

Pinellas County

*312520 Ulmerton Road
Largo, FL 33774*



Minutes - Final

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

9:30 A.M.

Budget Information Session

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; Commissioner Rene Flowers; Commissioner Pat Gerard; Commissioner Janet Long; Commissioner Kathleen Peters; and Commissioner Karen Williams Seel

Not Present: Vice-Chair Charlie Justice

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; and Shirley Westfall, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

Chair Eggers called the meeting to order; whereupon, Mr. Burton indicated that today is a Budget Information Session for the courts and constitutional officers.

Budget summary documents pertaining to each presentation and copies of all PowerPoint presentations provided to the Clerk's Office have been made a part of the record.

1. Article V (Information Only)

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Budget and Financial Management Analyst Jim Abernathy referred to documents titled *Article V and Court Support Overview* and *Article V and Court Support*, and highlighted budget expenditures and revenues for various court services for Fiscal Year 2021.

2. State Attorney

State Attorney Bruce Bartlett thanked the County for their rapid response in securing a safe workplace during the pandemic which allowed offices to remain open. He stated that the State Attorney's overall budget request is \$239,190; a decrease of 16.7% from the prior year.

3. Judiciary

Sixth Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Anthony Rondolino provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022) budget request including staffing, projects, programs, revenue and expenses; and indicated that the budget request includes a 1% increase over the previous fiscal year, for a total of \$5.2 million.

Judge Rondolino related the laudable changes that State Attorney Bartlett has implemented including technology upgrades, a new DUI diversion program, and a proposal for a new Mental Health Court.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Long, Judge Rondolino updated the Board on the renovation at the Judicial Court building in St. Petersburg; whereupon, Mr. Burton related that the contractor has procedures in place regarding asbestos; and that further testing was

conducted by a third party.

Judge Rondolino thanked the County for their commendable assistance during the pandemic, the reconstruction process, and the Penny for Pinellas program.

4. Public Defender

Public Defender Sarah Mollo expressed her appreciation to County staff for the help received in preparing the budget and looks forward to a future, united in a common goal, of serving the citizens of Pinellas County in an innovative and efficient manner while being fiscally conservative. She introduced her staff and was pleased to announce that her Fiscal Year 2022 budget was below target.

Deviating from the agenda, Chair Eggers indicated that the Board would hear from the County Attorney at this time.

6. County Attorney

Attorney White provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2022 budget request and indicated the largest variable is for outside counsel that is required when seeking a specialized expertise or if a conflict of interest exists. Responding to a query by Chair Eggers, Attorney White related that several county attorneys have left employment due to retirement, personal reasons, or to pursue an increase in salary in the private sector. She stated that although the county cannot compete with private sector salaries, she has requested that Human Resources review entry level attorney pay ranges; and overall feels she has the best performing and talented office in her 25 years with the County.

5. Pinellas County Property Appraiser

Pinellas County Property Appraiser Mike Twitty provided a brief overview of the Fiscal Year 2022 budget request and indicated an it includes an increase of 2.5%; that certain funds shifted as a result of transferring an IT position to BTS; and that over the past year staff was able to increase process improvements to include approving 80% of homestead applications within 48 hours. Mr. Twitty informed the Board that a \$2.5 million dollar camera system will be requested within the next several years.

7. General Government

Office of Management and Budget Countywide Division Director Cecilia McCorkell, with input by Mr. Burton, referred to various documents and provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2022 General Fund. She indicated that the beginning fund balance reflects an increase of \$66.5 million, and that departments have been instructed to institute efficiencies and request no increase. Mr. Burton related that as a result of the pandemic, expenditures have decreased, efficiencies have increased, and the excess funds will be utilized to reduce the burden on taxpayers.

Responding to queries and concerns of the members, Ms. McCorkell and Mr. Burton provided a status update and other information pertaining to various projects, fund balances, transfers, revenues, reserves, and consultants.

Ms. McCorkell provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2022 General Government budget request, indicating that it covers a compilation of various expenditures that benefits most departments and agencies. Responding to queries and the concerns of the members, Mr. Burton provided an update on information pertaining to consultants, county properties, buildings, and renovations.

Chair Eggers indicated that the presentation from the Office of Management and Budget, originally scheduled for a later session, would be heard at this time.

Office of Management & Budget

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Countywide Division Director Cecilia McCorkell referred to various documents and provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2022 budget request. She indicated several software projects have been implemented including Socrata, a new budget software; Questica, a performance management tool; and that Accela and Cityworks have been updated to increase performance.

Responding to queries and concerns of the members, Mr. Burton provided an update on the information pertaining to classifications and the compensation study.

OMB Manager Aubrey Phillips provided an update on initiatives including internal customer surveys, engagement strategies, project plans, and the possible transition to a consolidated County Customer Service Center.

Commissioner Seel expressed recognition and appreciation to the entire OMB staff and the leadership of Bill Berger who will be retiring soon; whereupon, Mr. Berger stated that it is a team effort and thanked Mr. Burton for giving his staff the opportunity to work with the public.

Meeting Recessed: 11:34 AM

Meeting Reconvened: 12:08 PM

8. Governmental Capital Improvement Program (including Penny for Pinellas)

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Manager Jacqueline Trainer and OMB Analyst Andrew Brown referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Capital Improvement Program (CIP) FY22-FY27* and provided a program overview. Ms. Trainer indicated that the program covers projects such as roads, bridges, drainage, beach nourishment, parks, facilities, radio towers, and fire stations, which are funded primarily by the Penny for Pinellas infrastructure sales surtax; that the six-year program is updated annually; and that

the first year must be balanced as part of the approved budget; whereupon they discussed the following:

- Funding sources
- The proposed Capital Fund budget and forecast
- Penny-funded project requests
- 10-Year forecast
- County Penny forecast and balancing strategies

Mr. Brown indicated that fuel tax revenue is driven by gallons consumed and not by the price of gasoline; and in response to query by Chair Eggers, he stated the prioritization process is titled *Portfolio Project Management* and will provide additional information to the Board.

Responding to queries and concerns of the members, Messrs. Burton and Brown and Ms. Trainer provided a status update and other information pertaining to various projects, prioritization, commitments to residents, transportation, and construction estimates. Upon request by Commissioner Seel, staff will remove *commissioner district* from the report and instead list *project location*.

ADJOURNMENT - 12:59 P.M.