

Pinellas County

*333 Chestnut Street
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Minutes - Final

Friday, June 13, 2025

9:30 A.M.

Budget Information Session

Palm Room

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

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; and Ashley Pabilonia, Board Reporter

1. Health Department

Presentation and review of the Department's purpose, the budget summary, and budget drivers.

Office of Management and Budget presenter: Toni Merrill, Budget and Financial Management Analyst

Document displayed: *Health Department Support*

Presentation and review of the Department's mission, priorities, Fiscal Year 2025 accomplishments, the budget summary, and capital projects and discussion of school nurse shortages and funding for necessary repairs.

Presenter: Ulyee Choe, Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Director

Input provided by: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator

Document displayed: *Florida Department of Health FY 26 Budget Presentation*

2. Medical Examiner

Presentation and review of the Department's purpose, the budget summary, budget drivers, and user fees.

Office of Management and Budget presenter: Toni Merrill, Budget and Financial Management Analyst

Document displayed: *Medical Examiner*

Presentation and review of the synthetic opioid epidemic, cost comparisons with other Medical Examiner Offices throughout the state, the Forensic Laboratory, and strategies to increase efficiencies and discussion of various topics, including changes in opioid activity, a previous decision package related to wage increases, and the process for replacing a Medical Examiner.

Presenter: Jon Thogmartin, District Six Medical Examiner

Input provided by: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator

Document displayed: *Forensic Science Center*

3. Human Services (and Drug Abuse Trust Fund)

Presentation and review of the budget summary, efficiencies and cost-saving measures, budget drivers, decision packages, and user fees and discussion of funding for the Neighborly Senior Care Network's Meals on Wheels Program and a decision package related to the Sexual Assault Services program provided through Suncoast Center, Inc.

Office of Management and Budget presenter: Toni Merrill, Budget and Financial Management Analyst

Input provided by: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; and Karen Yatchum, Human Services Director

Document displayed: *Human Services*

Presentation and review of topics for discussion, accomplishments, and work plan and discussion of various topics, including marketing for the Care About Me Coordinated Access Model, partnerships, and evaluation of the Pinellas County Health Program.

Presenter: Karen Yatchum, Human Services Director

Input provided by: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator

Meeting Recessed: 11:24 A.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 11:37 A.M.

4. Emergency Management

Presentation and review of the budget summary, efficiencies and cost-saving measures, budget drivers, and a decision package.

Office of Management and Budget presenter: Toni Merrill, Budget and Financial Management Analyst

Document displayed: *Emergency Management*

Presentation and review of accomplishments and discussion of State funding for the web-based Emergency Operations Center.

Presenter: Cathie Perkins, Emergency Management Director

Meeting Recessed: 11:54 A.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 12:30 P.M.

5. Safety and Emergency Services

Presentation and review of the Department's purpose, budget summary, efficiencies and cost-saving measures, budget drivers, decision packages, user fees, and proposed Fire District millage rates and discussion of various topics, including planned integration of the City of Clearwater Police Department's radio system with the County's radio system, reserve funds, and millage rates.

Office of Management and Budget presenter: Toni Merrill, Budget and Financial Management Analyst

Input provided by: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jim Fogarty, Safety and Emergency Services Director; Chris Rose, Office of Management and Budget Director; and Jodie Sechler, Safety and Emergency Services Financial Services Division Director

Documents displayed: *Safety and Emergency Services* and *Proposed Fire District Millage Rates FY26*

Presentation and review of partnerships and accomplishments.

Presenter: Jim Fogarty, Safety and Emergency Services Director

6. Airport

Presentation and review of the budget summary, efficiencies and cost-saving measures, budget drivers, decision packages, user fees, and the Capital Improvement Plan report and discussion of a decision package related to an expansion project.

Office of Management and Budget presenters: James Lewis, Budget and Financial Management Analyst; and Harrison Netburn, County Administration Special Projects Assistant

Input provided by: Thomas Jewsbury, St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport Director

Document displayed: *Airport*

Presentation and review of Fiscal Year 2025 accomplishments and work plan and discussion of various topics, including performance measures, operating expenses and revenues, and land development.

Presenters: Yvette Chin, St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport Deputy Director of Finance and Administration; and Thomas Jewsbury, St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport Director

Input provided by: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; and Chris Rose, Office of Management and Budget Director

7. Building and Development Review Services - including Contractor Licensing Department

Presentation and review of the budget summary, efficiencies and cost-saving measures, budget drivers, decision packages, and user fees.

Office of Management and Budget presenter: Belinda Amundson, Budget and Financial Management Analyst

Document displayed: *Building and Development Review Services*

Presentation and review of Fiscal Year 2025 accomplishments, work plan, and performance measures and discussion of various topics, including a potential alternative for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Substantial Damage Estimator Tool and express permits.

Presenter: Kevin McAndrew, Building and Development Review Services Director

Input provided by: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator

8. Board of County Commissioners

Presentation and review of budget drivers and decision packages and discussion of various topics, including additional funds for travel in Commissioner Flowers' budget, raises granted by the State legislature, and the decision packages.

Office of Management and Budget presenter: Chris Rose, Director

Input provided by: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; and Jewel White, County Attorney

Document displayed: *Board of County Commissioners*

ADJOURNMENT - 2:49 P.M.

Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By _____
Deputy Clerk