

# **Pinellas County**

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



## **Minutes - Final**

**Thursday, September 5, 2024**

**2:00 P.M.**

**Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting**

**Public Hearings at 6:00 P.M.**

## **Board of County Commissioners**

*Kathleen Peters, Chair*

*Brian Scott, Vice-Chair*

*Dave Eggers*

*René Flowers*

*Charlie Justice*

*Chris Latvala*

*Janet C. Long*

**ROLL CALL - 2:00 P.M.**

**Present:** 7 - Chair Kathleen Peters, Vice-Chair Brian Scott, Commissioner Dave Eggers, Commissioner René Flowers, Commissioner Charlie Justice, Commissioner Chris Latvala, and Commissioner Janet C. Long

**Others Present:** Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; Derelynn Revie, Board Records Manager; and Katie Poviones, Senior Board Records Specialist, Deputy Clerk

Acting Chair Scott requested that a motion be made to allow Commissioner Peters to appear virtually; whereupon, a motion was made by Commissioner Flowers and seconded by Commissioner Latvala. Upon call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**INVOCATION by Pastor David Comer, Gulf Coast Church, Largo.****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation:
  - Amanda Markiewicz, CEO, Hispanic Outreach Center
  - Andrea Vendetti, Director of Community Engagement, Hispanic Outreach Center
  - Liz Touloute, Director of Advocacy and Support Services, Hispanic Outreach Center

Acting Chair Scott invited Mses. Markiewicz and Vendetti to the podium and read a proclamation recognizing September 2024 as Hispanic Heritage Month; whereupon, Ms. Vendetti provided information regarding the Hispanic Outreach Center's contributions to the community.

2. Hunger Action Month Proclamation:
  - Nick DiCeglie, President and CEO, Hope Villages of America

Acting Chair Scott invited Senator DiCeglie to the podium and read a proclamation recognizing September 2024 as Hunger Action Month; whereupon, Senator DiCeglie provided brief comments.

3. National Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation:
  - Barbara Daire, Suncoast Center, Inc.
  - Jean Pierre, Suncoast Center, Inc.

Acting Chair Scott indicated that Item No. 3 has been deferred to the September 19 BCC meeting.

Acting Chair Scott presented a proclamation honoring the upcoming anniversary of 9/11.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

4. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor  
Bill Nobles, Palm Harbor (submitted documents)  
Michelle Pendenza, Palm Harbor  
Jan Rysdon, Palm Harbor  
David Michael Pearson, Palm Harbor (submitted documents)  
Beverly Bucklew, Palm Harbor  
Judy Nobles, Palm Harbor  
Jim Handley, Palm Harbor  
Linda Bollea, Tarpon Springs  
Kelly Paige, Palm Harbor  
Cassandra Cole, St. Petersburg  
Dorine McKinnon, St. Petersburg  
Karin Hodyl, Palm Harbor  
Laura Pennington, Tampa

**CONSENT AGENDA - Items 5 through 22**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

5. Minutes of the regular meetings held July 16 and July 30, 2024

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

6. Vouchers and bills paid from July 14 through July 27, 2024.

Period - July 14 through July 20, 2024  
Accounts Payable - \$28,699,614.39  
Payroll - \$4,633,892.12

Period - July 21 through July 27, 2024

Accounts Payable - \$18,772,816.37

Payroll - None

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

Reports received for filing:

7. Quarterly Donation Listing of \$1,000 or Greater for the quarter ending June 30, 2024, Resolution No. 21-117/Donation Policy.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

8. Report of Expenditures Incurred Under the Incentives, Awards, and Recruitment Ordinance No. 07-26, Fiscal Year 2024 Quarter 3.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

9. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2024-11 dated August 7, 2024, Investigation of Certificate of Occupancy Issuance.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

10. Affidavit of Publication of Legal Notice published in La Gaceta regarding Notice of Forfeiture of Unclaimed Money pursuant to Section 116.21, Florida Statutes (Circuit/County Court of the Sixth Judicial Circuit in and for Pinellas County, Florida).

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

11. City of Safety Harbor Ordinance No. 2024-11 adopted August 5, 2024, annexing certain property.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

12. Correspondence from the City of Oldsmar regarding voluntary annexation of certain property.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

### Administrative Services

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

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

Management and Budget

14. Modification to the grant funding agreement with the State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management regarding the Hurricane Idalia Legislative Appropriation Program for nourishment and dune construction on Sand Key Beach for an additional \$275,000.00.

Modification No. 1 approved increasing the agreement amount by \$275,000.00, for a revised total agreement amount of \$10,356,573.00.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

Public Works

15. Assignment of Final Federal Aviation Administration Aircraft Registration Number for the New Mosquito Control H-125 Helicopter.

Assignment of Federal Aviation Administration registration number N14806 for the new helicopter approved.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

16. Award of bid to Control Technologies, Inc., Intelligent Security Systems, Roadsys, Inc., and Temple, Inc. for supply of an Intersection Video Analytics Platform.

Contract No. 24-0293-ITB awarded in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$12,000,000.00 on the basis of being the four lowest responsive, responsible bids received. Agreements are effective for a period of thirty-six months.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

17. Award of bid to Hubbard Construction Company for Fiscal Year 2025 Pavement Preservation - Package 1.

Contract No. 24-0757-ITB-C awarded to Hubbard Construction Company in the not-to-exceed amount of \$5,122,976.22 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. All work to be completed within 210 consecutive calendar days.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

18. Award of bid to Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc. for the 71st Street North, from 38th Avenue North to 54th Avenue North, Roadway, Drainage, and Sidewalk Improvements Project partially funded by the American Rescue Plan Act.

Contract No. 24-0800-ITB-C awarded to Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc. in the not-to-exceed amount of \$15,375,809.15 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. All work to be completed within 720 consecutive calendar days.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

19. Award of bid to Petrotech Southeast, Inc. for the American Rescue Plan Act Rehabilitation of 119th Street Area - Gas Mitigation and Greenspace.

Contract No. 24-0778-ITB-C awarded to Petrotech Southeast, Inc. in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$6,789,299.40 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. All work to be completed within 400 consecutive calendar days.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

20. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Point of Contact form modification with the Florida Division of Emergency Management for the Countywide Mast Arm Hardening - Utility Projective Measures Project.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

### Safety and Emergency Services

21. Agreement to receive E911 trust fund monies from the State of Florida for Equipment Refresh for Vesta E911 phone system.

Agreement approved certifying that grant funds received from the State of Florida in the amount of \$1,918,398.20 will be used to refresh and upgrade the existing E911 system that supports the St. Petersburg Police Department and Clearwater Police Department secondary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), as well as the backup center for the primary PSAP, the Regional 911 Center; no matching funds required.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

### Utilities

22. Ranking of firms and agreement with Wade Trim, Inc. for Professional Engineering Services for Klosterman Road and Pinellas Trail 30-inch Force Main Replacement.

(Contract No. 24-0125-RFP-CCNA) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$874,849.50. Agreement effective for a term of 765 days after receipt of the Notice to Proceed from the County.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

### Airport

23. Award of bid to Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC for Taxiway N Runway Incursion Mitigation.

Contract No. 24-0783-ITB-C awarded to Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$8,960,929.76 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. All work to be completed within 270 days.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

24. Award of bid to Smith Industries, Inc. d/b/a Smith Fence Company, for Reconstruction of Perimeter Fence Phase 1 at the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport.

Contract No. 24-0809-ITB-C awarded to Smith Industries, Inc. d/b/a Smith Fence Company, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$952,788.70 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. All work to be completed within 210 days.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

25. U.S Government Lease for Real Property between Pinellas County and the General Services Administration at the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport.

(Contract No. GS-04P-LFL02203) Lease approved for space at the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport for the Transportation Security Administration. Rent due in the annual amount of \$74,969.88 for a term of 10 years with an option for an additional five-year term, commencing September 1, 2024.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

### Animal Services

26. Resolution accepting any and all rights and interest over the real property conveyed by deed from The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College.

Resolution No. 24-54 adopted authorizing the conveyance of the St. Petersburg College Veterinary Technology Center from The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College to the County for use by the County's Animal Services Department.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

### Construction Services

- 27.** Second Amendment to the agreement with Renker Eich Parks Architects, Inc. for Professional Architectural Consulting Services.

(Contract No. 21-0259-CN) Amendment approved increasing the agreement amount by \$300,000.00 for a revised not-to-exceed amount of \$1,200,000.00. Contract effective through August 23, 2026.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

### Convention and Visitors Bureau

- 28.** Application received from the Arts Center Association, Inc., d/b/a Morean Arts Center, for consideration in accordance with the Capital Projects Funding Program Guidelines for Category D Projects.

Application for funding in the amount of \$15,170,600.00 approved for processing under the program guidelines as outlined in the Staff Report.

Mr. Burton introduced the item, indicating that this is not a request for the Board's approval, but rather authorizes staff to evaluate the project; and that staff will return with a recommendation based on Capital Projects Funding Program criteria.

Upon the acting Chair's call for public comment, Howayda Affan, St. Petersburg, appeared and expressed her support.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

- 29.** First Amendment to the agreement with Birdsall, Voss and Associates, Inc. for advertising and promotional services pertaining to the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

(Contract No. 189-0284-P) Amendment approved increasing the contract amount by \$14,300,000.00, for a revised total not-to-exceed amount of \$86,625,000.00, and extending the contract through September 30, 2025.



Responding to queries from Commissioners Eggers and Justice, Visit St. Pete/ Clearwater (VSPC) President and CEO Brian Lowack appeared, discussed the provisions of the contract extension, and provided information regarding the global marketing service vendors with which VSPC works.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

### County Administrator

**30. East Lake Recreation Fiscal Year 2024 Municipal Services Taxing Unit Special Projects Funding Request for Bleacher Replacement.**

Funding request approved in the one-time amount of \$20,000.00.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

**31. First Amendment to Lealman Exchange Master Lease and Management Agreement between Pinellas County and the St. Petersburg Foundation.**

Amendment approved for the first of three five-year renewal terms commencing October 1, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2029, as outlined in the Staff Report.

Responding to a query from acting Chair Scott, Assistant to the County Administrator Amy Davis appeared and provided an overview of the County's funding contributions to the Lealman Exchange, as outlined in the Master Lease and Management Agreement.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

### Housing & Community Development

**32. Affordable Housing Program project funding recommendation for Indigo Apartments by Sunrise Affordable Housing Group.**

Recommendation approved for funding in the amount of \$7,000,000.00 for 208 affordable, multi-family units serving households earning at or below 80% of the area median income. Total estimated project cost is \$47,689,191.00. County Administrator authorized to negotiate and approve the terms, conditions, and final funding amount not to exceed the amount approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

In response to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Community Development Planning Division Manager Bruce Bussey clarified details regarding the land acquisition process and affordability requirements.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

### Human Services

- 33.** Ranking of firms and agreement with Operation PAR, Inc. and Recovery Epicenter Foundation Inc. for Pinellas Matters, a hospital bridge program.

(Contract No. 23-1001-RFP) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$5,515,608.61, effective for 36 months.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

### Public Works

- 34.** Resolution providing for golf cart use on additional roadways, codification of a map depicting where the roadways are located, and golf cart use signage on the roadways in the Highland Lakes Area in Palm Harbor.

Resolution No. 24-55 adopted, as amended, expanding the area in Highland Lakes which allows for golf cart usage from sunrise to sunset, effective October 1, 2024.

Attorney Crowell indicated that the proposed resolution contains a blank effective date; and that staff proposes an effective date of October 1, 2024, to allow time for posting signage in the area, pursuant to Chapter 316 of Florida Statutes; whereupon, he requested that any motion made include October 1, 2024, as the effective date.

Upon the acting Chair's call for public comment, Henry Samuel, Palm Harbor, appeared and expressed his support.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

### Utilities

- 35.** Community Agreements for the construction of the Manufactured Home Communities Wastewater Collection Systems Improvements Project Package 3 for Bel-Aire Mobile Home Owners, Inc. and additive of Tropical Gardens R.O. Community Association, Inc. (Companion to Item No. 36)

Agreements approved as outlined in the Staff Report.

In response to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Burton confirmed that there is a clawback mechanism to recoup the funds invested by the County, if needed.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

- 36.** Award of bid to Cathcart Construction Company Florida, LLC for the construction of the Manufactured Home Communities Wastewater Collection Systems Improvements American Rescue Plan Act Project - Package 3 for Bel-Aire Mobile Homeowners, Inc. with an optional additive of Tropical Gardens Resident Owned Community, Inc. (Companion to Item No. 35)

Contract No. 24-0421-ITB-C awarded to Cathcart Construction Company Florida, LLC, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$11,221,188.65 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. All work to be completed within 698 consecutive calendar days.

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

**Aye:** 6 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Long

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Latvala

## AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

### Business Technology Services

- 37.** Agreement with SHI International Corp. for information technology solutions and services.

Contract No. 24-0762-PB approved in the not-to-exceed amount of \$16,080,000.00, effective through February 27, 2028.

At the request of Commissioner Flowers, Business Technology Services Chief Information Officer Jeff Rohrs provided information related to the agreement, indicating that it will replace an existing contract; and that it will not include any new software purchases. In response to queries by Commissioner Flowers and acting Chair Scott, Mr. Rohrs

elaborated that an agreement related specifically to Microsoft products and including enhanced security features will be brought before the Board at a later date; and that the agreement before the Board today relates to existing software and does not include enhanced artificial intelligence capabilities.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

### Emergency Medical Services Authority

- 38.** Agreement to receive E911 trust fund monies from the State of Florida for Next Generation 9-1-1 Core Services.

Agreement approved to receive grant funds in the amount of \$4,111,920.00 for upgrading the existing 911 call routing and delivery network to meet state and national requirements, with no matching funds required.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

- 39.** Ranking of firms and agreement with Paramedics Logistics Florida, LLC for requirements of ambulance services.

(Contract No. 24-0224-RFP) Sitting as the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority, the Board approved the ranking of firms and agreement in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$491,358,925.00, for a term of five years, effective October 1, 2024.

At the request of Commissioner Eggers, Safety and Emergency Services Department Director Jim Fogarty discussed the evaluation of vendors, anticipated revenue to the County, and adjustments compared to the existing contract, indicating that the new contract no longer precludes agreements with hospital systems or local fire services for supplemental transports.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Fogarty, with input from Mr. Burton, provided information related to inter-hospital transfers and the County-run Sunstar FirstCare Ambulance Membership plan, noting that the plan is not a function of the proposed contract.

In response to queries by acting Chair Scott, EMS & Fire Administration Director Craig Hare provided clarifying information and indicated that the County's standard procurement process was utilized; that the proposed contract includes an increase in the number of base transports from 10,400 to 13,000; and that the County will pay a discounted rate for transports in excess of that amount.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Hare briefly discussed response times.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

## COUNTY ATTORNEY

- 40.** Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. American Empire Builders, Inc. for money damages arising out of Contract Nos. 21-0708-CP and 190-0109-CP.

Initiation of litigation approved.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

- 41.** County Attorney Reports

Attorney Crowell referenced an opioid litigation case which was settled in December 2023, indicating that while some funds were retained in the event that any additional plaintiffs came forward, none did so; and that, as a result, Commissioner Peters recently signed a settlement statement which provided approximately \$21,000.00 in additional proceeds.

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- 42.** County Administrator Reports

Mr. Burton indicated that many phone calls were received regarding flooding due to recent heavy rainfall; and that while staff is working to remove debris, the County's stormwater systems are not designed for such a high volume of rain.

## COUNTY COMMISSION

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

a.) Resolution for Joint Meeting to be Held Between the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco Counties.

Mr. Burton provided brief comments regarding the upcoming Tri-County Board of County Commissioners meeting, indicating that it will be held at Ruth Eckerd Hall on September 27; and that the members must approve the proposed resolution to authorize the meeting to occur.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

Commissioner Latvala indicated that he is seeking the Board's approval regarding appointments to the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC); and that he recommends approval of 40 candidates, which will require waiving the 25-seat maximum for YAC membership. He provided information regarding the candidates, noting that an orientation meeting will be held on September 14, which will include Sunshine Law training; whereupon, discussion ensued wherein a motion was made by Commissioner Flowers and seconded by Commissioner Long. Upon the acting Chair's call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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

#### Commissioner Latvala

- High Point Community Park groundbreaking
- Tour of Clearwater Free Clinic
- Sprowls Horizon Sports Park groundbreaking
- Central Pinellas Chamber award ceremony
- Pinellas Education Foundation Bob and Joanne McIntyre Center ribbon-cutting
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority

#### Commissioner Eggers

- Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce 2024 Legislative Lunch
- Communication to residents regarding the Ridgemoor Boulevard Bridge Replacement
- Tour of new adoption facility for Humane Society of Pinellas
- High Point Community Park groundbreaking
- Upcoming Honor Flights
- Curlew Hills Memory Gardens 9/11 Memorial Service

#### Commissioner Long

- Canvassing Board

In response to comments and a query by Commissioner Long, Mr. Burton provided brief comments regarding the process for draining chlorinated water from pools in anticipation of flooding.

Commissioner Flowers

- Florida Association of Counties committee meetings
- Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas
- Prayers for those impacted by a shooting at Apalachee High School
- Barrier Islands Government Council meeting
- High Point Community Park groundbreaking

Commissioner Justice

- Local flooding
- High Point Community Park groundbreaking
- Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce 2024 Legislative Lunch
- Sprawls Horizon Sports Park groundbreaking
- Edward White Campus groundbreaking
- 2024 Gulfport Geckofest
- Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association Pinellas Chapter Recognition of Service Excellence (ROSE) Awards

Commissioner Peters

- Tour of the County's beaches to view erosion with Senator Marco Rubio's staff
- Canvassing Board
- Congratulations to Visit St. Pete/Clearwater for receiving two Flagler Awards at the Florida Governor's Conference
- Rowdies 9/11 Stair Climb

Commissioner Scott

- Appreciation to staff from Animal Services and the County Attorney's Office for their efforts related to rescuing 120 dogs from an animal cruelty situation in St. Petersburg
- Gulf Beaches Rotary Club luncheon
- Tampa Bay Water
- Tour of FLUFF Animal Rescue
- Appreciation to everyone for the warm welcome given to new aide, Coleen Chaney
- Appreciation to staff for conducting tours of County departments

**Meeting Recessed: 4:07 P.M.**

**Meeting Reconvened: 6:00 P.M.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

44. Resolution imposing and collecting a non-ad valorem special assessment levied solely on property owned or leased by non-public hospitals to fund the Hospital Directed Payment and Low-Income Pool Programs and approval and delegation of authority to the Chair to execute Letters of Agreement and Letters of Agreement questionnaires in substantially similar form with a combined amount not to exceed the levied assessment total to initiate Intergovernmental Transfers as match to enhance reimbursement levels for hospitals.

Resolution No. 24-57 adopted enabling the County to impose and collect a non-ad valorem special assessment levied solely on property owned or leased by non-public hospitals to fund the Hospital Directed Payment and Low-Income Pool Programs. Letters of Agreement approved and executed which will allow the collected funds to be sent as Intergovernmental Transfers to the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration.

In response to the acting Chair's call for public comment, Ryan Quattlebaum, Tarpon Springs, and Kathy Gillette, St. Petersburg, appeared and expressed their support.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

45. Resolutions adopting tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2025 (first public hearing).

A public hearing was held regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 tentative millage rates and budgets for Pinellas County; resolutions adopted approving tentative millage rates (No. 24-58) and budgets (No. 24-59) for the Pinellas County General Fund and Health Department Fund; and resolutions adopted approving tentative millage rates (No. 24-60) and budgets (24-61) 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 Recreation Area 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.

At the request of acting Chair Scott, Ms. Revie reported that 14 emails and 25 phone calls regarding the tentative budget have been received by the Clerk's Office and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), respectively.

Following a review of the sequence of events for the evening's proceedings, acting Chair Scott related that Mr. Burton will provide an overview of the proposed budget, including



changes that have been made following the July 16 Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting; and that the final hearing will be held on September 19 to adopt the Fiscal Year 2025 millage rates and budgets.

Acting Chair Scott indicated that a representative from the Property Appraiser's Office is available to assist anyone having questions or concerns regarding the assessed value, exemptions, or classifications related to their property, or information that appears on the Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice.

Acting Chair Scott related that even though Florida Statutes provide that a taxing authority may adopt tax levies and budgets of all its Dependent Special Taxing Districts and Municipal Service Taxing Units 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, acting Chair Scott opened the first public hearing on the tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2025.

Ms. Revie reported that the public hearing is being held in accordance with Chapters 129 and 200 of Florida Statutes; and that the meeting has been duly noticed by the Property Appraiser's mailing of the TRIM notice.

Acting Chair Scott announced that the BCC, as taxing authority for the BCC Countywide, the Dependent Special Districts, and the MSTUs, as listed above, 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 on the TRIM notice and subsequent decreases to such rates, to fund the Fiscal Year 2025 tentative budget is a 3.31% increase over the aggregate rolled-back rate; whereupon, he noted that the primary purpose for the increases in the millage over the rolled-back rate are as follows:

- In the General Fund, including Unincorporated Area MSTU and 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. The Pinellas Planning Council revenue increases are required for the same purposes, 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 six Special Fire Protection Districts, revenue increases are needed to support increased expenditures by the agencies providing services for those districts.

- In the other six Special Fire Protection Districts, sufficient revenues will exist with a decreased millage to support personnel and operating expenditure levels and Board priorities.

Mr. Burton noted that the recommended changes to the Fiscal Year 2025 proposed budget will be delivered to the Board prior to the public hearing; and that modifications include both changes discussed at BCC meetings or work sessions and technical adjustments related to the accounting presentation, updated information, corrections, and other minor changes.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation titled *The FY25 Proposed Budget*, Mr. Burton provided information regarding the basis for various budget recommendations and noted that this budget does not include changes discussed at a recent work session regarding Forward Pinellas and a position; and that the changes will be included in the budget presented to the members on September 19.

The members provided brief comments and expressed their appreciation to County staff for their efforts throughout the budget process; whereupon, in response to queries by acting Chair Scott and Commissioner Eggers, OMB Director Chris Rose provided information regarding reserve levels for the Emergency Medical Services Fund and the General Fund.

Upon the acting Chair's call for public comment, Richard Pettit, Largo, appeared and expressed his concerns.

Noting that public comment is complete, acting Chair Scott queried the members for any recommended changes to the tentative millage rates and budgets. Hearing none, he indicated that resolutions will now be considered to set the tentative millage rates and budgets; and that resolutions for adopting the final millage rates and budgets are scheduled for the public hearing on September 19; whereupon, Mr. Burton announced each of the resolutions separately.

Resolution No. 24-58 adopted approving the tentative millage rates for Fiscal Year 2025 for the Pinellas County General Fund and Health Department Fund.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative millage rates for the General Fund and Health Department Fund be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

Resolution No. 24-59 adopted approving the tentative budgets for Fiscal Year 2025 for the Pinellas County General Fund and Health Department Fund.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that tentative budgets for the General Fund and Health Department Fund be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

Resolution No. 24-60 adopted approving the tentative millage rates for Fiscal Year 2025 for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Eggers, that the tentative millage rates for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

Resolution No. 24-61 adopted approving the tentative budgets for Fiscal Year 2025 for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the tentative budgets for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chair Peters, Vice-Chair Scott, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Long

Acting Chair Scott closed the first public hearing on the tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2025.

Mr. Burton stated that, in accordance with Florida Statutes, the County will advertise the Budget Summary and Notice of Tax Increase in advance of the second public hearing, which is to be held on September 19 at 6:00 P.M.; and that the notice will be published in the Tampa Bay Times on September 15.

**ADJOURNMENT - 6:40 P.M.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk