen University graduation ceremony

Meeting Recessed: 5:20 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 6:00 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

49. Case No. FLU-25-01 (Mila Mania Properties, Inc.)

A request for a Future Land Use Map amendment from Residential Urban to Residential Medium on approximately 0.21 acres located at 4500 40th Street North in Lealman, unincorporated Pinellas County.

Resolution No. 25-49 adopted, denying Case No. FLU-25-01. The Local Planning Agency recommended approval of the request, but staff recommended denial. No correspondence has been received.

In response to the Chair's call for public comment, Tony G. Clark and David Lee, St. Petersburg, appeared and expressed their support for denial of the request.

Commissioner Flowers made a motion to accept staff's recommendation of denial, which was seconded by Commissioner Peters.

In response to a query by Chair Scott, Attorney White recommended that the Board allow the applicant an opportunity to speak.

Bryan Dion, St. Petersburg, appeared and indicated that he represents the applicant. Referring to a PowerPoint presentation containing maps and photographs, Mr. Dion indicated that the subject property is currently utilized as a duplex; and that the applicant is seeking to utilize it as a triplex by converting the existing first floor garage into a third single-family home; whereupon, he provided detailed information regarding the request, including current and proposed land uses, features of surrounding properties, and the intent of the request.

Mr. Dion also discussed various Future Land Use policies and objectives and emphasized that while approval of the request would allow for increased density, the building's footprint would remain the same; and that the property would be compliant with all County requirements.

In response to comments and queries by Commissioner Peters, Mr. Dion indicated that the existing property is currently not in compliance; that the request only concerns the land use; and that the design and development would be brought back before the Board.

Commissioner Flowers related that the Local Planning Agency's recommendation for approval noted a desire to revitalize the subject property; that the subject property can be revitalized without a land use change; and that she believes the reasons for denial provided by staff are appropriate; whereupon, responding to queries by Commissioner Nowicki, Mr. Dion indicated that while the current zoning category allows for three units, the current land use designation does not; and that revitalizing the property would likely require demolishing the existing structure.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the item be denied. 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

- 50.** Petition of Caribbean Isles Owner LLC to vacate that 15 foot right of way, west of and adjacent to Lots 20 and 29, and a 15 foot right of way, east of and adjacent to Lots 21 and 28, north of Walsingham Road and south of 122nd Avenue North, Pinellas Groves Subdivision, Plat Book 1, Page 55, lying in the Southwest Quarter of Section 10-30-15, Pinellas County, Florida; and that portion of George K. Foye Road (County Road Number 113), declared to be a public road in Board of County Commissioners Minutes Book 18, Pages 163-164, filed on September 21, 1943, being 66 feet in width, lying south of the south right-of-way line, and its easterly extension thereof, of 122nd Avenue North as described in Official Records Book 1041, Page 239, of the Public Records of Pinellas County, Florida and north of the north right-of-way line of Walsingham Road, in Section 10-30-15, Pinellas County, Florida. (Legislative)

Resolution No. 25-50 adopted, granting the petition to vacate a 30-foot-wide portion of an unimproved right-of-way and to vacate a 66-foot-wide portion of unimproved petitioned road known as George K. Foye Road. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

In response to a query by Chair Scott, Attorney White recommended that the Board allow the applicant an opportunity to speak.

Kurt Gleeson, Tampa, appeared and indicated that he represents the applicant; whereupon, he provided a brief overview of the request.

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

51. Resolution making a finding that conditions of blight exist within the Central Tarpon Springs study area, establishing the Community Redevelopment Area boundary, authorizing the preparation of the Central Tarpon Springs Redevelopment Plan, and delegating redevelopment authority to the City of Tarpon Springs.

Resolution No. 25-51 adopted, finding that conditions of blight exist as defined in the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969, approving the establishment of area boundaries, authorizing the preparation of the redevelopment plan, and delegating certain power and authority to the City of Tarpon Springs as the agency for the Central Tarpon Springs Community Redevelopment Area. One email of concern has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Housing and Community Development Strategic Initiatives Manager Rebecca Stonefield discussed the process for establishing a Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) and the request before the Board, indicating that approval would delegate authority to the City of Tarpon Springs to create a redevelopment plan; whereupon, she reviewed relevant sections of Florida State Statutes and the factors identified which qualify the study area to become a CRA.

Ms. Stonefield indicated that the common method to help fund CRAs is a trust fund through a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) contribution; and that today's action does not provide a commitment by the County to approve funding for the CRA; whereupon, she discussed next steps, including creation of the redevelopment plan, which would be brought before the Board at a later time.

Responding to comments and queries by Commissioner Eggers, Ms. Stonefield, with input by Attorney White, provided information regarding potential County TIF contribution amounts and property values within the proposed CRA.

In response to comments and queries by Chair Scott and Commissioners Eggers, Nowicki, Peters, and Scherer, Ms. Stonefield, with input by Mr. Burton, discussed the existing Downtown Tarpon Springs CRA, the boundaries and conditions of blight within the proposed CRA, and staff's recommendation.

Discussion ensued, with input by Mr. Burton and Tarpon Springs City Manager Charles Rudd, regarding various topics, including the possibility for extension of the existing Downtown Tarpon Springs CRA, TIF generation within the proposed CRA, and CRA reports received by staff.

During discussion, Commissioner Peters indicated that she is not supportive of CRAs; that she believes CRAs have been historically mismanaged; and that she will not support the proposed CRA; whereupon, in response to a query by Commissioner Nowicki regarding increased tax burdens for residents throughout the County, Mr. Burton briefly discussed diversion of funds from the General Fund to the TIF contribution.

Chair Scott expressed concerns related to the number of CRAs within the County and tax increases for residents; whereupon, in response to a query by Commissioner Nowicki regarding potentially postponing the Board's vote related to this item, Attorney White noted statutory time limits associated with approvals and recommended that the Board either vote to approve or deny the item at today's meeting.

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: 4 - Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scherer

Nay: 3 - Chair Scott, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

ADJOURNMENT - 7:15 P.M.

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

Chair

By _____
Deputy Clerk