

# **Pinellas County**

*12520 Ulmerton Road  
Largo, FL 33774*



## **Minutes - Final**

**Thursday, May 20, 2021**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Budget Information Session/Agenda Briefing**

**Pinellas County Cooperative Extension**

**Board of County Commissioners**

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

## ROLL CALL - 9:33 A.M.

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

**Others Present:** Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; and Sitara Coyle, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gerard, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that Commissioner Seel be allowed to participate in the meeting virtually. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, and Commissioner Long

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

### 1. Airport

Referring to various documents, Office of Management and Budget Analysts Krishna Gandhi and Erica Mitchell discussed the Department's purpose, staffing, COVID-19 impacts, total budget summary, Fiscal Year 2022 requests, and Capital Improvement Program projects.

*Commissioner Peters arrived at 9:55 A.M.*

Airport Director Thomas Jewsbury, with input from Mr. Burton and Mr. Gandhi, responded to queries by the members with regard to grant funding, future development opportunities, COVID-19 impact, noise abatement, and passenger boarding bridges; whereupon, Mr. Jewsbury provided information regarding passenger levels, concessionaires, current and future development and projects, and improvements to parking.

### 2. Convention & Visitors Bureau

Office of Management and Budget Analyst Jim Abernathy referred to a document containing the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022) Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) Budget Summary Analysis and discussed the Department's purpose, COVID-19 impacts, staffing, revenue, expenditures, Capital Funding Program projects, and reserve funds.

In response to queries by the members, Mr. Burton provided information regarding negotiations between the City of Clearwater and the County about potential funding for improvements to the Philadelphia Phillies' spring training facility. He indicated that

conversations continue with the City of St. Petersburg and Tampa Bay Rays regarding the Tropicana Field site, and discussion ensued, with input from Visit St. Pete/Clearwater President & CEO Steve Hayes and Mr. Abernathy, pertaining to the Transportation Trust Fund and Tourist Development Tax revenues and capital allocation.

Mr. Hayes provided information regarding key focus areas in the FY 2022 budget, including strategic planning, various research-related studies, advertising, collaborations with community partners, and customer service; whereupon, he and Mr. Abernathy responded to queries by the members concerning revenue fund balances and public transportation.

### 3. Economic Development

Office of Management and Budget Analyst John Ondrovic referred to a document containing the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022) Economic Development Budget Summary Analysis and discussed the Department's purpose, staffing, COVID-19 performance impacts, revenues, expenditures, performance of various programs, and total budget summary and performance analysis of the STAR Center.

In response to queries and comments by the members, Mr. Burton indicated that there will be an award presented at June's BCC Regular meeting to recognize all the different efforts and County departments' contribution to COVID-19 activities and programs. Economic Development Director Kimberly Circello provided information about the self-service market in the STAR Center, and brief discussion ensued, with input from Mr. Burton, regarding available selections in a self-service market and vendors.

Mr. Burton, with input from Assistant County Administrator Kevin Knutson, provided information regarding grant money and fundraising for the Tampa Bay Innovation Center, regional economic development opportunities with neighboring counties, and strategy for determining targeted industries for economic development; whereupon, discussion ensued.

Commissioner Seel opined that the County has been heavily reliant on consultants when conducting studies and indicated that there should be a future discussion on it. Commissioner Flowers requested a future presentation on the Small Business Enterprise program and how those businesses fared through COVID-19; whereupon, Mr. Burton responded to comments from the members regarding the County's ongoing workspace study.

Responding to queries from Chair Eggers, Ms. Circello, with input from Messrs. Burton and Knutson, provided information regarding the consultant study that is currently being conducted to develop a STAR Center Master Plan.

**Meeting Recessed: 12:04 P.M.**

**Meeting Reconvened: 12:41 P.M.**

**4. Forward Pinellas**

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Analyst John Ondrovic referred to a document containing the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022) Forward Pinellas Budget Summary Analysis and discussed the Department's purpose, COVID-19 impacts, total budget summary, and FY 2022 focus and initiatives; whereupon, Forward Pinellas Executive Director Whit Blanton provided additional information regarding the goal and vision of Forward Pinellas, staffing, and FY 2022 initiatives.

In response to comments and queries by the members, Mr. Blanton clarified staffing concerns and OMB Director Bill Berger explained the function of cost allocation plan charges; whereupon, discussion ensued and staff responded to queries regarding operating costs, charges, and contingency funds.

**5. Housing and Community Development**

Office of Management and Budget Analyst John Ondrovic referred to a document containing the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022) Housing and Community Development Budget Summary Analysis and discussed the Department's purpose, staffing, total budget summary by program, COVID-19 performance impacts, and FY 2022 requests.

In response to queries and comments by the Commissioners, Planning Director Carol Stricklin, with input from Mr. Burton, provided information regarding affordable housing strategy, manufactured housing communities, form-based codes in Downtown Palm Harbor and Lealman; whereupon, Assistant to the County Administrator Christopher Moore discussed the Community Vitality Improvement Program regarding the Lealman Community Redevelopment Area.

**6. Building & Development Review Services**

Referring to various documents, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Analyst Jason Miller and OMB Project Coordinator Belinda Amundson discussed the Department's purpose, COVID-19 impacts, staffing, total budget summary and analysis, performance, initiatives, and challenges.

Responding to queries by the members, Building and Development Review Services (DRS) Director Blake Lyon, with input from Mr. Burton and DRS Project Coordinator Michael Howsare, provided information regarding fees, implementation and functionality of Accela for employees and customers, potential to use cloud-based solutions for information storage, licensing, permitting, and staffing issues; whereupon, OMB Director Bill Berger provided clarification regarding fund balances, and discussion ensued.

7. Contractor Licensing Department

Referring to various documents, Office of Management and Budget Analyst Jason Miller discussed the Department's purpose, COVID-19 impacts, staffing, total budget summary and analysis, and potential threats and challenges.

Contractor Licensing Director Michelle Krickovic introduced herself and responded to comments and queries by the members regarding delayed Accela implementation, fees, and the department's response to House Bill 735 that impacts the 16 specialty licenses administered locally; whereupon, Mr. Burton related that department aligned it's investigations unit under the supervision of the Code Enforcement Division.

8. Agenda Briefing

Referring to the proposed agenda of the May 25th BCC meeting, Mr. Burton and his staff, along with Attorney White, provided information on the agenda items and responded to queries by the members.

**ADJOURNMENT - 3:18 P.M.**