

Pinellas County

*333 Chestnut Street
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Minutes - Final

Thursday, September 22, 2022

2:00 P.M.

**Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting
Public Hearings at 6:00 P.M.**

Board of County Commissioners

*Charlie Justice, Chairman
Janet C. Long, Vice-Chair
Dave Eggers
Rene Flowers
Pat Gerard
Kathleen Peters
Karen Williams Seel*

ROLL CALL - 2:01 P.M.

Present: 7 - Chairman Charlie Justice, Vice-Chair Janet C. Long, Dave Eggers, Rene Flowers, Pat Gerard, Kathleen Peters, and Karen Williams Seel

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Don Crowell, Chief Assistant County Attorney; Derelynn Revie, Board Records Manager; and Sarah Rathke, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION by Reverend JC Pritchett, Faith Church, St. Petersburg.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

1. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

- Rory King, St. Petersburg
- Todd Pressman, St. Petersburg
- Mike Zender, Largo
- Judy Akins, Largo
- Tim Ferguson, Largo
- Gail Conroy, Redington Shores
- Shelby Thomas, no city provided
- David Ballard Geddis Jr., Palm Harbor
- Greg Pound, Largo
- Mack Johnson, Largo

Following comments by Mr. Pressman, the Commissioners requested that staff research the County's commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy program and bring information back to the Board for discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 2 through 16 (Item Nos. 13 and 15 addressed under Regular Agenda)

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

2. Minutes of the regular meeting held June 21, 2022.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda
3. Vouchers and bills paid from August 14 through August 27, 2022.

Period August 14 - 20, 2022

Accounts Payable - \$11,905,822.62

Payroll - \$4,033,819.84

Period August 21 - 27, 2022

Accounts Payable - \$19,608,200.62

Payroll - None

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

Reports received for filing:

4. Dock Fee Report for the month of August 2022.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

5. City of Clearwater Ordinance No. 9580-22 adopted August 4, 2022, annexing certain properties.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda
6. Eastlake Oaks Community Development District minutes and corresponding attachments of the meeting held June 9, 2022.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

County Administrator

7. Receipt and file report of non-procurement items delegated to the County Administrator for the period ending August 31, 2022.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

Housing & Community Development

8. Resolution ratifying the County Administrator's approval to submit a request for reallocated Emergency Rental Assistance funds under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and authorizing the Chairman and the County Administrator to take required actions for Pinellas County to receive additional reallocated Emergency Rental Assistance funds.

Resolution No. 22-77 adopted ratifying approval for a funding request in the amount not to exceed \$2,100,000.00 from the United States Treasury and granting the specified authorizations.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

Management and Budget

9. Resolution supplementing the Fiscal Year 2022 General Fund Budget for unanticipated revenue and realigning appropriation from reserves for unanticipated expenditures.

Resolution No. 22-78 adopted appropriating unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$1,156,160.00 and realigning \$673,500.00 from Reserves for Contingencies as set forth in the Staff Report.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

Public Works

10. Fiscal Year 2022 Board Budget Amendment No. 4 to realign appropriation from the Air Quality Tag Fee Fund Reserves and the Employee Health Benefits Fund Reserves with the Public Works Operating Budget and the Employee Health Operating Budget for unanticipated Fiscal Year 2022 expenditures.

Amendment approved realigning \$190,000.00 from Air Quality Tag Fee Fund Reserves and \$3,030,100.00 from Employee Health Benefits Fund Reserves with the respective program budgets for a total amount of \$3,220,100.00.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

11. Ranking of firms and agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. for professional engineering design services for the Joe's Creek Model Update, Alternative Analysis and Feasibility Study.

(Contract No. 21-0003-NC) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the amount of \$967,318.86 for a term of 420 consecutive calendar days from the notice to proceed date.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

12. Ranking of firms and agreements with the top five ranked firms for the requirements of continuing land surveying and mapping, subsurface utility locating, and geographic information system services primarily funded through a federal grant from the American Rescue Plan Act.

(Contract No. 22-0423-CN) Ranking of firms and agreements with the following highest-ranked firms approved with an upset limit over the five-year term in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 for each firm for a total of \$5,000,000.00.

- ECHO UES, Inc.
- SurvTech Solutions, Inc.
- George F. Young, Inc.
- Cumbey & Fair, Inc.
- Hyatt Survey Services, Inc.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

Utilities

- 14.** Award of bid to Brenntag Mid-Florida for Sulfur Dioxide Gas, a technical grade product for Pinellas County Utilities.

Contract No. 22-0482-B awarded in the estimated annual not-to-exceed amount of \$264,680.00 for a 12-month term on the basis of being the only responsive, responsible bid received. The contract replaces the existing contract, which expires on December 20, 2022.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

COUNTY ATTORNEY

- 16.** 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

- 13.** Ranking of firms and agreements with the three highest ranked firms for professional engineering services pertaining to brownfield projects funded through Federal grant dollars, including American Rescue Plan Act funds.

(Contract No. 22-0366-CN) Ranking of firms and agreements with the following highest-ranked firms approved with an upset limit over the five-year term in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 for each firm, for a total of \$15,000,000.00.

- Cardno, Inc.
- Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.
- Terracon Consultants, Inc.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Burton, with input from Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy, related that the bid complies with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) requirements; that the funding is derived from the ARPA federal grants; and that staff plans to apply for additional federal infrastructure funds for various projects.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

- 15.** Award of bid to QRC Inc. for the annual water and reclaimed water repairs and extensions for Fiscal Years 2022-2024.

Bid No. 22-0397-CP (PID No. 002246E) in the not-to-exceed amount of \$5,135,600.00 awarded on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received for a two-year term. The contract replaces the existing contract.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Utility Director Megan Ross related that the new contract will begin this October and provided other pertinent information.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Administrative Services

- 17.** First Amendment to the Purchase Authorization with Graybar Electric Company, Inc. for electrical, lighting, data communications, and security products and services.

(Contract No. 178-0181-PB) Amendment approved extending authorization through January 31, 2025 and increasing the total contract amount by \$980,000.00 for a revised not-to-exceed contract value of \$3,430,000.00, with an estimated average annual expenditure of \$686,000.00.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Convention and Visitors Bureau

- 18.** Agreements with the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation, Inc. d/b/a Visit Florida for the production and the promotion of "Life's Rewards" season two, a video series.

Production and promotion agreements approved in the amounts of \$250,000.00 per agreement.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

County Administrator

- 19.** Municipal Services Taxing Unit funding for the Friends of Ridgecrest, Inc. for facility upgrades and maintenance equipment for the Tasker Beal Jr. Service Center.

Funding request approved in the not-to-exceed amount of \$16,071.86.

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 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

- 20.** Municipal Services Taxing Unit funding for the Tierra Verde Community Association for repairs and upgrades to the landscaping and irrigation system within the Pinellas Bayway South median.

Funding request approved in the not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000.00.

Mr. Burton confirmed that the funding request is for repairs to the landscaping irrigation system and does not include the cost of water.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Economic Development

- 21.** Nine applications for funding under the Penny for Pinellas Employment Sites Program.

Nine applications for funding conditionally approved following successful completion of due diligence to comply with program guidelines, and authority delegated to the County Administrator to negotiate and execute all agreements and associated documentation for the following projects, as set forth in the Staff Report:

- Harrod Properties - Starkey Lakes in the amount of \$2,800,000.00
- Wendover Real Estate in the amount of \$1,952,000.00
- Agora Edge in the amount of \$1,717,412.00
- B&R Enterprise - FGCI in the amount of \$385,969.00
- Sunshine Properties LLP in the amount of \$405,275.00
- Auburn Supply Group in the amount of \$327,000.00

- Tampa Bay Innovation Center in the amount of \$4,000,000.00
- Lockheed Martin in the amount of \$906,000.00
- 8th Ave SE Industrial LLC in the amount of \$950,000.00

Responding to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Business Redevelopment Manager Teresa Brydon, with input by Mr. Burton, indicated that the Employment Sites Program will have utilized approximately 25% of the funds allocated if the nine applications are approved; that each of the projects will bring job growth to the County; that the program helps keep the County competitive by providing funds for businesses which might seek Greenfield land elsewhere; and that the funding amount listed for the Tampa Bay Innovation Center is part of the project's original cost.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Housing & Community Development

- 22.** Additional funding commitment for the Seminole Square Apartments affordable housing development by Archway Partners, LLC.

Additional funding approved in an amount not to exceed \$1.56 million. County Administrator authorized to negotiate and approve the terms, conditions, and final funding amount not to exceed the Board of County Commissioners' approved amount.

Mr. Burton introduced the item and related that the funding request is to offset inflationary costs; that the developer and the City of Largo have stepped forward with additional funding; and that the \$1.56 million will close the remaining gap for funding the project.

In response to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Housing and Community Development Manager Bruce Bussey provided an overview of investments made by the developer thus far and noted that the project is being funded through multiple sources, specifying the tax credit program through the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and multi-family mortgage revenue bonds through the County's Housing Finance Authority; whereupon, he noted that 100% of the units will serve households at 80% area median income (AMI) or below and provided an example of the amount of rent a four-person household at 50% of AMI would pay.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Human Services

- 23.** Agreement with the District Six Medical Examiner for professional services related to the Medical Examiner's Office and Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory.

Professional services agreement between Pinellas County and District Six Medical Examiner Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D., P.A., in the amount of \$7,264,503.00 for operational support, approved.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

- 24.** Funding agreement with Boley Centers, Inc. for permanent supportive housing operations.

Agreement approved. Funding in an amount not to exceed \$669,869.00 has been included in Human Services' Fiscal Year 2023 General Fund budget request and is a mandatory local match required to secure funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

- 25.** Human Services Social Action Grant funding recommendations.

Recommendations approved awarding funding to 16 agencies. An amount not to exceed \$1,551,000.00. Human Services' staff directed to negotiate agreements for the recommended programs.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Solid Waste

- 26.** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Removal grant application to remove waste tires from the coastal waters around Pinellas County.

Approval granted authorizing County Administrator to sign the application on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners and to submit it by deadline, for funding in an amount estimated at \$5,000,000.00, with anticipated grant funding received being \$4,750,000.00. Anticipated County match is \$250,000.00.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Utilities

27. Agreement with Frontier Florida LLC to reimburse Pinellas County for additional utility locates support services.

Agreement approved allowing Pinellas County Utilities to be reimbursed for utility line locate support services in an estimated amount of \$600,000.00. Agreement is effective for 20 months following execution.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

CareerSource Pinellas

28. Appointment to WorkNet Pinellas d/b/a CareerSource Pinellas Board of Directors (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Esther Matthews appointed to the Business category for a two-year term expiring on June 30, 2024.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Pinellas County Community Redevelopment Agency

29. Fiscal Year 2023 Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Work Plan.

Sitting as the Community Redevelopment Agency, the Board approved the Fiscal Year 2023 Work Plan, which includes \$2.245 million in Tax Increment Financing.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

30. Fiscal Year 2023 Lealman Community Redevelopment Trust Budget.

Sitting as the Community Redevelopment Agency, the Board approved the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Trust budget in the amount of \$6,324,040.00.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

COUNTY ATTORNEY

31. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Doyle Mann v. Seminole Square Apartment III Association, Inc. et al.; HUD Case No. 04-22-1242-8; PC Case No. 22-038 - alleged housing discrimination.

Initiation of litigation approved.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

32. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Aquatania Colbert v. Pueblo Village Apartments, LLC and Phillip Tracy; HUD Case No. 04-22-9238-8; PC Case No. 22-014 - alleged housing discrimination.

Initiation of litigation approved.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

33. County Attorney Reports. - None.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

34. County Administrator Reports.

Mr. Burton related that he and the senior leadership team recently attended the annual International City/County Management Association conference in Columbus, Ohio; and that based on conversations with his peers, it appears that local governments across the country are dealing with many of the same issues as Pinellas County; whereupon, he recognized Deputy County Administrator Jill Silverboard, as she was named a top 10 finalist at the Women's Leadership lunch for providing leadership in the field.

COUNTY COMMISSION

- 35.** Appointments to the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

The following members from the corresponding categories were reappointed for four-year terms:

Alan Holderith - General Contractor
Lawrence Schear - Consumer Representative
Kevin Garriott - North County Building Official
S. Doug Erwin - Electrical Contractor
Michael Sofarelli - Architect
William Sheehan - Residential Contractor
Mark Vasquez - Beach Community Building Official
Evelyn Spencer - Pinellas County Building Official

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

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

Lynne Faimalie and Karen Roth reappointed to serve three-year terms following a ballot vote.

- 37.** Appointments to the Suncoast Health Council (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Tina Ambrose and Melissa Johnson reappointed to Health Care Provider positions and Mary Bennett reappointed to a Health Care Consumer position for two-year terms beginning on October 1, 2022.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

- 38.** County Commission New Business: Pertinent and Timely Committee/Board Updates, Policy Considerations, Administrative/Procedural Considerations, and other New Business:
- Temporary Closure of the Skyway Bridge for the Armed Forces Family Foundation Skyway 10 Run (Commissioner Justice)
 - Skyway Lighting Resolutions (Commissioner Justice)
 - County Administrator Annual Review

Temporary Closure of the Skyway Bridge for the Armed Forces Family Foundation Skyway 10k Run

Chairman Justice related that the Foundation requested for the Board to provide the Florida Department of Transportation with a letter of no objection for the temporary closure of the Skyway Bridge for its annual race.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, to approve the letter of no objection. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Skyway Lighting Resolutions

Resolution No. 22-79 approved supporting the Florida Department of Transportation lighting of the Bob Graham Sunshine Skyway Bridge in recognition of Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day on October 13, 2022.

Resolution No. 22-80 approved supporting the Florida Department of Transportation lighting of the Bob Graham Sunshine Skyway Bridge in recognition of the University of South Florida Commencement Week, December 5-11, 2022.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

County Administrator Annual Review

Chairman Justice explained that the Board met earlier today in a work session to conduct Mr. Burton's annual review and to discuss salary recommendations; and that there was a recommendation to grant him a 3% pay increase for the upcoming year.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the County Administrator receive a three-percent salary increase. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

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

Commissioner Long

- Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA)

Commissioner Eggers

- Tampa Bay Water
- Road conditions on County Road 1 and Belcher Road
- Commending staff members of the City of Safety Harbor Code Enforcement and the Public Defender’s Office

Commissioner Gerard

- Juvenile Welfare Board

Commissioner Flowers

- Florida Association of Counties legislative conference
- Appointment to National Association of Counties Housing Task Force

Commissioner Justice

- Meeting with the 28th Street Neighborhood Association

The Commissioners discussed regional transportation opportunities, whether TBARTA should continue receiving funding from the County, and other related matters.

Meeting recessed at: 3:51 PM

Meeting reconvened at: 6:00 PM

6:00PM

PUBLIC HEARINGS

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Educational Facilities Authority

- 39.** Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act Resolution for issuance by the Pinellas County Educational Facilities Authority of its Revenue Bonds to increase the approved par amount to be \$10,000,000.00 as the not to exceed principal amount of such bonds, to be issued on behalf of Learning Independence for Tomorrow, Inc. d/b/a LiFT Academy.

Resolution No. 22-81 adopted approving the issuance of bonds pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seal

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- 40.** Petition of Pinellas County to vacate a portion of a thirty-foot-wide platted right-of-way, lying in Sections 08, Township 27 South, Range 16 East, Pinellas County, Florida (Legislative Hearing).

Resolution No. 22-82 adopted granting the petition. Letters of no objection have been received from the appropriate parties. Interested property owners have been notified as to the date of the public hearing. Staff indicated no objection to the vacation request. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seal

- 41.** Resolutions to adopt final millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2023 (second public hearing).

Public hearing was held regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 final millage rates and budgets for Pinellas County; resolutions adopted approving final millage rates (No. 22-83) and budgets (No. 22-84) for the Pinellas County General Fund; resolutions adopted approving final millage rates (No. 22-85) and budget (No. 22-86) for the Pinellas County Health Department Fund; resolutions adopted approving final millage rates (No. 22-87) and budgets (No. 22-88) for the Emergency Medical Services Authority, Pinellas Planning Council, Unincorporated Area Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU), Public Library Services District MSTU, Palm Harbor Community Services District, Feather Sound Community Services District, East Lake Library Services District, East Lake Recreation Services District, 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. 22-89 adopted approving the total final Fiscal Year 2023 County Budget.

At the request of Chairman Justice, Ms. Revie reported that no correspondence has been received by the Clerk's Office; and that the Office of Management and Budget has received 53 phone calls.

Chairman Justice reviewed the sequence of events for the evening's proceedings and indicated that a representative from the Property Appraiser's Office is available to respond to anyone having questions or concerns regarding their assessed property value, exemptions, classification, or information appearing on the Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notices;

and that those attending virtually may contact the Property Appraiser's Office.

Chairman Justice indicated that even though Florida Statutes provide that a taxing authority may adopt tax levies and budgets of all 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 query, no citizen requested that any item be separately reviewed.

Chairman Justice opened the second public hearing on the final millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2023, and Ms. Revie reported that the public hearing is being held in accordance with Chapters 129 and 200 of the Florida Statutes; that the meeting has been duly noticed by the "Notice of Proposed Tax Increase" and the "Summary of Proposed Budget" legal advertisements that were published in the September 18, 2022 edition of the *Tampa Bay Times*; and that affidavits stating proof of publication have been received for filing.

Chairman Justice announced that the BCC, as taxing authority for the BCC Countywide, the Dependent Special Districts, and the MSTUs, as previously referenced, will now proceed with the public hearings.

Mr. Burton related 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, to fund the Fiscal Year 2023 Final Budget is a 3.98% increase over the aggregate rolled-back rate; whereupon, he indicated that the primary purpose for the changes in millage are as follows:

- In the General fund, including Unincorporated 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, revenue increases are required for the same purposes, as per the request of Forward Pinellas.
- In the Public Library Services District MSTU, the Palm Harbor Community Services MSTU, the Feather Sound Community Services MSTU, the East Lake Library Services MSTU, the East Lake Recreation Services MSTU, and seven Special Fire Protection Districts, revenue increases are needed to support increased expenditures by the agencies providing services for those districts.
- In five Special Fire Protection Districts, revenues remain the same due to those districts having sufficient reserve levels to provide for future planned capital along with property values that can support annual operations.

Chairman Justice announced that the BCC will continue with the hearing as the taxing authority for the BCC Countywide, Dependent Special Districts, and MSTU levies, by taking public comment from citizens who wish to be heard regarding the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget.

Responding to the Chair's call for public comment, Mark Klutho, Largo, appeared and expressed his concerns.

Chairman Justice asked whether the members wished to recommend any changes to the proposed millage rates or budgets, and Commissioner Eggers expressed his appreciation to staff for developing a budget that addresses various issues discussed last year; whereupon, he requested and moved that the County modify its mowing cycles from 14 to 16, costing approximately \$75,000, and utilize 1% of its reserves toward the payment of infrastructure improvements, resulting in a corresponding new millage rate. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioners Long and Seel voiced their support for the additional mowing. Commissioner Seel expressed concerns regarding the use of reserves funds, noting that they should be saved for emergencies, and Mr. Burton indicated that mowing services will be contracted out and paid through the Transportation Trust Fund; that a change to the mowing cycles does not require a budget amendment, as it can be accomplished through a contract change; and that he can incorporate the requested change to the mowing cycles through a contract amendment to be brought back before the Board.

Chairman Justice stated that the resolutions will now be considered to set the final millage rates and budgets; that their adoption requires a unanimous vote; and that should the unanimous vote not be received, each resolution will be adopted separately; whereupon, Mr. Burton announced each of the resolutions separately, noting that the millage rates for each taxing authority are listed on Schedule A, which has been posted to the County website.

Resolution No. 22-83 adopted approving the final Fiscal Year 2022-2023 millage rate for the Pinellas County General Fund.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the final Fiscal Year 2022-2023 millage rate for the General Fund be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Eggers

Resolution No. 22-84 adopted approving the final Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget for the Pinellas County General Fund.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the final Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget for the General Fund be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Resolution No. 22-85 adopted approving the final Fiscal Year 2022-2023 millage rate for the Pinellas County Health Department Fund.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the final Fiscal Year 2022-2023 millage rate for the Pinellas County Health Department Fund be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Resolution No. 22-86 adopted approving the final Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget for the Pinellas County Health Department Fund.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Vice-Chair Long, that the final Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget for the Pinellas County Health Department Fund be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Mr. Burton stated that the millage rates and budgets of Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs will now be considered, as listed on Schedule A.

In response to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose related that the originally proposed millage rate for the Pinellas Planning Council (PPC) was 0.0235, resulting in a reserve of \$621,210; that the Board approved a millage rate of 0.0210, which would generate a reserve of \$357,900, at the first public hearing on the budget; and that a millage rate of 0.0206 would result in half the reserve level generated by the originally proposed millage rate.

At the request of Commissioner Eggers, Forward Pinellas Executive Director Whit Blanton discussed the value of the agency to Pinellas County, emphasizing that the proposed budget addresses challenges related to affordable housing, transportation infrastructure, and safety; that the budget would allow for Forward Pinellas to sustain its resources over time; and that the agency's reserve fund acts as a working capital fund that allows for grants to be matched; whereupon, Commissioner Eggers moved to adjust the PPC's final millage rate from 0.0210 to .0206, and the motion died for lack of a second.

Resolution No. 22-87 adopted approving the final Fiscal Year 2022-2023 millage rates for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTU.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Vice-Chair Long, that the Special Districts and MSTU final Fiscal Year 2022-2023 millage rates be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Resolution No. 22-88 adopted approving the final Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budgets for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTU.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the final Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget for the Special Districts and MSTU be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Resolution No. 22-89 adopted approving the final Fiscal Year 2022-2023 total County budget.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the final Fiscal Year 2022-2023 total County budget be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Eggers

Mr. Burton recognized the Office of Management and Budget staff for their efforts on the budget and thanked them for their hard work, highlighting the promotions of Fredricka Collins to Deputy Budget Director and Jim Abernathy to Budget Manager.

ADJOURNMENT - 6:37 P.M.



Charles Johnson

Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By: *Doreen Lewis*

Deputy Clerk