

# Pinellas County

315 Court Street  
Clearwater, Florida 33756



## Minutes - Final

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

2:00 PM

BCC Assembly Room

## Board of County Commissioners

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

**ROLL CALL - 2:02 P.M.**

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

**Also Present:** Jewel White, County Attorney; Mark S. Woodard, County Administrator; Clarethia N. Harris, Chief Deputy Clerk; and Tony Fabrizio, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION by Commissioner Eggers****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation:
  - Suzanne Horn, Chief Operating Officer, Community Action Stops Abuse
  - Kirk Smith, President & CEO, Religious Community Services, Inc.
  - Melinda Perry, Chief Operating Officer, Religious Community Services, Inc.
  - Lauren Misa, Director of Communications, Religious Community Services, Inc.

Chairman Long called Mses. Horn, Perry, and Misa and Mr. Smith to the podium and recognized Community Action Stops Abuse (CASA) and Religious Community Services, Inc. (RCS), for their work supporting domestic violence survivors and their children; whereupon, she read a proclamation recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and presented Mses. Horn and Perry with plaques.

Mr. Smith and Ms. Horn thanked the Board and community for their support, and Mr. Smith noted that CASA and RCS are a combined 90 years old.

2. Partner Presentation:
  - Harry Sideris, State President - Florida, Duke Energy

Mr. Sideris discussed how Duke Energy prepares for and responds to events such as Hurricane Irma, reporting that the storm was the largest and most devastating ever faced by the company across the 35 counties where it provides electrical power to Florida residents. He related that due to the extensive damage that took place across the power grid, Duke Energy coordinated the largest response it has ever undertaken; and that following two active hurricane seasons in 2004 and 2005, the company spent over \$2 billion hardening its electrical system.

Mr. Sideris provided information regarding Duke Energy and its plans for the future, and discussed plans to modernize the system to generate clean, reliable, and cost-effective power. He presented information relating to underground wiring, smart meters, solar power, battery storage, vehicle charging stations, rate stabilization and fixed billing, and community involvement and employee volunteerism.

During discussion and in response to comments and queries by the members, Mr. Sideris provided information regarding hardening efforts and future expectations, lessons learned and opportunities for improvement, utility undergrounding, tree trimming, consumer solar installations and safety concerns, FEMA reimbursement, and action plans and timing.

### **CONSENT AGENDA (Items 3 through 15)**

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

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

3. Minutes of the regular meetings held September 14 and September 26, 2017, and the special meetings held September 7 and September 14, 2017.
4. Vouchers and bills paid from August 27 through September 16, 2017.

Period: August 27 through September 2, 2017

Payroll - None

Accounts Payable - \$28,383,693.05

Period: September 3 through September 9, 2017

Payroll - \$3,320,796.89

Accounts Payable - \$15,475,265.91

Period: September 10 through September 16, 2017

Payroll - None

Accounts Payable - \$2,552,604.92

Reports received for filing:

5. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2017-14 dated September 20, 2017 - Audit of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board.
6. Dock Fee Report for the month of September 2017.
7. Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County Fiscal Year 2018 Budget.
8. Quarterly Report of Routine Dock and Dredge/Fill Permits issued from July 1 to September 30, 2017.

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

9. City of Safety Harbor Ordinance No. 2017-30 adopted September 25, 2017, annexing certain property.
10. Eastlake Oaks Community Development District public meeting schedule for Fiscal Year 2018.

#### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

##### Airport

11. Interlocal Agreement with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services at St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport.  
Agreement approved in the amount of \$1,247,866.38 for the period of October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

##### Building Services

12. Resolution supplementing the Fiscal Year 2017 Building Services Fund Budget for unanticipated revenue.  
Resolution No. 17-77 adopted recognizing unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$429,400.00 and appropriating the funds for additional inspection expenses associated with increased permit activity.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEY

13. Notice of new lawsuit and defense of the same by the County Attorney in the case of Jeri Layfield v. Pinellas County - Circuit Civil Case No. 17-005422-CI-13 - allegations of negligence resulting in personal injuries.
14. Notice of new lawsuit and defense of the same by the County Attorney in the case of Melinda Lamm and Bobby G. Lamm, her spouse v. Pinellas County; Circuit Civil Case No. 17-004649-CI-7 - allegations of negligence resulting in personal injuries.
15. Authority for County Attorney to Opt In to Class Action Settlement - United States Middle District of Florida Case No. 2:15-cv-00793-JES-MRM - receipt of unsolicited facsimiles.

#### REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None.

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Planning

16. Ranking of firms and authorization to commence negotiations with Bright Community Trust, Inc., for the sale of 46 parcels in the Dansville neighborhood in Largo.

Ranking of firms approved; staff authorized to negotiate an agreement (Contract No. 167-0251-RN) with Bright Community Trust, Inc., the number one ranked firm. Once negotiations are completed, staff is authorized to enter into negotiations with the next highest ranked firm(s), if necessary.

Mr. Woodard provided historical information regarding the item, and discussed community investment, redevelopment efforts, land assembly, proposals submitted, and similar topics. He reported that the Request for Negotiations pertains to the sale of 46 parcels; and that while Bright Community Trust has proposed to purchase 27 of the lots, it has requested the donation of the remaining 19; whereupon, he indicated that even though the main goal is to create a mixed-income community by offering market rate and affordable housing, returning the properties to the tax rolls is a significant consideration; and that the anticipated revenue to the County is estimated at \$324,000.

In response to comments and queries by Commissioners Welch and Eggers, Mr. Woodard, with input by Bright Community Trust Executive Director and CEO Anthony Jones, related that of the 46 housing units to be constructed, 19 will be priced at 80 percent of the average median income; and that the balance will be sold at market rate and support workforce housing; whereupon, he indicated that the best way to lift up a community is to offer a mix of market rate and affordable housing; and that elevating the income profile of a neighborhood helps to attract needed amenities, and brief discussion ensued.

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

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

Real Estate Management

17. Funding and Land Use Restriction Agreement with R'Club Child Care, Inc. to provide British Petroleum Economic Settlement Funds to support renovation of the child care facility.

Agreement approved in the amount of \$150,000 to support renovation of the existing Happy Workers facility, located on the premises of Martin Luther King Jr. Church in St. Petersburg.

In response to queries by Commissioner Welch, R'Club Executive Director Art O'Hara provided background information regarding the agreement, indicating that once it is signed,

renovation will begin on the church; that the formal groundbreaking could take place by the end of the month; and that a \$350,000 legislative appropriation has been awarded; whereupon, referring to an illustration of the facility, he provided further information with respect to the renovation, indicating that the complete project will cost \$850,000, and Commissioner Morroni provided input.

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

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

**18. Lease Agreement with 2494 Bayshore Blvd., LLC for leased space for the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.**

Agreement approved providing for the relocation of the Sheriff's Office North District Station; lease term is 10 years with three additional five-year renewal options; first-year rent is \$559,970.80, plus one-time capital costs totaling \$260,000.00.

Commissioner Eggers indicated that he had asked for the opportunity to meet with Real Estate Management Director Andrew Pupke regarding the agreement, but a meeting did not take place; whereupon, noting that he has a background in the commercial property industry, he related that he has unanswered questions, will not support the agreement at this juncture, and would prefer that a vote be postponed until the next meeting.

Discussion ensued, and Commissioner Eggers explained that his concerns pertain to costs, lease structure, leasing versus purchasing, debt, base rent, operating costs, base years, and contract language. Responding to query by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Woodard indicated that the Sheriff is anxious to move forward, as the current space leased from the City of Dunedin is inadequate and has air-quality issues.

Mr. Woodard concurred with Commissioner Eggers that purchasing space would be better than leasing if the Sheriff is going to need a permanent station in that area; and that the five-percent interest rate the County will pay the landlord on funds advanced for tenant improvements is slightly high compared to a 10-year treasury bond; whereupon, he provided information supporting staff's recommendation of approval. He indicated that the agreement does not preclude discussions regarding purchase of the building from taking place once there is more certainty about capital funding sources; that the lease suits the Sheriff's needs, and he is essentially the County's client; that the landlord will fund approximately half of the tenant improvements; and that while the building is nearly 34,000 square feet, the rent is based on the air conditioned portion, or 21,500 square feet.

Commissioner Eggers stated for the record that he would like the opportunity to have his questions addressed before an agreement of this nature is brought to the Board in the future, and Commissioner Seel expressed concern that the lease obligates a future Board to a long-range financial impact; whereupon, responding to her query, Mr. Woodard indicated that the County's annual lease obligation of \$194,000 to the City of Dunedin for its existing space will be released and the amount applied toward the new lease; and that the

new location will be a base for the Sheriff's entire north county operations.

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

**Aye:** 5 - Chairman Long, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Morroni, and Commissioner Seel

**Nay:** 2 - Vice-Chairman Welch, and Commissioner Eggers

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

### 19. County Administrator Miscellaneous:

- Tourist Development Tax Fund Fiscal Year 2017 Capital Projects Funding Program Agreements

Referring to a chart titled *Capital Funding Agreements - Value of VSPC Marketing Benefits*, Mr. Woodard provided an update pertaining to the agreements with funding applicants that the Board approved in August and related that, in accordance with direction given by the Board, staff incorporated a right to audit into each of the agreements and maximized the return on investment in marketing value to the extent possible; whereupon, he indicated that the contracts have been executed.

Noting that the Board requested information at its last meeting pertaining to the program's cash flow, Mr. Woodard referred to a second chart titled *Tourist Development Tax - Capital Funding Program, Sources and Uses* and discussed the beginning and projected fund balances and pre-existing and new commitments, noting that the figures do not include an anticipated commitment to the City of Dunedin for the Toronto Blue Jays spring training facility.

Discussion ensued, and responding to queries by the members, Mr. Woodard reviewed the prescribed allocations of the Tourist Development Tax's revenue and discussed the growth of the tax, the status of funds set aside from the "sixth cent," and potential scenarios pertaining to County participation in the funding for a prospective new Tampa Bay Rays stadium. Addressing funding for the Blue Jays spring training facility, he related that the County is waiting for the City of Dunedin to finalize its agreement with the club; that the County plans to fund its contribution with cash over a relatively short period of time; and that the payments would likely follow the construction draw schedule for renovations to the existing facility.

### Roundtable Discussion Re Island Residents Traveling to Pinellas County

Director of Marketing and Communications Barbra Hernandez discussed an initiative in which her staff is working with the Human Services Department and the Hispanic Outreach Center to assist people coming from Puerto Rico and other islands impacted by Hurricanes Irma and Maria identify County resources that are available to help them.

Ms. Hernandez related that the County will host a roundtable discussion for representatives of various agencies and media partners in early November; and that it will be videotaped and made available on multiple websites and Pinellas County Connection TV; whereupon, she noted that the influx of island residents impacted by the storms is expected to continue for several months. Mr. Woodard related that 91 percent of Puerto Rico is still without power, accounting for 1.4 million residents; and that officials expect to have only 75 percent of the power grid restored by the end of December.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEY

20. Proposed settlement in the case of Keith Soisson v. Pinellas County; Workers' Compensation, Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims Case Numbers 17-010671SLR, 17-019474SLR, 17-019476SLR.

Settlement approved in accordance with the confidential memorandum dated October 17, 2017.

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

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

21. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Donna Pitman and Frank Owen v. Lake Placid Park, Inc.; HUD Case No. 04-17-7118-8; PC Case No. 17-016 - alleged housing discrimination.

Outside counsel authorized to initiate litigation on behalf of the plaintiffs through the existing agreements with Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc. or Bay Area Legal Services, Inc.

Attorney White indicated that the case is being brought forward following an investigation and finding of reasonable cause by the Office of Human Rights and relates to allegations of housing discrimination involving a service animal.

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

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

22. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Marcus Adams; Pinellas County Animal Services Case No. C04527750 - animal abuse matter.

Attorney White reported that due to extreme conditions of animal abuse that were observed, litigation was filed, and the matter is before the Board for ratification; whereupon, she explained that Animal Services staff took the animal in question into custody; and that a hearing was scheduled for Friday, but as the defendant in the matter surrendered custody of the dog prior to the hearing, the matter has been resolved.



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

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

**23. County Attorney Miscellaneous:**  
- Potential Opioid Litigation

Attorney White introduced new Assistant County Attorney Jacina Haston, relating that she was most recently Director of the Florida Bar's Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism, and Chairman Long welcomed her.

Thereupon, Attorney White discussed the growing national trend of state and local governments filing lawsuits against various parties related to the opioid epidemic and presented a potential course of action for the County, factoring in the following considerations:

- Lawsuits that are being filed by the Department of Justice are enforcement cases. Those being filed by local governments are civil actions against drug manufacturers, distributors, and other parties and will attempt to recover monetary damages.
- All cases involving local governments are in the early stages of litigation, so there is no track record of success or failure.
- Litigation would be parallel to the activities of the Pinellas Opioid Task Force, which is due to issue recommendations by the end of the year on the best ways for the County to deal with the crisis.
- If a local government is going to pursue litigation, it is better to do so sooner rather than later. Still, the County should take a reasoned and measured approach.

Noting that the next step in pursuing litigation would be to send a solicitation for bids to outside law firms that might be interested in representing the County, Attorney White requested direction from the Board as to whether it wants to move forward now or discuss the matter further at a future date, relating that if the process is initiated now, the County Attorney's Office may be able to present the Board with a contract for legal services at its final meeting of the year on December 12.

Discussion ensued, and Chairman Long expressed her desire to move forward with the solicitation, citing the grave concerns pertaining to the opioid epidemic expressed by Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Medical Director Dr. Ulyee Choe in a presentation to the Board and strong commentary by local media. In response, Commissioners Welch, Justice, Gerard, and Eggers indicated that they would need additional information and further discussion before authorizing a solicitation.

Responding to queries by Commissioners Morrone and Gerard and comments by Chairman Long, Attorney White indicated that the Florida Association of Counties is not taking a role in litigation other than to help facilitate group discussion; that some multi-district litigation has been filed in the federal courts; that an outside law firm would represent the County on a contingency basis; that filing litigation opens up the risk of a frivolous lawsuit claim; and that the causes of action that have been advanced thus far include public nuisance, Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act, unjust enrichment, and conspiracy.

Following additional discussion in which Chairman Long referenced concerns about the opioid-related deaths expressed by District Six Medical Examiner Dr. Jon Thogmartin, Mr. Woodard acknowledged the Board's consensus on the need for additional discourse and indicated that he would schedule the topic for discussion at the Board's workshop on October 24.

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

### 24. County Administrator Reports:

- Penny for Pinellas update
- Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan Guiding Principles

#### Penny for Pinellas Update

Marketing and Communications Director Barbra Hernandez reported that her department has been conducting presentations and using social media to educate and inform local citizens regarding the importance of the Penny for Pinellas, and discussed how brochures are being translated into different languages and also into braille; whereupon, she conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Penny for Pinellas-Building a Better Pinellas*, a copy of which has been made a part of the record, and referring to a slide titled *Penny Facts*, provided the following information:

- One-percent sales tax, not a new tax
- One-third paid for by visitors and tourists
- Projects do not rely on property taxes
- Not collected on groceries or medications
- November 7, 2017 - Penny renewal vote

Ms. Hernandez discussed what is funded by the Penny and what is funded by local property taxes, indicating that the Penny supports capital projects while local property taxes fund essential services, and provided further information regarding outreach and public engagement efforts; whereupon, she provided information regarding past, present, and proposed projects relating to the following five Penny Project Categories:

- Safe, Secure Community
- Roads, Bridges and Trails
- Water Quality, Flood and Sewer Spill Prevention
- Preserving Parks and Our Environment
- Community Vitality

Ms. Hernandez reported that local residents have been eager to learn more about the Penny; and that they have expressed appreciation regarding outreach efforts and information provided in order to make informed decisions regarding the November 7 referendum. In response to queries by Commissioner Seel, Ms. Hernandez provided information regarding where signage has been placed throughout the county to reiterate accountability of the Penny, noting that local fire stations and some municipalities are putting up similar signage.

Commissioner Morroni related that he has been answering questions from opponents of the Penny regarding the timing of the referendum, and in response to his comments and queries, Mr. Woodard provided information regarding why the referendum takes place approximately three years prior to the sunset of the current Penny; whereupon, Commissioner Morroni discussed how using current dollars saves the taxpayers money, adding that visitors and tourists pay one-third of the tax.

#### Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan Guiding Principles

Mr. Woodard provided background information regarding the item, relating that it was discussed by the members several months ago; that it relates to the Guiding Principles of the Comprehensive Plan; and that the intent is to modify and amend the Plan with the goal of transforming Pinellas County from a greenbelt community to one that is focused on redevelopment.

Planning Department Principal Planner Rebecca Stonefield conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! County Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Update*, a copy of which has been made a part of the record, and discussed how the project will align with the Strategic Plan. She provided background information regarding the Plan, reporting that its last major update was in 2008; that it contains over 1,100 policies; that its size makes it user unfriendly; and that it is appropriate to revise some policies at the present time; whereupon, she indicated that the objective is to evaluate and update the Comprehensive Plan with an emphasis toward redevelopment, in a format that is user friendly and addresses the changing needs of the County.

Ms. Stonefield presented the following information relating to the Multiphased Evaluation Process:

- Policy Consolidation (Results-Neutral)
  - Clear language; more manageable implementation
- Guiding Principles (Vision Element)
  - Introductory element; establishes foundation for policies
- Comprehensive Plan Update
  - Address emerging issues; user friendly

Ms. Stonefield related that her office is currently finalizing a draft document comprised of eight Guiding Principles; and that they relate to the following:

- Economic, Social, and Environmental Viability
- Healthy Communities
- Strong Local Economy
- Housing Options
- Multimodal Transportation
- Natural Resources
- Best Practices
- Responsible Regionalism

Ms. Stonefield indicated that the general public and external stakeholders will be invited to provide input during the process; and that the intended outcome is to have a user-friendly, streamlined document that addresses emerging issues; whereupon, she provided a timeframe for moving forward, and Mr. Woodard provided further information regarding next steps, indicating that he will be providing the members and local partners a draft document of the Guiding Principles.

In response to queries by Commissioners Morroni and Welch, Mr. Woodard indicated that interest has been expressed by city managers and staff to revise the Comprehensive Plan; and that large and small cities, including the beach communities, are interested in changes that incentivize redevelopment. Ms. Stonefield related that one consultant from the University of Florida has been engaged to assist with the project; and that it is currently unknown if additional consultants will be needed; whereupon, she discussed the job duties of staff and the consultant.

In response to comments and queries by Commissioner Seel, Ms. Stonefield related that the overall focus of any update to the Comprehensive Plan will take into account redevelopment; and that Forward Pinellas will provide input during the process; whereupon, she discussed similarities between Pinellas by Design and the future Comprehensive Plan.

Planning Director Renea Vincent presented information relating to the Land Development Code, indicating that a solid draft document has been reviewed by all departments; that staff is about halfway through compiling department comments; and that the document will likely be presented to the members in late spring/early summer 2018; whereupon, Mr. Woodard related that it is important that the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan are not in conflict; and that the process takes time.

## CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

### 25. Public Comment

Greg Pound, Largo, re Penny for Pinellas; families of Pinellas; drugs  
Jose L. Coppen, Indian Rocks Beach, re Sand Key beach nourishment  
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, County discredits itself

## COUNTY COMMISSIONION

26. Approval of an appointment to the Pinellas County Educational Facilities Authority for a five-year term (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Noreen Hodges reappointed following a ballot vote.

27. County Commission Board Reports and Miscellaneous Items:  
- Fiscal Year 2018 Legislative Priorities  
- Local Bill drafts for Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board (PCCLB)

Fiscal Year 2018 Legislative Priorities

Special Assistant to the County Administrator Canaan McCaslin referred to a chart titled *Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners Draft 2018 Legislative Program*, a copy of which has been made a part of the record, and indicated that he has provided an electronic copy to each of the members. He related that in response to discussion that took place last month, he has updated last year's priorities, added items that are being proposed, and provided information regarding appropriations requests; whereupon, he indicated that the item would be brought before the members for formal adoption at the October 31 BCC meeting; and that a presentation would be conducted by the law firm of Dean Mead at that time, and requested input by the members.

In response to comments and queries by Commissioner Eggers, Chairman Long reported that at the next Tourist Development Council (TDC) work session, the majority of the discussion will pertain to the Tourist Development Tax also known as the Bed Tax; and that the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority Board has been considering the possibility of opening up bed tax dollars for tourism transit solutions. She related that even though the Board has a policy that opposes spending those dollars on other uses, Representative Chris Sprowls has indicated that he and Speaker Richard Corcoran intend to rewrite the statute this year, and requested that the members consider the implications of that action; whereupon, she indicated that she could make a strong argument in favor of dedicating a portion of the sixth cent for tourist transit solutions.

Commissioner Morrone stated that he is not in favor of opening up the bed tax; that the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) is supposed to be providing transportation for residents and tourists; and that PSTA needs to take appropriate measures to fund its operations. Following brief discussion regarding state statute, Commissioners Morrone, Welch, and Seel indicated that the current position of opposing revisions to the bed tax should remain for the present time.

During discussion, Commissioner Welch related that spirited conversation had taken place regarding the percentage allocation of bed tax dollars; that a 60-percent operating and 40-percent capital breakdown was finally agreed to; and that due to the challenges of deciding on those ratios, he considers the 60-percent portion to be untouchable, and

Commissioner Seel agreed; whereupon, Chairman Long directed that Mr. McCaslin prioritize the list of appropriations requests, indicating that various factors will be impacting the state budget, including a projected \$145 million deficit.

#### Local Bill Drafts for Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board

Mr. McCaslin referred to a chart titled *Pinellas Construction Licensing Board Legislation Comparison*, a copy of which has been made a part of the record, indicating that it summarizes five bills that have been filed with the Chairman of the Legislative Delegation; that the first column comprises a variety of issues that had arisen and provisions crafted during bill discussions; and that the remaining columns indicate whether those matters have or have not been included in the various bills that are being sponsored; whereupon, he reviewed the line items with the members.

Mr. McCaslin related that he has compiled a chart listing the two bills that most closely match viewpoints previously expressed by the members; and that one bill is being sponsored by Representative Ben Diamond and the other by Senators Darryl Rouson and Jeff Brandes. Referring to a chart titled *PCCLB Draft Bill Gaps*, Mr. McCaslin reviewed the bills, pointed out gaps contained in each, and discussed questions to be considered, and in response to queries by Commissioner Eggers, he presented information with respect to the legislative process.

In response to further queries by Commissioner Eggers, Attorney White provided information regarding the Special Act and discussed its significance as it relates to the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board, indicating that one of the bills allows for its dissolution; whereupon, PCCLB Interim Executive Director Gay Lancaster provided a brief history of the organization, relating that pros and cons exist whether it is independently managed or governed by the BCC; that levels of oversight are possible within the context of an independent organization; and that her office has not provided public comment on any of the bills.

In response to queries by Commissioner Welch, Ms. Lancaster reported that the State has not responded to her request for funding; and that while the Licensing Board is in better financial shape due to the Sheriff's enforcement assistance and better management of collections, a bridge loan could still be necessary. Chairman Long indicated that she and Ms. Lancaster recently discussed opportunities to educate local citizens and unlicensed contractors regarding the Licensing Board, and Commissioner Seel related that whatever avenue the members ultimately decide to pursue, the legal consequences and Charter consequences need to be clearly understood; and that she is apprehensive about bringing the organization under the control of County Government.

#### Substitute and Alternate Canvassing Board Member Appointments

Chairman Long announced that Herb Polson and Calvin Harris have been appointed substitute and alternate Canvassing Board members for the Board of County Commissioners, respectively, for the November 7, 2017 election.

Commissioner Morroni

- Stated that the Human Rights Board will meet in November.
- Reported that Florida Department of Transportation representatives attended the October Forward Pinellas meeting and discussed District priorities and the upcoming Howard Frankland Bridge project; and that the members approved a new grant program to incentivize planning that reinforces the principles of the Countywide Plan.

Commissioner Eggers

- Indicated that he was unable to attend the most recent Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area Leadership Group meeting; that he has provided a summary to the members and encourages them to review the information; and that several issues were raised regarding the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan.
- Requested that the County Administrator provide a timeframe regarding when discussion will take place relating to Hurricane Irma and lessons learned, indicating that part of the discussion should include the prospect of waiving the bed tax and other fees during an emergency. Mr. Woodard indicated that an analysis would likely take place within the next 60 days; and that even though there could be legal complications with respect to the waiving of fees, his office will identify those challenges.
- Reported that Director of Utilities Randi Kim has provided a summary of reclaimed water issues and water quality improvements that are taking place at Tampa Bay Water; that he has obtained a legal perspective on the matter from Attorney White; and that he has requested that a white paper be provided regarding the matter, and Mr. Woodard and Chairman Long provided input.
- Related that he recently spoke with Pinellas County School Board Superintendent Michael Grego and Associate Superintendent for Operational Services Clint Herbic regarding their perspective on lessons learned following Hurricane Irma; and that he will provide a summary sheet to the members regarding the conversation.
- Discussed using a portion of the remaining BP oil spill settlement dollars to assist the Tarpon Springs Shepherd Center in purchasing a generator. He noted that the generator would be used to ensure the operation of refrigerators in the event of a power outage; and that the cost would likely be between \$3,000 and \$5,000, and following brief discussion, related that he would pursue the matter and bring a formal request to a future meeting.

Commissioner Welch

- Expressed his condolences to the family of Bill Griffiths, noting that he had recently passed away; that he had served in the U.S. Army for 30 years; and that he had been a legislative liaison and veteran representative on the WorkNet Pinellas Board of Directors.
- Thanked staff for their hard work with regard to the Penny for Pinellas, relating that he had conducted a Penny presentation at the St. Petersburg Downtown Neighborhood Association.
- Related that the Florida Association of Counties is hosting conference calls regarding the relocation of Puerto Rico residents following Hurricane Maria; that those conversations will be ongoing and relate to issues of housing and support; and that due to the difficulty of restoring infrastructure on the island, more evacuees could arrive in Florida with increased impacts to the state:

Commissioner Justice

- Reported that Ann Marie Winter, Executive Director, Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, will conduct a presentation at the November 28 BCC meeting.
- Related that the members voted on a funding formula at the last Gulf Consortium meeting; and that the next meeting will be held on November 15 in Sarasota.
- Stated that the Marketing and Communications Department put out a press release today marking the one-year anniversary of the Wastewater/Stormwater Task Force.
- Noted that there are ten qualified interviewees for the Tampa Bay Estuary Program Executive Director position.
- Expressed appreciation to Christopher Moore and his Planning Department team for helping to put together the Historic Preservation Summit in Tarpon Springs.

Commissioner See!

- Reported that the Juvenile Welfare Board has been having discussions regarding the spending of reserve monies; that no decision has been made as of yet; and that she will provide the members materials regarding the matter.
- Stated that robust discussion took place during yesterday's Homeless Leadership Board meeting.

Commissioner Gerard

- Related that the Pinellas County Child Care Licensing Board will likely make a decision by Friday regarding its new Executive Director.



- Noted that the Value Adjustment Board met on October 3 for its organizing meeting; and that the next meeting will take place in March 2018.
- Indicated that Reta Newman, Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory, will be speaking to the Youth Advisory Committee.
- Reported that she attended the dedication ceremony for Fire Station No. 43.
- Related that she attended two domestic violence awareness events during the week; and that she has been to several Penny for Pinellas presentations throughout the county.
- Requested that the County Administrator provide an update regarding the removal of storm debris. Mr. Woodard discussed efforts that have been undertaken to remove debris, indicating that a first pass should be completed by the end of the month; and that illegal dumping has been hampering those first pass efforts, and provided information relating to Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement.

#### Chairman Long

- Stated that the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) Board held a policy meeting earlier in the day; and that a workshop will take place on October 27.
- Reported that a County Attorney Oversight Committee meeting is currently being scheduled in order for the CAOC members to finalize Attorney White's probationary status and preliminary evaluation; and that she is tentatively trying to schedule the meeting for December 5.
- Related that the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority received a \$1 million federal grant for the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit line.
- Noted that the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council will hold a Hurricane Summit at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg from 9:00 A.M. until Noon on Monday, November 13.
- Indicated that the Tourist Development Council will be approving the next cycle of Elite Event Funding at tomorrow's meeting; and that she will be providing the members information regarding Capital Funding Guidelines and Elite Event Funding and encouraged them to review the materials.
- Referred to an article in the *Tampa Bay Times* and requested that the County Administrator discuss how Pinellas County compares with the rest of the state with regard to emergency preparedness. Mr. Woodard indicated that even though in his opinion the County compares favorably, his office is engaging a third party to conduct an independent review; and that he will share the results once they become available.

ADJOURNMENT - 5:40 P.M.

  
Chairman

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By   
Deputy Clerk

