

Pinellas County

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



Minutes - Final

Thursday, September 7, 2023

2:00 P.M.

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting

Public Hearings at 6:00 P.M.

Board of County Commissioners

*Janet C. Long, Chair
Kathleen Peters, Vice-Chair
Dave Eggers
René Flowers
Charlie Justice
Chris Latvala
Brian Scott*

ROLL CALL - 2:03 P.M.

Present: 7 - Chair Janet C. Long, Vice-Chair Kathleen Peters, Commissioner Dave Eggers, Commissioner René Flowers, Commissioner Charlie Justice, Commissioner Chris Latvala, and Commissioner Brian Scott

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; Derelynn Revie, Board Records Manager; and Katie Poviones, Senior Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION by Commissioner Kathleen Peters**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. Partner Presentation:
- Charles Carden, General Manager, Tampa Bay Water

Mr. Carden conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Building on 25 Years of Innovative Water Supply Solutions* and provided an overview of the organization, including details regarding the environmental recovery efforts, water demand by member governments, Water Wise savings, projected water supply needs, the supply expansion process, and master water plan update. In response to queries by the members, he provided information regarding deep well injection, reclaimed and potable water, and water sampling.

In response to queries by Chair Long and Commissioner Scott, Mr. Burton indicated that an update on Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch properties and its operations will be provided, and Attorney White indicated that the Florida Supreme Court has not yet issued an opinion in a case regarding the properties; and that it is not unusual for appellate decisions to take some time.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

2. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

Brett McParland, Palm Harbor
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor (submitted documents)

Mr. Burton indicated that his staff will follow up with Mr. McParland regarding his concerns relating to the County's flood vulnerability assessment.

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 3 through 10

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

3. Minutes of the regular meetings held July 18 and August 1, 2023.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

4. Vouchers and bills paid from July 23 through August 12, 2023.

Period July 23 - July 29, 2023

Accounts Payable - \$31,557,021.79

Payroll - None

Period July 30 - August 5, 2023

Accounts Payable - \$52,117,718.29

Payroll - \$5,189,500.43

Period August 6 - August 12, 2023

Accounts Payable - \$17,468,288.86

Payroll - None

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Reports received for filing:

5. Dock Fee Report for the month of July 2023.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

6. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2023-17 dated July 31, 2023 - Audit of Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

7. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2023-18 dated August 4, 2023 - Investigative Review of the Municipal Recycling Reimbursement Grant Program involving the City of Clearwater.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

8. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2023-19 dated August 7, 2023 - Review of 2007 Grand Jury Presentment Recommendations.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

9. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2023-20 dated August 10, 2023 - Inspector General's Observation of the Communications Department's Annual Physical Inventory of Fixed Assets.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Development Review Services

- 10. Plat of Wilds; a private residential subdivision.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Administrative Services

- 11. Agreement with Trane US Inc. for Central Energy Plant maintenance and services.

Contract No. 23-0573-N approved in the not-to-exceed amount of \$760,244.00 with an estimated annual expenditure of \$253,414.66 for a 36-month term. The contract replaces a prior contract.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Convention and Visitors Bureau

- 12. Revisions to the Capital Projects Funding Program Guidelines from the Tourist Development Council.

Revisions approved as outlined in the Staff Report.

Mr. Burton provided information regarding the proposed revisions, indicating that they pertain to project requirements, rating criteria, and evaluation process.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

County Administrator

13. Palm Harbor Historical Society Fiscal Year 2023 Municipal Services Taxing Unit special projects funding request.

Funding request approved in the amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 for the design of entry features, construction documents, and replacement of a door. County Administrator is delegated authority to approve and execute the Palm Harbor Historical Society 2023 Municipal Services Taxing Unit Funding Agreement.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Scott, Mr. Burton, with input by Assistant County Administrator Tom Almonte, advised that once the project design is complete, grants can then be applied for to fund the next project phase.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

14. Palm Harbor Merchants Association Fiscal Year 2023 Municipal Services Taxing Unit special projects funding request.

Funding request approved in the amount of \$18,695.00 for the purchase of two generators, an event tent, 30 barricades, barricade storage cart, and an enclosed trailer. County Administrator is delegated authority to approve and execute the Palm Harbor Merchants Association 2023 Municipal Services Taxing Unit Funding Agreement in the amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Human Services

15. First Option of Renewal with Personal Enrichment Through Mental Health, Inc., to continue supporting operational costs of the designated public crisis stabilization unit and the Pinellas Integrated Care Team.

First Option of Renewal approved providing funding in the amount not to exceed \$2,302,719.00, with \$1,777,719.00 allocated to the Crisis Stabilization Unit and \$525,000.00 allocated to the Pinellas Integrated Care Team.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Management and Budget

16. Grant Funding Agreement with the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management regarding a Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance Grant for disaster relief funding associated with Hurricane Nicole.

Grant Funding Agreement approved for execution in order to receive reimbursement in the requested amount of \$27,901.30, with 75% of funding coming from the federal government and 12.5% from the State.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

17. Resolution establishing the Pinellas County General Fund Reserve Policy at a minimum of 20.8% of recurring revenues.

Resolution No. 23-69 approved.

Commissioner Eggers indicated that the Government Finance Officers Association recommends a reserve level of 16.7%; and that he believes that the County should not reserve a higher amount when there are other available County funds which can be utilized if needed; whereupon, he expressed that he cannot support the resolution.

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

Aye: 4 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Flowers, and Commissioner Justice

Nay: 3 - Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Parks and Conservation Resources

18. Written notice that the County is exercising its option to purchase real property from the Blanche K. "Pip" Whitesell Revocable Trust Agreement.

Mr. Burton requested that the item be pulled from the agenda to allow staff additional time for review.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Clerk of the Circuit Court**19.** Resolution amending the County's Investment Policy.

Resolution No. 23-70 adopted to comply with recent legislative changes related to Florida House Bill 3 and to increase the portfolio limits of Security and Exchange Commission Registered Money Market Funds.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Chief Deputy Director of Finance Jeanette Phillips provided clarifying comments regarding the changes to the policy, including that no investment decisions shall be made based on social, political, or self-interest reasoning.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

COUNTY ATTORNEY

20. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. James J. Gold and/or John J. Sierra - action for foreclosure of Special Magistrate lien.

Initiation of litigation approved.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

21. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Jeffery L. Gray- action for foreclosure of Special Magistrate lien.

Initiation of litigation approved.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

22. Resolution approving early extension of 2023 tax rolls.

Resolution No. 23-71 adopted directing the Property Appraiser to extend the 2023 tax rolls and deliver them to the Tax Collector on or before October 6, 2023, upon authority of Section 197.323, Florida Statutes, and directing the Clerk to deliver the resolution to the Property Appraiser.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

23. County Attorney Reports - None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

24. County Administrator Reports

- Hurricane Idalia damage assessment and recovery efforts
- Hurricane Idalia storm surge impacts on the beaches
- New County Complex figures update

Hurricane Idalia damage assessment and recovery efforts

Mr. Burton indicated that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Florida are helping the County with additional services for individual and rental assistance; that so far, 3,623 residents have applied for individual assistance; that disaster survivor teams are working to update applications in impacted areas; and that FEMA is verifying damages.

Mr. Burton related that staff will coordinate with state and federal inspectors to identify additional disaster recovery center locations; that the public assistance estimate is currently \$22.8 million; that small business and low interest disaster loans are available; and that FEMA is working with the state to schedule a joint preliminary damage assessment for public assistance; whereupon, he noted that staff is coordinating with the Florida Department of Children and Families in impacted zip codes where residents receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits; that staff has identified ten destroyed homes, 821 with major damage, 1,033 with minor damage, and an additional 828 that were affected; that some water-impacted homes also had sewage overflow; and that staff is trying to clarify how to reclassify those homes with regard to damage so that the residents receive the appropriate financial assistance.

Mr. Burton related that County staff is working with the Twin Cities and Mariner Cove mobile home parks which were heavily impacted, pointing out that Mariner Cove had the same issue over five years ago; and that a better long-term resolution is needed; whereupon, he discussed the assistance being provided by various entities.

In response to comments and queries by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Burton indicated that an after-action report will be provided to the Board; whereupon discussion ensued regarding impacts from prior storms, as compared to Idalia.

Hurricane Idalia storm surge impacts on the beaches

Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy presented photographs of various locations and discussed the severe impacts of the storm on the coastline, noting the extensive beach erosion. In response to a query by Commissioner Latvala, she indicated that residents of beach communities are unwilling to sign an easement required by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for beach renourishment based on issues of public access and use, perpetuality of the easements, and personal land rights.

Commissioner Peters discussed taking part in the flyover of the coastline with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department and commented on the damage she saw; whereupon, Mr. Burton noted that he will share a video of the flyover which was provided by Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri.

Mr. Burton related that Ms. Levy is currently working on emergency beach repairs and on a long-term solution, including whether the County can address the beach renourishment on its own, which would be costly, or modify the easement language to eliminate public access and use. He indicated that staff will be meeting with the consultant, who is a former Corps employee, to determine options; that there will be a meeting with the Corps tomorrow; and that staff will attend the Florida Association of Counties conference and attempt to unite the other ten counties that were impacted; whereupon, he noted that there are multiprong approaches to the issue; and that staff will bring back thoughts and ideas on strategy.

In response to comments and a query by Commissioner Eggers, Ms. Levy discussed the citizens' reservations regarding agreeing to an easement; whereupon, Commissioner Eggers indicated that the issue is one of public safety in an attempt to protect people's lives and property. Ms. Levy related that staff met with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) yesterday and the consultant this morning; that the Corps has some expedited processes for projects as a result of Hurricane Idalia; and that Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott have proposed a bill that, if passed, would waive easement requirements. She indicated that staff is looking at interim protective measures which have worked well post-Hurricane Ian, such as measures taken by Volusia County; and that it is important to get something in place while working on the bigger picture.

Commissioner Peters referenced correspondence provided by Ms. Levy, which indicates that the Corps policy cannot be so rigid as to affect the environment or the economy, and Mr. Burton provided brief comments.

In response to queries by Commissioners Scott and Flowers, Ms. Levy, with input by Mr. Burton, indicated that the easements which have already been signed would remain in effect if the County addresses the beach renourishment on its own, as the easements are issued to the County and not to the Corps; that public access and use designation does not give anyone the right to violate existing ordinances or state laws; and that a previous issue with regard to Pass-A-Grille Beach access was related to customary use law; whereupon, she provided information regarding the Project Cooperation Agreement with the Corps, including that the County is responsible for obtaining easements for construction, operation, and maintenance; and that the agreement does not mention public access and use. During discussion, Mr. Burton provided information regarding construction easements as opposed to perpetual easements, and noted that the County has the ability to legally take action for public safety.

Chair Long requested that Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Chris Rose research the level of financial reserves maintained by other counties which are surrounded by water as is the case with Pinellas County; whereupon, she questioned whether it was time to develop a policy to address the sand issue. In response to her query, Ms. Levy related that the cost of routine nourishment prior to Hurricane Idalia was estimated to be \$80 million, but that she does not have a new estimate, and discussion ensued.

In response to comments and queries by Commissioner Peters, Ms. Levy, with input by Mr. Burton, indicated that she will provide the members with a timeline for the emergency sand efforts at a later date and discussed the consultant's work to address the issue, temporary measures, and eligibility for FEMA assistance. She indicated that staff has requested for the Corps to provide the addresses for south county easements; that staff has met with the DEP regarding setting an erosion control line for the area, which is required before renourishment can occur; and that the County can still move forward with emergency measures in the meantime.

Thereupon, Mr. Burton related that damage assessments will be completed; that work will continue regarding emergency measures; and that he will be brief the Commissioners as updated information becomes available.

New County Complex Figures Update

Mr. Burton provided an explanation regarding a report previously presented to the Board related to a new County complex, noting that while the total cost listed in the report was correct, the updated version will include a more detailed breakdown of costs; whereupon, he provided additional information regarding the square footage and costs associated with parking.

COUNTY COMMISSION

25. Appointments to the Youth Advisory Committee (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Commissioner Peters indicated that 20 students have applied; and that all 20 are recommended.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

26. County Commission New Business:

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

The members thanked staff, Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, and other partners for their efforts during Hurricane Idalia.

Commissioner Latvala

- Habitat for Humanity home dedication
- Learning Independence for Tomorrow (LIFT) Academy ribbon cutting

Commissioner Eggers

- Mayor's Council
- United States Army Corps of Engineers Town Hall meeting
- Curlew Hills Memory Gardens 9/11 ceremony

Commissioner Peters

- Habitat for Humanity home dedication
- Walked beaches with mayors
- Helicopter ride with Pinellas County Sheriff's Department to assess beach damage
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and Tampa Bay Rowdies 9/11 memorial climb
- Meeting with County Administrator and USCG Sector St. Petersburg for affordable housing for USCG personnel
- Dangerous dogs policies
- LIFT ribbon cutting
- Madeira Beach 9/11 ceremony
- Multiple committee appointments

In response to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Attorney White discussed the current dangerous dog laws and efforts to enforce stricter penalties on the owners, and Mr. Burton indicated that the issue will be brought before the Board at a future meeting.

Commissioner Justice

- Thanked Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce for annual tourism breakfast
- Thanked St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce for hosting economics of multifamily housing seminar
- Congratulated Senator Ed Hooper on his good work
- Thanked City of Pinellas Park City Manager Bart Diebold and Deputy Chief Rob Angell for a tag along on Alive Day

Commissioner Flowers

- Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority
- St. Petersburg Free Clinic tours
- NAACP Freedom Fund banquet
- Sickle Cell banquet
- Florida Association of Counties policy and innovation conference
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority meeting regarding SunRunner and unhoused people on beaches
- Thanked Pinellas County Schools Superintendent Kevin Hendrick and staff for care of students at Countryside High School regarding stabbing incident
- Ronald McDonald House tour
- CareerSource

Commissioner Scott

- Boat tour to get a water view of beach damage; rescue of a displaced flamingo
- Sunstar tour
- Historic tour of Innisbrook
- Sixth Judicial Circuit Juvenile Justice meeting
- Madeira Beach 9/11 ceremony
- Thanked Sheriff Bob Gualtieri for being responsive to sunken yacht off Belleair Causeway

Commissioner Long

- Trip to Brazil with Visit St. Pete/Clearwater Interim President and CEO Brian Lowack
- Potential new governance model for Tourist Development Council
- Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Foundation annual gala
- Community leaders breakfast

Meeting Recessed: 4:07 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 6:02 P.M.

6:00 PM

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.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

27. Resolutions adopting tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2024 (first public hearing).

A public hearing was held regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 tentative millage rates and budgets for Pinellas County; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 23-72) and budget as amended (No. 23-73) for the Pinellas County General Fund; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 23-74) and budget (No. 23-75) for the Pinellas County Health Department Fund; resolutions adopted approving tentative millage rates (No. 23-76) and budgets (No. 23-77) for the Emergency Medical Services Authority, Pinellas Planning Council, Unincorporated Area Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU), Feather Sound Community Services District, and the unincorporated portions of the Belleair Bluffs, Clearwater, Dunedin, Gandy, High Point, Largo, Pinellas Park, Safety Harbor, Seminole, South Pasadena, Tarpon Springs, and Tierra Verde Fire Protection Districts; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 23-78) and budget (No. 23-79) for the Public Library Services District MSTU; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 23-80) and budget (No. 23-81) for the Palm Harbor Community Services District; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 23-82) and budget (No. 23-83) for the East Lake Library Services District; and resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 23-84) and budget (No. 23-85) for the East Lake Recreation Services District.

Following opening remarks from Mr. Burton and upon the Chair's call for citizens wishing to speak, Christine Smith, Clearwater, appeared and provided input.

At the request of Chair Long, Ms. Revie reported that three letters in opposition have been received by the Clerk's Office; and that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has received 25 phone calls; whereupon, OMB Director Chris Rose clarified that the calls involved questions regarding the tentative budget.

Chair Long reviewed the sequence of events for the evening's proceedings, relating that Mr. Burton will provide an overview of the proposed budget, including changes that have been made following the BCC July 18 meeting; and that the final hearing will be held on September 19 to adopt the Fiscal Year 2024 final millage rates and budgets. At the request of Chair Long, Ms. Revie confirmed that there are no citizens pre-registered to speak virtually for today's hearing.

Chair Long indicated that a representative from the Property Appraiser's Office is available to assist anyone having questions or concerns regarding the assessed value, exemptions, or classifications related to their property, or information that appears on the Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice.

Chair Long related that even though Florida Statutes provide that a taxing authority may adopt tax levies and budgets of all its dependent special taxing districts and Municipal Service Taxing Units by a single unanimous vote, members of the general public can request that the Board discuss and adopt any of those items separately; whereupon, in response to her call for citizen participation, none requested that an item be separately reviewed.

Thereupon, Chair Long opened the first public hearing on the tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2024.

Ms. Revie reported that the public hearing is being held in accordance with Chapters 129 and 200 of the Florida Statutes; and that the meeting has been duly noticed by the Property Appraiser's mailing of the TRIM notice.

Chair Long announced that the BCC, as taxing authority for the BCC Countywide, the Dependent Special Districts, and the MSTUs, as listed above, will proceed with the public hearing.

Mr. Burton related that the percentage increase in the millage rate for all budgets over the rolled-back rate, based on the maximum rates on the TRIM notice and subsequent decreases to such rates, to fund the Fiscal Year 2024 tentative budget is a 8.46% increase over the aggregate rolled-back rate; whereupon, he indicated that the primary purpose for the increases in the millage over the rolled-back rate are as follows:

- In the General Fund, including Unincorporated Area MSTUs and the Emergency Medical Services Authority, revenue increases are required to support personnel and operating expenditures that are driven by inflationary factors and BCC priorities. The Pinellas Planning Council revenue increases are required for the same purposes, as per the request from Forward Pinellas.
- In the Public Library Services District MSTU, the Palm Harbor Community Services MSTU, the Feather Sound Community Services MSTU, the East Lake Library Services MSTU, the East Lake Recreation Services MSTU, and seven Special Fire Protection Districts, revenue increases are needed to support increased expenditures by the agencies providing services to those districts.
- In five Special Fire Protection Districts, the revenue need remained flat due to the districts having sufficient reserve levels to provide for future planned capital along with property values that can support annual operations.

Mr. Burton noted that a schedule of changes to the tentative budget was distributed to the BCC on September 5, 2023, and is attached to the agenda packet available online; that the modifications include changes discussed at BCC meetings or work sessions and technical adjustments related to accounting presentations, updated information, corrections, and other minor revisions.

Mr. Burton provided an overview of the tentative Fiscal Year 2024 annual operating and capital budget, discussing the basis for various budget recommendations and noting that the budget increase is largely a result of unfunded mandates by the State of Florida, contractual increases, and employee salary raises.

Chair Long announced that the BCC will continue the hearing as the taxing authority for the BCC Countywide, Dependent Special Districts, and MSTU levies by taking public comment from citizens wishing to be heard regarding the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget; whereupon, Ms. Revie confirmed that there are no additional citizens to be heard.

Discussion ensued regarding the following and other topics:

- Ensuring maximum efforts to assist taxpayers
- Spending within the County's means
- Reserve levels
- Reduced workforce
- Tourist Development Tax reevaluation
- Possible budget reductions
- Sustainability of the proposed budget
- Publishing the budget for each constitutional officer separately

During discussion, Mr. Burton, with input from Attorney White and Mr. Rose, responded to queries and comments by the members, and Christine Smith, Clearwater, provided additional remarks.

Noting that all public comment has been received, Chair Long queried the members as to any recommended changes to the tentative millage rates and budgets; whereupon, Commissioner Eggers proposed and moved that a 0.2 mill reduction be made to the General Fund tentative millage, and discussion ensued.

Mr. Burton related that the reduction to the millage would result in budget cuts across all departments and constitutional offices or cutbacks in road and sidewalk projects; whereupon, Commissioner Scott seconded the motion for discussion to continue, and Commissioners Latvala, Flowers, and Peters provided comments regarding the motion.

Upon call for the vote, the motion failed by a vote of 2 to 5, with Chair Long and Commissioners Peters, Flowers, Justice, and Latvala casting the dissenting votes.

Commissioner Latvala proposed that the Community Fund portion of the General Fund budget be cut in the amount of \$15,000.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Latvala, seconded by Vice-Chair Peters, that the Community Fund portion of the General Fund budget be cut in the amount of \$15,000.00. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

Chair Long announced that resolutions will now be considered to set the tentative millage rates and budgets; and that resolutions for adopting the final millage rates and budgets are scheduled for the public hearing on September 19, 2023; whereupon, Mr. Burton announced each of the resolutions separately.

Mr. Burton recommended the adoption of the tentative millage rates for the General Fund and the Health Department Fund, as outlined on *Schedule A* which is included in the agenda packet; whereupon, Commissioner Flowers made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Peters. Upon call for the vote, the motion carried by a vote of 5 to 2, with Commissioners Eggers and Scott casting the dissenting votes.

Senior Assistant County Attorney Don Crowell suggested that the Board vote on each millage and budget for the General Fund, Health Department Fund, and the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs separately.

Resolution No. 23-72 adopted approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Pinellas County General Fund.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Justice, that the tentative millage rate for the General Fund be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Latvala

Nay: 2 - Commissioner Eggers, and Commissioner Scott

Resolution No. 23-73 adopted approving the tentative budget, as amended, for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Pinellas County General Fund.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Vice-Chair Peters, that the tentative budget for the General Fund be approved as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Latvala

Nay: 2 - Commissioner Eggers, and Commissioner Scott

Resolution No. 23-74 adopted approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Health Department.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Vice-Chair Peters, that the tentative millage rate for the Pinellas County Health Department be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Resolution No. 23-75 adopted approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Health Department.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Vice-Chair Peters, that the tentative budget for the Pinellas County Health Department be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Mr. Burton recommended the adoption of the tentative millage rate for the Emergency Medical Services Authority.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Justice, that the tentative millage rate for the Emergency Medical Services Authority be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Attorney Crowell indicated that the Board can approve the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs in a single unanimous vote, unless otherwise desired; whereupon, Commissioner Peters made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Flowers, to approve the tentative millage rates for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs, as depicted on *Schedule A*. Upon call for the vote, the motion failed with a vote of 6 to 1, with Commissioner Latvala casting the dissenting vote.

Mr. Burton related that a motion could be made to approve all Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs, excluding those for which Commissioner Latvala wishes to have independent votes.

Resolution No. 23-76 adopted approving the tentative millage rates for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs, excluding the Public Library Services District MSTU, Palm Harbor Community Services District, East Lake Library Services District, and East Lake Recreation Services District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Scott, that the Dependent Special Districts and MSTU tentative millage rates be approved (excluding Public Library Services District MSTU, Palm Harbor Community Services District, East Lake Library Services District, and East Lake Recreation Services District). The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Resolution No. 23-77 adopted approving the tentative budgets for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs, excluding the Public Library Services District MSTU, Palm Harbor Community Services District, East Lake Library Services District, and East Lake Recreation Services District.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Peters, seconded by Commissioner Justice, that the Dependent Special Districts and MSTU tentative budgets be approved (excluding Public Library Services District MSTU, Palm Harbor Community Services District, East Lake Library Services District, and East Lake Recreation Services District). The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Resolution No. 23-78 adopted approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Public Library Services District MSTU.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative millage rate for the Public Library Services District MSTU be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, and Commissioner Justice

Nay: 3 - Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Resolution No. 23-79 adopted approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Public Library Services District MSTU.

A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative budget for the Public Library Services District MSTU be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chair Long, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, and Commissioner Justice

Nay: 3 - Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Justice made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative millage rate for the Palm Harbor Community Services District be approved. Upon call for the vote, the motion carried by a vote of 4 to 3, with Commissioners Peters, Latvala, and Scott casting the dissenting votes; whereupon, Attorney Crowell indicated that a five out of seven vote is required for the final adoption of the millage, but that the tentative millage would pass with a majority vote.

Attorney White related that a two-thirds majority vote is required to adopt the final millages and budgets; and that, at that time, the Board can choose to decrease the numbers approved today, but cannot increase them; whereupon, Commissioner Peters expressed interest in amending her vote, indicating that the proposed millage increase is small, and Commissioner Flowers stated that, per Robert’s Rules of Order, the prevailing side can bring a motion back to the floor to be voted on again, and Chair Long brought the motion back to the floor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Justice, to reconsider the vote taken on the tentative millage rate for the Palm Harbor Community Services District. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Scott

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Latvala

Resolution No. 23-80 adopted approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Palm Harbor Community Services District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Eggers, that the tentative millage rate for the Palm Harbor Community Services District be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, and Commissioner Justice

Nay: 2 - Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Resolution No. 23-81 adopted approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Palm Harbor Community Services District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Vice-Chair Peters, that the tentative budget for the Palm Harbor Community Services District be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Latvala

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Scott

Resolution No. 23-82 adopted approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2024 for the East Lake Library Services District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Justice, that the tentative millage rate for the East Lake Library Services District be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Resolution No. 23-83 adopted approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2024 for East Lake Library Services District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Justice, that the tentative budget for the East Lake Library Services District be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Resolution No. 23-84 adopted approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2024 for the East Lake Recreation Services District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Eggers, that the tentative millage rate for the East Lake Recreation Services District be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Resolution No. 23-85 adopted approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2024 for the East Lake Recreation Services District.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Peters, seconded by Commissioner Scott, that the tentative budget for the East Lake Recreation Services District be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Attorney Crowell related that a vote regarding the tentative budget for the Emergency Medical Services Authority was not taken earlier in the meeting when the millage rate was approved; whereupon, Mr. Burton recommended adoption of the tentative budget for the Emergency Medical Services Authority.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Scott, that the tentative budget for the Emergency Medical Services Authority be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Long, Vice-Chair Peters, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Scott

Chair Long closed the first public hearing on the tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2024.

Mr. Burton stated that, in accordance with Florida Statutes, the County will advertise the Budget Summary and Notice of Tax Increase in advance of the second public hearing, which is to be held on September 19 at 6:00 P.M.; and that the notice will be published in the Tampa Bay Times on September 17.

ADJOURNMENT - 7:19 P.M.

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By *Deidra Lewis*
Deputy Clerk



Janet C. Long
Chair