

# **Pinellas County**

*315 Court Street, 5th Floor Assembly Room  
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



## **Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, April 12, 2016**

**9:30 AM**

**BCC Assembly Room**

## **Board of County Commissioners**

*Charlie Justice, Chairman  
Janet C. Long, Vice-Chairman  
Dave Eggers  
Pat Gerard  
John Morroni  
Karen Williams Seel  
Kenneth T. Welch*

**ROLL CALL**

9:34 A.M.

**Present:** 7 - Charlie Justice, Janet C. Long, Dave Eggers, Pat Gerard, John Morroni, Karen Williams Seel, and Kenneth T. Welch

**Others Present:** James L. Bennett, County Attorney; Mark S. Woodard, County Administrator; Clarethia N. Harris, Chief Deputy Clerk; and Laura M. Todd and Christopher Bartlett, Board Reporters, Deputy Clerks.

**INVOCATION by Pastor Craig Nelson with First United Methodist Church of St. Petersburg****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS****1. Presentations and Awards:**

Thanks for Doing Business Recognition - PODS

Autism Awareness Month Proclamation

National Crime Victims Rights Week Proclamation

Partner Presentation:

Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Advisors Program

**Thanks for Doing Business Recognition - PODS**

Plaque presented to Lisa Goettel, Senior Vice-President of Human Relations. Chairman Justice provided background information about the company, and Economic Development Director Michael Meidel provided input.

**National Crime Victims Rights Week Proclamation**

Presented to Mercedes Pearson, Springtime Club, and representatives of Bikers Against Child Abuse and the Domestic Violence Task Force Victim Advocacy Committee.

**Autism Awareness Month Proclamation**

Presented to Jacqueline Ward Williams, Chair, Autism Awareness Commission for St. Petersburg, and Eloise Thompson, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

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**Partner Presentation: Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Advisors Program**

Chairman Justice related that in a strategic planning work session in March, an idea was brought forward by Commissioner Eggers as to how the members could better understand the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it relates to Pinellas County; whereupon, at his request, Assistant County Administrator John Bennett provided background information and introduced Regional Protective Safety Advisor, Ollie Gagnon.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, Mr. Gagnon provided an overview of the Office of Infrastructure Protection, relating that its vision is to ensure a safe, secure, and resilient critical infrastructure through strong public and private partnerships; and that the focus is to lead the national effort to mitigate terrorism risk to critical infrastructure.

Mr. Gagnon indicated that the Office of Infrastructure Protection provides assessments and analysis, offers training and consultation, and facilitates partnerships across state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal entities and the private sector. He related that any type of domestic incident, whether manmade or natural disaster, will involve his office and local and state partners; whereupon, in response to query by Commissioner Long, he discussed a transportation resiliency assessment project involving the bridges to and from Pinellas County, noting that transportation is one of the lifeline infrastructure sectors.

Mr. Gagnon discussed the Protective Security Advisor program and the services provided, noting that he is responsible for two of the seven Domestic Security Task Force regions in Florida; whereupon, in response to queries by the members, he discussed a regional climate adaptation seminar held recently in Pinellas County which addressed sea level rise and the effects of heat on infrastructure, and suggested holding a community resilience workshop, indicating that there are many types of vulnerability assessments.

In response to query by Chairman Justice, Mr. Gagnon indicated that he operates in the prevention and protection mode; and that a new "Public Sector Large Gathering" campaign is being rolled out based on the Paris attacks, noting that a wealth of resources, materials, and services will be provided.

**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.**

**COUNTYWIDE PLANNING AUTHORITY****2. Case No. CW 16-8 - Pinellas County**

Countywide Plan Map amendment from Employment and Target Employment Center Overlay to Residential Low Medium, regarding 1.1 acres more or less, located at the southwest corner of 135th Place North and Palm Way (regular amendment).

Ordinance No. 16-22 adopted approving Case No. CW 16-8. Pinellas Planning Council recommended approval of the proposal, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chairman Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Morroni, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

**3. Public comment.**

Greg Pound, Largo, re Family

### **CONSENT AGENDA - Items 4 through 10.**

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chairman Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Morroni, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

### **CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER**

**4. Minutes of the regular meeting held March 15, 2016.**

**5. Vouchers and bills paid from February 21 through March 19, 2016.**

Reports received for filing:

**6. City of Largo Community Redevelopment Agency Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015.**

**7. City of Safety Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.**

**8. Report of Expenses Incurred Under Incentives, Awards, and Recruitment Ordinance No. 07-26 for the quarter ended September 30, 2015.**

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

9. Public Official Bond, Oath, and Power of Attorney for Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District Commissioner Louis R. Snelling IV.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEY

10. Notice of new lawsuit and defense of the same by the County Attorney in the case of Parker K. Godwin v. Pinellas County - Circuit Civil Case No. 16-001119-CI.

#### REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None.

#### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

##### Economic Development

11. Resolution expressing support of Power Design as a Qualified Applicant for an Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption.

Resolution No. 16-24 adopted supporting Power Design as a qualified applicant pursuant to Section 196.1995, Florida Statutes, and authorizing the company to make improvements and/or tangible personal property additions before an Exemption Ordinance is adopted.

Mr. Woodard related that Power Design is an electrical contractor which plans to invest \$1.9 million in construction and equipment to expand its corporate headquarters in Pinellas County; and that the item would come back to the Board at a future date for final action.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chairman Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Morroni, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

12. Resolution approving B6030335555 as a Qualified Applicant for the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program.

Resolution No. 16-25 adopted approving Project B6030335555 as a qualified applicant pursuant to Section 288.106, Florida Statutes, and identifying sources of local county financial support (total local contribution amount, \$150,000.00, 50 percent of which will be paid by Pinellas County, to be paid over a series of fiscal years as determined by the

State).

Mr. Woodard related that the employer is in the aviation and aerospace industry and seeks to relocate to Pinellas County and create 125 jobs with pay levels at least 150 percent of the State of Florida average annual wage; and that Pinellas County is competing with a location in New Jersey; whereupon, in response to query by Commissioner Long, he indicated that the company would be located in the City of Seminole.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chairman Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Morroni, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

### Planning

13. Authority to advertise a public hearing to be held on April 26, 2016, regarding a resolution to approve the City of St. Pete Beach Community Redevelopment Area Plan.

In response to queries by Commissioners Welch and Morroni, Attorney Bennett indicated that Florida Statutes require the Board to approve, in whole or in part, or deny at a public hearing the request by the City of St. Pete Beach; that the latest the Board can act is June 21 to avoid a default approval of the plan; and that if the request is modified in any way, it could still be heard on April 26.

Commissioner Long expressed concern that the County has never before considered a Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) plan with a Tax Increment Financing component on the barrier islands, and related that no workshop has been conducted to discuss the Board's policy going forward as it relates to the barrier islands, adding that additional concerns are flooding, beach nourishment, and the lack of an analysis on the effect of the dollars coming off the County's tax rolls; whereupon, Chairman Justice related that it is the obligation of the Board to hold a public hearing and vote the request up or down.

Concurring with comments by Commissioner Long, Commissioner Welch inquired as to when the capacity plan would be available, and Mr. Woodard related that staff has completed the plan; and that it is his intention to brief the members individually on the findings of the report prior to the April 26 public hearing, and discussion ensued regarding Tax Increment Financing scenarios.

Commissioner Welch pointed out some of the issues which are still outstanding, including the parking study, the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority issue, and the inequity of the cost sharing split between the City and the County.

Commissioner Eggers agreed with comments by the members and commended the City of St. Pete Beach and other communities around the county that have taken the time to develop a vision and a plan.

Commissioner Seel echoed the comments of Commissioner Eggers and expressed her concern regarding the inequity of the cost-sharing split, and suggested that, perhaps, the CRA should be centered around the downtown portion of St. Pete Beach; whereupon, she expressed additional concern that nothing of substance would be built until after year 16 of the plan, noting that the City would be collecting money which would not be utilized.

Commissioner Morroni inquired whether the Mayor would be able to address the concerns raised by the members in time for the April 26 hearing; whereupon, Mayor Maria Lowe committed to the Board that if the City is unable to meet the timeframe, it would voluntarily withdraw the item from the agenda, and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Gerard echoed the concerns of the members and expressed her appreciation for the City's willingness to modify the CRA plan, noting that she too has concerns regarding redevelopment on the barrier islands.

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Long, seconded by Commissioner Morroni, that authority be granted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chairman Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Morroni, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

### Public Works

14. Authority to advertise a public hearing to be held on May 10, 2016, regarding a proposed ordinance amending County Code Chapter 110 (Article VI), involving special assessments for improvements to storm sewers and streets, including bike paths and sidewalks, by changing the repayment process from an assessment lien method of collection to the uniform method of non-ad valorem assessment collection.

In response to query by Commissioner Seel, Mr. Woodard related that the assessment for street lighting has been moved to the non-ad valorem method of collection; and that the ordinance governing navigational dredging assessments is not specific as to the collection method and, therefore, does not require a change.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Vice-Chairman Long, that authority be granted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chairman Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Morroni, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

15. County Administrator miscellaneous - None.

### COUNTY ATTORNEY

16. Authority for the County Attorney to initiate litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Craig Zurman and ZD Integrated Circuits, Incorporated.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that authority be granted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chairman Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Morroni, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

17. Authority for the County Attorney to initiate litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Theresa Norma Dodd and Rosemarie Perez.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Vice-Chairman Long, that authority be granted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chairman Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Morroni, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

18. Authority for the County Attorney to initiate litigation in the case of Rachael Berthold and Brian Russo v. Thomas Guy, Empire Realty of Pinellas, Inc. and Judy Fisch - HUD Case No. 04-14-0917-8; PC Case No. 14-041.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that authority be granted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chairman Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Morroni, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

19. Offer of settlement in the case of Linda Holbrook v. Pinellas County - Sixth Judicial Circuit Case No. 15-003952-CI-21.

Offer accepted in accordance with the confidential memorandum from County Attorney James L. Bennett dated April 12, 2016.

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Long, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the offer be accepted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chairman Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Morroni, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

20. County Attorney miscellaneous - None.

## AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

### Emergency Medical Services

21. Amendment No. 1 to the Advanced Life Support First Responder Agreement with the City of Clearwater.



Sitting as the Emergency Medical Services Authority, the Board approved Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement (Fiscal Year 2016 expenditure, \$5,960,110.45; Fiscal Year 2017 expenditure, \$6,058,452.27). Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

In response to queries by the members, Mr. Woodard stated that for each month of the current year, the number of transports maintained a level 8 to 9 percent higher than the previous year; that this has brought in additional revenue; and that funds for the amendment are available in the Other System Costs allocation. Assistant County Administrator John Bennett related that studies are progressing that will help ensure the County is prepared to handle future public safety needs and concerns.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chairman Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Morroni, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

**22. Amendment No. 1 to the Advanced Life Support First Responder Agreement with the City of Pinellas Park.**

Sitting as the Emergency Medical Services Authority, the Board approved Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement (Fiscal Year 2016 expenditure, \$2,461,899.52; Fiscal Year 2017 expenditure, \$2,673,832.23). Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chairman Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Morroni, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

**23. Amendment No. 1 to the Advanced Life Support First Responder Agreement with the Lealman Special Fire Control District.**

Sitting as the Emergency Medical Services Authority, the Board approved Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement (Fiscal Year 2016 expenditure, \$250,000.00). Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

Lealman Fire Chief Richard Graham indicated that ambulance and fire service to Tierra Verde and Fort De Soto Park rely heavily on bridge access to the area; that a transport rescue all-terrain vehicle would improve response times and service in those areas for those in need; and that the vehicle is capable of navigating on sand and beaches.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chairman Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Morroni, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

**24. Amendment No. 1 to the Advanced Life Support First Responder Agreement with the City of Largo.**

Sitting as the Emergency Medical Services Authority, the Board approved Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement (Fiscal Year 2016 expenditure, \$4,448,499.23; Fiscal Year 2017 expenditure, \$4,762,850.66). Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

Largo Fire Chief Shelby Willis introduced Pinellas Park Fire Chief Guy Keirn and discussed the partnership with the County, indicating that her department is focusing on community risk reduction by analyzing call data in order to provide recommendations that would ultimately reduce the volume of calls.

Responding to query by Commissioner Morroni regarding the City of Largo's request for compensation for Truck 42, Mr. Woodard stated that a data team is used to reach a common understanding and then recommend how best to address the needs of the system; and that the City of Largo's request is part of the overall process.

In response to queries by Commissioner Long, Assistant County Administrator John Bennett stated that staff initiatives include keeping the first responder system healthy now and in the future, ensuring quality service is delivered to each and every individual, and sharing best practices throughout the entire county. He noted that these initiatives are a collective effort between the County, the Medical Control Board, the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, and the community, and discussion ensued.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Bennett stated that Bayside Health Clinic's ribbon cutting ceremony will be April 25; that expectations are that it will help maintain the current call level in the area; and that a before-and-after impact study will be utilized for quality assurance regarding EMS calls in the districts.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chairman Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Morroni, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

### 25. County Administrator report: 2016 Citizen Values Survey.

Mr. Woodard provided background information regarding the citizens' survey, stating that the survey is statistically valid and in its fifth year; that such surveys provide feedback on a variety of issues; and that this marks the year of most improvement in those measurements virtually across the board; whereupon, he introduced HCP Associates Senior Research Director Sarah Lindemuth who conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Pinellas County Citizen Research: Telephonic Study of Citizen Values*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and provided a brief overview, relating that the goal is to understand the citizens' values and expectations.

Ms. Lindemuth reported that 200 interviews were completed in each of four regions of Pinellas County, which consisted of north county, mid county, south county, and the

beaches, totaling over 800 interviews with local citizens, utilizing random digit dialing of landlines and cell phones to ensure a representative sampling; and that the telephone interviews captured both demographic and geographic characteristics of the respondents; whereupon, she reported that approximately 90 percent of those surveyed would recommend Pinellas County as a place to live, work, raise children, and/or retire.

Ms. Lindemuth highlighted results in the following categories:

- Citizen Recommendation trends.
- Differences by demographics.
- Quality of life in Pinellas County.
- Community characteristics.
- Strongest and weakest aligned categories.
- Citizen trust and confidence.
- Plans to leave.

During discussion and in response to queries by the members, Ms. Lindemuth discussed how the data was tabulated and interpreted, and how it compares to previous surveys; whereupon, Mr. Woodard pointed out that trust and confidence in Pinellas County government is above 90 percent and is significantly higher than the national average.

## COUNTY COMMISSION

### 26. County Commission miscellaneous.

The members collectively thanked Commissioner Morrone for successfully hosting his 21st Annual Appreciation Luncheon for law enforcement, firefighters, and EMS personnel.

#### Commissioner Morrone

Expressed gratitude for the community's and Board's support of his Appreciation Luncheon, noting that \$60,000 was raised and was donated to Catholic Charities' Project Hope and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Safe Harbor, each receiving \$30,000 for their programs.

Asked the Board to schedule a future work session and consider issues relating to the taxicab, limousine, and paratransit industry; and at the Chairman's request, Bay Area Metro CEO Nick Cambis briefly discussed various issues related to the industry, and discussion ensued.

#### Commissioner Gerard

Indicated that she was absent from the Appreciation Luncheon so that she could travel to Los Angeles in support of her daughter, Sarah Gerard, who has been named a 2015

Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist.

Commissioner Seel

Related that Creative Pinellas has announced its *Best Ever Hands-On Workshop*, to be held on May 14, 2016 at the EpiCenter in Clearwater.

Offered sympathies to the families of Dan Carlisle and Dick Jacobson, long-time local business leaders who recently passed away, and expressed gratitude for all that they accomplished for the community and various charitable organizations.

Commended Commissioner Long on her son's recent award and banquet.

Commissioner Eggers

Congratulated Chairman Justice for his efforts regarding the Farm Share event in Lealman.

Thanked Congressman Jolly for hosting and moderating the second annual New Ideas Conference held on April 8.

Referring to the Dunedin Causeway Bridge project, noted that a recent presentation to the community produced surprising results; and that an update will be shared with the Board at a future meeting.

Announced that East Lake Fire Rescue held its open house on April 9 and included a water safety demonstration; whereupon, he thanked Assistant County Administrator John Bennett for his continued efforts to bring water safety equipment to all fire departments.

Congratulated the City of Tarpon Springs for breaking ground on a new community pool in partnership with the School Board.

Wished a happy 100th birthday to the City of Oldsmar.

Commissioner Welch

Thanked Mr. Woodard and Assistant County Administrator John Bennett for their recent work regarding adult arrest diversion, and indicated that the Board has the county moving progressively forward through collaborations and successful partnerships.

Commissioner Long

Announced that the University of South Florida's Future of the Region Awards will be held April 22 at the Student Center in St. Petersburg.

Announced that Suncoast Tiger Bay Club's Night with the Tigers banquet will be held on

April 21 with featured speaker Carl Bernstein.

Requested that County staff prepare a new East Lake Corridor traffic study to explore the possible effects relating to nearly 5,000 new homes at Starkey Ranch.

Related that the Council of North County Neighborhoods reports lingering issues with sidewalk and road repairs near Lansbrook.

Chairman Justice

Stated that many great things are happening in Pinellas County, noting his and others' attendance at the following events:

- East Lake Fire Rescue open house.
- City of Oldsmar's birthday celebration.
- Grand opening of Duval Park in Lealman, a housing community for veterans with disabilities and their families.
- Habitat for Humanity dedications in Clearwater and St. Petersburg.
- Opening of Clearwater Business SPARK, a network of resources to support businesses and entrepreneurs.

**ADJOURNMENT**

11:55 A.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

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