

Pinellas County

*333 Chestnut Street, Palm Room
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

9:30 A.M.

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting

Board of County Commissioners

*Brian Scott, Chair
Dave Eggers, Vice-Chair
René Flowers
Chris Latvala
Vince Nowicki
Kathleen Peters
Chris Scherer*

ROLL CALL - 9:30 A.M.

Present: 6 - Chair Brian Scott, Vice-Chair Dave Eggers, Commissioner René Flowers, Commissioner Chris Latvala, Commissioner Vince Nowicki, and Commissioner Kathleen Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Chris Scherer

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Don Crowell, Chief Assistant County Attorney; Jeanette Phillips, Finance Division Chief Deputy Director; and Katie Poviones, Senior Board Records Specialist, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. National Safe Boating Week Proclamation:
 - Karen Miller, Flotilla Commander, USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 11-1

Chair Scott invited Commander Miller to join him at the podium and read a proclamation recognizing May 17 through 23, 2025, as National Safe Boating Week; whereupon, Commander Miller provided brief comments.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

2. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

Elizabeth Anderson, Clearwater
Ron Walker, Largo
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor
Ellsworth Williams, St. Petersburg (submitted documents)
David Belt, Clearwater
Kevin Arruda, Largo

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.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Countywide Planning Authority

3. Case No. 25-02 - City of Tarpon Springs (continued from March 25, 2025)
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Employment to Industrial, regarding 0.375 acre more or less, located at 249 and 251 Anclote Road.

Ordinance No. 25-11 adopted, approving Case No. CW 25-02. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, and the Planners Advisory Committee recommended approval of the amendment. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

4. Amendment by resolution supplementing the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget recognizing unanticipated fund balance, recognizing unanticipated revenue, and realigning reserves for requesting departments and constitutional offices.

Resolution No. 25-36 adopted, recognizing unanticipated fund balance and revenue and realigning reserves, as outlined in the Staff Report. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

5. Resolution approving the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Action Plan and authorizing actions related to the administration and operation of the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Grant programs.

Resolution No. 25-37 adopted, approving the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan, authorizing submittal to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and authorizing various actions, as set forth in the Staff Report. No correspondence has been received.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Assistant to the County Administrator Matthew Spoor displayed the County's schedule for launching assistance programs and indicated that staff has remained on schedule since February 6. He related that the Draft Action Plan will be submitted to HUD prior to the June 1 deadline; and that it has been published to the County's website; whereupon, he referenced a document titled *Pinellas Recovers CDBG-DR Outreach Summary* and provided statistical information related to community engagement efforts.

Horne Director Ryan Flanery provided information regarding three modifications made to the Draft Action Plan since the April 17 presentation to the Board, indicating that the modifications pertain to disaster relief payments, the homebuyer assistance program, and non-federal match eligible activity.

In response to comments by Commissioner Flowers, Mr. Burton discussed the bid process and indicated that case management will be essential for guiding residents through the eligibility determination process.

Responding to comments and a query by Commissioner Latvala, Mr. Flanery, with input by Messrs. Burton and Spoor, discussed the proposed use of the CDBG-DR funding and indicated that 70% of the total award amount must be used for low-to-moderate income (LMI) households; and that a portion of the award would be set aside for non-LMI, urgent need households earning up to 120% of the Area Median Income.

Thereupon, in response to comments by Commissioner Eggers related to mobile home parks impacted by the storms, Building and Development Review Services Director Kevin McAndrew, with input by Mr. Burton, discussed outreach conducted to connect with residents of mobile home parks.

At the request of Mr. Burton, Mr. McAndrew provided details regarding feedback received from mobile home park residents, which guided staff's adaptive and flexible approach while maintaining minimum standards of compliance; whereupon, he indicated that flexibilities initiated by the feedback resulted in the reversal and/or removal of 175 mobile home units from the substantial damage pool.

In response to comments and queries by Commissioner Eggers and Chair Scott, Mr. McAndrew, with input by Mr. Burton, discussed various details regarding the impacted mobile home parks, including the total number of substantial damage assessments and reversals. Mr. McAndrew also indicated that the compliance period for mobile home parks was extended through June 1, 2026; whereupon, Mr. Spoor discussed the timeline for next steps related to the CDBG-DR Draft Action Plan.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Flanery, with input by Mr. Burton, provided details pertaining to mobile home parks, including ownership, assistance, and future programs available to residents.

Upon the Chair's call for public comment, David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, appeared and expressed his concerns.

Mr. Spoor, with input by Mr. Burton, clarified that staff is requesting approval of the proposed resolution, authorization for the County Administrator to make any non-substantial changes, and authorization for the Chair to execute an agreement with HUD; whereupon, in response to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Spoor indicated that the CDBG-DR public participation plan will be presented to the Board at its May 20, 2025, meeting.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 6 through 9

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the Consent Agenda items be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

6. Minutes of the regular meetings held March 25 and April 8, 2025

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

7. Vouchers and bills paid from March 16 through April 12, 2025

Period - March 16 through March 22, 2025

Accounts Payable - \$24,582,454.85

Payroll - None

Period - March 23 through March 29, 2025

Accounts Payable - \$54,128,343.12

Payroll - \$5,066,029.17

Period - March 30 through April 5, 2025

Accounts Payable - \$83,825,111.18

Payroll - None

Period - April 6 through April 12, 2025

Accounts Payable - \$20,826,242.92

Payroll - \$4,944,056.24

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Public Works

8. Ranking of firms and agreement with Kisinger Campo & Associates Corp for the East Lake Road Bridges Over Brooker Creek - Professional Design Services.

(Contract 24-0351-RFP-CCNA) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$1,508,407.33. Agreement effective for 1,491 days from the date of Notice to Proceed.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Utilities

9. Award of bid to Eau Gallie Electric, Inc. for the construction of the South Cross Bayou Advanced Water Reclamation Facility electrical switchgear replacement.

Contract 25-0073-ITB-C awarded to Eau Gallie Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$1,726,000.00 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. All work to be completed within 450 consecutive calendar days.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Airport

10. Project application to the Federal Aviation Administration and delegation of authority to accept Federal Aviation Administration Fiscal Year 2025 Funds - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Airport Infrastructure Grant - St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport

Project application approved, requesting \$4,914,957.00 from the Federal Aviation Administration. Authority delegated to Chair Scott to sign the Grant Agreement upon its receipt.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

County Administrator

11. Municipal Services Taxing Unit Special Project funding for the Palm Harbor Little League Safety Netting Project.

Funding request approved in a one-time amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

12. Service Lighting Agreement with Duke Energy for the Downtown Palm Harbor Street Lighting District.

Agreement approved, as outlined in the Staff Report. Estimated one-time cost for construction of infrastructure is \$400,000.00. Estimated first-year cost for maintenance, rental, and energy is approximately \$40,948.80.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

Convention and Visitors Bureau

13. Resolution approving the use of Tourist Development Tax funds for capital improvements to the Clearwater Beach Municipal Marina.

Resolution No. 25-38 approved, as outlined in the Staff Report, and approval granted to make a legislative finding that the Clearwater Municipal Marina is needed to increase tourist-related business activities in the County.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

Housing & Community Development

14. Historic Preservation Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for a property in the City of St. Petersburg.

Resolution No. 25-39 adopted, authorizing a County historic preservation ad valorem tax exemption and execution of the associated covenants for the property located at 201 21st Avenue North in the City of St. Petersburg. The tax exemption applies only to the increase in the value of improvements after rehabilitation, as determined by the Pinellas County Property Appraiser, and is for a period of ten years.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

Public Works

15. Award of bid to Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc. for Indian Rocks Road Phase 2B from Kent Drive to 8th Avenue Southwest sidewalk and drainage improvements.

Contract No. 24-0658-ITB-C awarded in the amount of \$5,616,644.00 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received. All work to be completed within 540 consecutive calendar days.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

16. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program applications with the Florida Division of Emergency Management for the replacement of span wire supported traffic signals and modification of traffic control cabinets to mitigate storm impacts.

(PID 006200A) Grant program applications approved. Total project cost, \$10,972,000.00 (anticipated grant funding, \$8,229,000.00). Required County match, \$2,743,000.00.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

Utilities**17. Resolution adopting the updated Utilities Policy Manual.**

Resolution No. 25-40 approved, adopting the updated Utilities Policy Manual and allowing for the update and consolidation of current practices, services, and configuration of the County Utilities Department.

In response to queries by Commissioners Nowicki and Eggers, Utilities Director Jeremy Waugh provided information regarding procedures related to reclaimed water service disconnection.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

18. Resolution for the updated Enforcement Response Plan for the Utilities Department Industrial Pretreatment Program.

Resolution No. 25-41 approved, updating the Enforcement Response Plan for the Utilities Department Industrial Pretreatment Program, as outlined in the Staff Report.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

19. Third Amendment to the Agreement with Halff Associates, Inc. for professional engineering design services associated with the Manufactured Home Communities Wastewater Collection Systems improvement project funded by the Restore Act.

(Contract No. 22-0056-NC) Amendment approved, increasing the contract amount by \$334,099.00 for a revised not-to-exceed expenditure of \$2,443,551.75 and amending the agreement to include Attachment A - Additional Scope of Services for construction phase services. Agreement effective through March 31, 2027.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

COUNTY ATTORNEY

20. County Attorney Reports - None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

21. County Administrator ReportsMeeting with Tampa International Airport staff

Mr. Burton indicated that he and Chair Scott met with Tampa International Airport staff.

Discussion items from the recent Tri-County Board of County Commission meeting

Mr. Burton provided brief comments regarding the recent Tri-County Board of County Commission meeting and indicated that staff is following up on discussion items proposed at the meeting.

Budget meetings

Mr. Burton indicated that budget meetings with departments, Constitutional Officers, and Appointing Authorities are ongoing; whereupon, he noted that, in anticipation of budget information sessions in June, staff is working through challenges related to increased costs.

Substantial damage and permitting updates

Building and Development Review Services Director Kevin McAndrew provided statistical information related to substantial damage assessment, reassessment, and appeals processes; whereupon, he provided details related to permitting.

COUNTY COMMISSION

22. County Commission New Business:

Pertinent and timely Committee/Board updates, policy considerations, administrative/procedural considerations, and other new business.

The Commissioners reported on the activities of their assigned boards and committees and discussed various topics, as follows:

Commissioner Latvala

- Roundtable discussion with Clearwater Mayor Bruce Rector and North Carolina Congressman David Rouzer regarding beach nourishment and transportation
- Clearwater for Youth (CFY) Banquet on the Beach

- LiFT Your Spirits at the Derby
- Presentation of 100th anniversary proclamation to Nitram Masonic Lodge No. 188
- Retirement celebration for Sixth Circuit Judge George M. Jirotko
- Recognition of Juvenile Welfare Board CEO Beth Houghton's retirement
- Passing of former Dunedin Mayor Manny Koutsourais

Commissioner Peters

- Tour of Draper Laboratory
- Pinellas Defense Networking Forum
- Speaking engagement with Girls Scouts of the USA members
- 50th Remembrance of the Fall of The Republic of Vietnam at Wounded Warriors Abilities Ranch

Commissioner Nowicki

- Conversation with Senator Rick Scott regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Yom HaShoah: Holocaust Remembrance Day at the James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art
- Palm Harbor Library summer reading preview session
- 50th Remembrance of the Fall of The Republic of Vietnam at Wounded Warriors Abilities Ranch
- Tour of All About Puppies
- Black April Fall of Saigon Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park and Museum
- Employee Appreciation Picnic
- Tri-County Board of County Commission (BCC) meeting
- Upcoming Visit St. Pete-Clearwater Besties Awards
- Upcoming celebration of life ceremony for Lieutenant Colonel Bill Henderson

Commissioner Flowers

- CFY Banquet on the Beach
- Dedication of Shell Dash Townhomes with Habitat for Humanity Tampa Bay Gulfside
- Cynthia Erivo with the Florida Orchestra concert
- Congratulations to daughter Kyesha Robinson for receiving an award from The Gathering of Women Inc.
- Upcoming St. Petersburg Collegiate High Schools graduation
- Congratulations to Executive Aide Darlina Herring's granddaughter for graduating from Florida A&M University with her doctorate degree in nursing
- Appreciation to students for staying safe during prom events
- Upcoming St. Pete Pitch Night hosted by St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce
- Upcoming Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Prayer Breakfast
- National Day of Prayer gathering hosted by Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

- Upcoming Regional Resiliency Summit
- Upcoming National Association of Counties Justice and Public Safety Policy Steering Committee meeting
- St. Pete Youth Farm mulberry tree giveaway
- Florida Association of Counties legislative updates
- Tampa Bay Fair Housing Symposium

Commissioner Eggers

- Appreciation to Animal Services staff for providing a pet store update
- Yom HaShoah: Holocaust Remembrance Day at the James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art
- Palm Harbor Library summer reading preview session
- Appreciation to Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy for her assistance pertaining to an East Lake neighborhood experiencing flooding issues
- Ozona Village Improvement Society annual meeting
- Grand openings of Liquid Provisions and Sightline Gallery at St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport
- Employee Appreciation Picnic
- Appreciation to Ms. Levy for her work regarding tree removal issues in Cobbs Landing
- Great Explorations Children's Museum *Wonders of Wetlands* exhibit ribbon-cutting ceremony sponsored by Tampa Bay Water
- Upcoming Oldsmar Library Site Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Upcoming Forward Pinellas Board Work Session
- Upcoming 35th Annual Pinellas County Fallen Law Enforcement Memorial
- Upcoming Council of North County Neighborhoods meeting
- Appreciation to Commissioner Latvala for attending Judge Jirotko's retirement celebration
- Passing of former Dunedin Mayor Koutsourais and upcoming funeral

Chair Scott indicated that he distributed a memorandum for consideration by the members regarding proclamation requests that have historically been approved unanimously by the Board; whereupon, he explained that advance approval of the proclamations would be more efficient through the elimination of the need to acquire authorization of individual signatures for each request; and that the memorandum does not include requests that will come from the community. Upon Chair Scott's call for a motion, Commissioner Peters made a motion for approval, which was seconded by Commissioner Flowers.

Brief discussion ensued related to the previous postponement of proclamations for the prioritization of hurricane recovery updates, the expected inflow of future requests, and procedures for presenting and approving proclamations.

Commissioner Nowicki indicated that since he was unable to review the memorandum prior to the meeting, he is not comfortable with voting on it at this time; whereupon, he suggested that the members revisit the memorandum in July to provide time to gather a more comprehensive list of proclamations and to acquire more feedback. Further discussion ensued regarding the proclamations included in the memorandum and future additions, procedures for handling proclamations that any member may find objectionable, and the County Commission handbook.

Attorney Crowell indicated that he believes that it would be beneficial to append the proposed memorandum to the County Commission handbook; whereupon, he noted that Commissioner Scherer reached out to inquire as to whether he could respond to Chair Scott's communication regarding the memorandum; that he cautioned Commissioner Scherer from doing so due to Sunshine Law requirements; and that he has no knowledge of Commissioner Scherer's opinion regarding the memorandum.

Commissioner Peters indicated that she will amend her motion to accept the proclamations listed in the memorandum for May and June; and that the members could revisit the remaining proclamations listed in the memorandum at a later meeting; whereupon, Commissioner Flowers confirmed that, as the seconder, she is amenable to the amendment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the proclamations for May and June be approved, as set forth in the memorandum provided by Chair Scott. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Peters

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Nowicki

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Scherer

Commissioner Nowicki noted that he voted in opposition since he has not had time to review the proclamations for May and June.

Thereupon, Chair Scott referenced the after-action report prepared following the hurricanes and indicated that he believes that it could be improved by incorporating a process for acquiring citizen input that is similar to the method utilized for the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Draft Action Plan. He also related that he recommends providing frontline staff with trauma training to prepare them for future mass casualty events. Later in the meeting, discussion ensued regarding various topics related to the upcoming hurricane season, including debris management and coordination with municipalities.

Following discussion, Mr. Burton indicated that Emergency Management Director Cathie Perkins will provide a hurricane update during the May 20 meeting; and that a workshop regarding the after-action plan will be scheduled for a later date.

Chair Scott

- Appreciation to Animal Services Director Jennifer Renner for conducting a debriefing session
- Appreciation to Pinellas County Sheriff's Office deputies for their presence at BCC meetings
- Appreciation to County Administration and Office of Management and Budget staff and Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Ken Burke for timely submission of requested information to the Department of Government Efficiency
- Public hearing in Palm Harbor regarding CDBG-DR funds
- County golf scramble with Visit St. Pete-Clearwater CEO Brian Lowack and Director of Public Relations Jason Latimer
- Pinellas County Animal Services' canine/Commissioner photo shoot
- Speaking engagement at Pinellas Citizen University spring session
- Upcoming Bayou Court ribbon-cutting ceremony
- Upcoming grand opening of Turner Bungalow Collections Exhibit at Heritage Village
- Upcoming Visit St. Pete-Clearwater Besties Awards

ADJOURNMENT - 11:51 A.M.

Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By _____
Deputy Clerk