

Pinellas County

*315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

9:30 AM

BCC Assembly Room

Board of County Commissioners

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

ROLL CALL - 9:34 A.M.

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

Others Present: Jewel White, County Attorney; Mark S. Woodard, County Administrator; Claretha N. Harris, Chief Deputy Clerk; and Jenny Masinovsky, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION by Reverend Louis M. Murphy, Sr., Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, St. Petersburg.**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Proclamation:
Bridging the Achievement Gap (BTAG), Largo
- James & Gwen Feazell Sr., Co-Founders

The 2020 Plan Taskforce:

- Gypsy C. Gallardo, CEO, The 2020 Plan
- Harvey Landress, Co-Chair, 2020 Plan Taskforce
- Deborah Figgs-Sanders, Co-Chair, 2020 Plan Taskforce
- Pastor Louis M. Murphy, Sr., 2020 Plan Core Team
- Lounell Britt, 2020 Plan Core Team
- Karl Nurse, 2020 Plan Core Team
- Michael Jalazo, 2020 Plan Core Team
- Watson Haynes, II, 2020 Plan Core Team
- Charlotte Anderson, 2020 Plan Core Team
- Cory Adler, 2020 Taskforce Executive Director 2016 & 2017
- City of St. Petersburg leaders Mayor Rick Kriseman, Deputy Mayor Dr. Kanika Tomalin and Nikki Gaskin-Capehart
- Funding pioneers Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Bon Secours Health System, Florida Blue Foundation, United Way Suncoast, and Power Broker Giving

Chairman Welch invited James and Gwen Feazell of Bridging the Achievement Gap, as well as members and partners of the 2020 Plan Task Force, to the podium for recognition. He stated that the two organizations have been vital and instrumental in helping to reduce the poverty rate by double digits in south St. Petersburg; whereupon, he presented each group with a plaque and read a proclamation recognizing January 15, 2018 as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

2. Doing Things! Employee Recognition:
- Billy Washington, Utilities South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Facility

Chairman Welch and Mr. Woodard recognized South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Facility Chief Plant Operator Billy Washington as a 38-year employee who oversees the treatment of 22 million gallons of wastewater every day and also serves as a lead in the education program at the South Cross facility and as a mentor to his employees. A video was shown highlighting the services he provides, and co-workers were given an opportunity to share their experiences working with Mr. Washington.

3. National Mentoring Month Proclamation and Presentation:
Office of Strategic Partnerships, Pinellas County Schools
- Dr. Valerie Brimm, Director

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay, Inc.
- Jennifer Libby, Senior Vice President of Programs

Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay
- Kym McGee, Regional Director
- Carol Williams, Education Director

Chairman Welch noted that as part of the Board's Strategic Plan, the County Administrator has granted 90 minutes of paid administrative leave to employees who wish to serve as mentors. He invited Dr. Brimm and Mses. Libby, McGee, and Williams to the podium, and each explained how mentoring has had a positive effect on their respective organizations. Canaan McCaslin, Special Assistant to the County Administrator, provided an update on mentoring and Work Force Development programs and shared that there are three upcoming mandatory training sessions for those wishing to participate. Pinellas County Utilities Education Coordinator Shea Donovan described her experiences as a mentor with the Lunch Pals program and Chairman Welch thanked her for sharing her story and mentoring.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

4. Ordinance amending the County Code by revising Sections 170-269 related to insurance and sureties, and 170-270 related to construction and restoration to address undergrounding of utilities.

Ordinance No. 18-01 adopted updating and amending the County Code as set forth in the Staff Report. One letter has been received relative to the item. No citizens appeared to be heard.

Mr. Woodard related that the proposed amendment to the ordinance that regulates the activities of private contractors within County rights-of-way will update the insurance and surety requirements to reflect standard industry coverages.

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

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

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Countywide Planning Authority

5. Case No. CW 17-11 - City of St. Pete Beach
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Retail & Services to Activity Center, regarding 0.3 acre more or less, located at 702 Pass-a-Grille Way (regular amendment).
- Ordinance No. 18-02 adopted approving Case No. CW 17-11. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of the proposal, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Morroni, seconded by Commissioner Eggers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**
- Aye:** 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni
6. Case No. CW 17-12 - City of Clearwater
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Office to Residential Low Medium, regarding 0.4 acre more or less, located at 3108 Downing Street (regular amendment).
- Ordinance No. 18-03 adopted approving Case No. CW 17-12. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of the proposal, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Morroni, seconded by Commissioner Eggers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**
- Aye:** 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni
7. Case No. CW 17-13 - City of Dunedin
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Public/Semi-Public to Retail & Services, regarding 1.0 acre, more or less, located at 1251 San Christopher Drive (subthreshold amendment).
- Ordinance No. 18-04 adopted approving Case No. CW 17-13. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of the proposal, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Morroni, seconded by Commissioner Eggers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**
- Aye:** 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

8. Case No. CW 17-14 - City of Clearwater
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Public/Semi-Public to Residential Low Medium, regarding 3.1 acres more or less, located at 1895 Virginia Avenue (regular amendment).
Ordinance No. 18-05 adopted approving Case No. CW 17-14. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of the proposal, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.
A motion was made by Commissioner Morroni, seconded by Commissioner Eggers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:
Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni
9. Case No. CW 17-15 - City of Tarpon Springs
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Residential Low Medium to Employment, regarding 9.3 acres more or less, located at the northwest corner of Rainville Road and North Pinellas Avenue.
Item deferred.

Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended an alternative compromise to Employment and Preservation, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

Forward Pinellas Program Planner Alicia Parinello noted that the case was handled as an alternative compromise with the City of Tarpon Springs; whereupon, at the request of Chairman Welch, she provided background information regarding the case, relating that the applicant agreed to address the preservation portion of the property pursuant to the Forward Pinellas recommendation, after which the item will come back to the Board for consideration. Responding to query by Commissioner Morroni, Ms. Parinello explained that the compromise was not reached until after the item was advertised for today's public hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 10 through 19

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

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

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

10. Minutes of the regular meetings held November 28 and December 12, 2017.
11. Vouchers and bills paid from November 12 through November 25, 2017.

Period: November 12 through November 18, 2017

Payroll - \$3,939,439.53

Accounts Payable - \$18,004,094.90

Period: November 19 through November 25, 2017

Payroll - None

Accounts Payable - \$2,408,829.80

Reports received for filing:

12. Dock Fee Report for the month of November 2017.
13. Quarterly Investment Report for the period ended June 30, 2017.

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

14. City of Clearwater Ordinances Nos. 9055-17 and 9058-17 adopted November 16, 2017, annexing certain properties.
15. City of Oldsmar Ordinance No. 2017-12 adopted November 7, 2017, annexing certain property.
16. Tampa Bay Water 2018 Board Meeting Schedule.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Public Works

17. Interlocal agreement with the City of St. Petersburg for Oak Street Drainage Improvements.

(PID No. 003600A) Agreement approved providing approximately 50 percent funding, or an amount not to exceed \$700,000.00, to the City for the construction of drainage improvements on a reimbursement basis. Agreement is effective to December 31, 2019. Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

Real Estate Management

18. Award of bid to five (5) contractors for requirements of Job Order Contracting Facility Maintenance, Repair and Minor Construction.
Bid No. 167-0421-CP in the amount of \$4,000,000.00 each, for a 60-month term total of \$20,000,000.00, awarded to the following contractors on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bids received meeting specifications. Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

- Caladesi Construction Co.
- G.E.C. Associates, Inc.
- Gibraltar Construction Company, Inc.
- J.O. DeLotto & Sons, Inc.
- New Vista Builders Group, LLC

Bid of Commercial Interiors, Inc. rejected on the basis of being non-responsive for not meeting prequalification requirements.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

19. Notice of new lawsuit and defense of the same by the County Attorney in the case of Thomas Rask v. Pinellas County; Circuit Civil Case No. 17-006964-CI - declaratory judgment.

Thomas Rask, Unincorporated Seminole, provided comments regarding the item.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Human Services

20. Program recommendation for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant submission.

Public Safety Coordinating Council's recommendation for a program titled *Reach & Day Program Expansions* approved for submission to the Florida Department of Children and Families. Grant application is for up to \$400,000.00 per year for three years, to be administered by PACE Center for Girls, Inc.

Commissioner Eggers expressed appreciation to staff for including statistics showing the effectiveness of the program in the Staff Report, and Commissioner Gerard indicated that the services offered by the program will not be new; and that the agency's programs have had great results.

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

Aye: 6 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Long

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Morroni

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

21. County Administrator Miscellaneous: None.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

22. Proposed settlement in the case of Corey Gourdine and Sakria Gourdine v. Pinellas County; Circuit Civil Case No. 14-006708-CI-13.

Settlement rejected in accordance with the confidential memorandum dated January 9, 2018.

A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Vice-Chairman Seel, that the settlement be rejected. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

23. County Attorney Miscellaneous: None.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Emergency Medical Services Authority

24. Appointments to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.

Sitting as the Emergency Medical Services Authority, the Board approved the following appointments and reappointments for two-year terms ending in December 2019:

- Dr. David Weiland, Jr. and Anissa Raiford as Pinellas County Medical Association representative and alternate representative, respectively
- Dr. Kenneth Webster as Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society representative
- Jeri Reed as Citizen Representative for Commission District 3
- Dillard Jones as Citizen Representative for Commission District 4
- Jason Dorr as Citizen Representative for Commission District 5
- William Holmes as Citizen Representative for Commission District 6

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

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

25. County Administrator Reports:

Doing Things! TV

- Great American Teach-In

Opioid Task Force Activities

- Dr. Ulyee Choe, Director, Department of Health in Pinellas County
- Dianne Clarke, CEO, Operation PAR, Inc.

Great American Teach-In

Mr. Woodard introduced a video highlighting the public service mentoring efforts of County staff. Following the video, he noted that 90 employees participated in the teach-in in 48 schools throughout the county this year, which is three times the participation level of last year.

Opioid Task Force Activities

Dr. Ulyee Choe, Director, Department of Health in Pinellas County, and Dianne Clarke, CEO, Operation PAR, Inc., conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Pinellas County Opioid Task Force Activities*, which has been made a part of the record, and provided an update regarding the Task Force accomplishments since its launching in June of last year.

Ms. Clarke and Dr. Choe provided demographic and geographic statistical information and trends pertaining to the opioid epidemic, indicating that deaths and instances of overdose are increasing throughout the county; whereupon, they discussed the collaborative and multi-faceted approach taken by the Task Force members and the implementation of a Strategic Plan developed to deal with the epidemic, including strategies for achieving the following plan goals:

1. Increase education and awareness
2. Reduce opioid deaths
3. Connect to effective treatment
4. Reduce the supply of opioids
5. Integrate and collaborate on data sources

Dr. Choe indicated that a document containing data regarding the Strategic Plan and background information will be available to the public in approximately two weeks.

During discussion and in response to queries by the members, Dr. Choe and Ms. Clarke discussed equipping first responders with opioid antidotes, the Governor's proposal to limit opioid prescriptions, sources of opioids, legislative initiatives, various funding opportunities, and Pinellas County usage rates as compared to other Florida counties. Ms. Clarke indicated that opioids are available and accessible on the streets and at doctors'

offices and pointed out the importance of joining the efforts of law enforcement agencies with physical and behavioral health professionals to combat the epidemic; whereupon, Dr. Choe encouraged membership in the Task Force, and Ms. Clarke indicated that any applicable grants approved by the Board will support the cause.

In response to queries by Commissioner Long, Attorney White provided an update regarding potential opioid litigation and solicitation of legal services, indicating that there is a growing interest in litigation related to the opioid epidemic among the local governments throughout the state; and that she is pleased with the Request for Proposal responses, which will be reviewed by the evaluation committee tomorrow and presented to the Board for consideration in the near future.

Chairman Welch commended Business Technology Services on creating a story map application to disseminate information and thanked Ms. Clarke and Dr. Choe for their work in dealing with the epidemic; whereupon, responding to query by Commissioner Seel regarding the school nurses program, Dr. Choe related that the hiring process is underway.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

26. Public Comment.

David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, re Conflagrated Counterfeit Operation

COUNTY COMMISSION

27. Appointment to WorkNet Pinellas d/b/a CareerSource Pinellas Board of Directors. (Board of County Commissioners as a whole)

Item deferred.

Commissioner Gerard inquired as to the required qualifications for Board membership, noting that most of the applicants were disqualified, and Commissioner Justice related that WorkNet staff had stated that they did not meet the requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; whereupon, Chairman Welch indicated that it is not uncommon for the Commission to make board appointments based on the recommendations of their members; and that the item could be deferred pending additional information.

Commissioner Long expressed concern with regard to the Board's authority and responsibility for the WorkNet organization, indicating that it appoints members and approves the annual budget, but has little interaction with the staff regarding its operation, opining that the situation is similar to the relationship with the Construction Licensing Board.

Attorney White explained that there is a structure set up through federal and state laws that govern the WorkNet/CareerSource boards; that the County Commission is considered the local sponsor for the purposes of federal funds, as well as other funds that flow through the organization; that the Board has an obligation to be a steward of those funds, and it could take an active role in scrutinizing the appointments; and that an interlocal agreement with CareerSource stipulates that the appointments be made in a timely manner; whereupon, she noted that the appointees must represent certain sectors of the population, as set forth in the Staff Report.

Following discussion, Chairman Welch suggested that the vote be delayed and recommended that the members send their concerns to him via email, noting that he will meet with the County Attorney and Administrator and compile a document for submission to the Chairman of the WorkNet Board of Directors.

28. Appointments to the Historic Preservation Board.
(Individual Appointments by Commissioners Pat Gerard and John Morroni)

David MacNamee reappointed and Christopher Furlong appointed by Commissioners Gerard and Morroni, respectively, for three-year terms.

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

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

29. County Commission New Business Items:
- BCC Legislative Priorities - State Governmental Relations Services
- BCC Legislative Priorities - National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

State Governmental Relations Services

Mr. Woodard introduced the item; whereupon, Special Assistant to the County Administrator Canaan McCaslin indicated that the current contract for State Governmental Relations Services expires on May 31, 2018 and requested the Board's guidance with regard to the following options for future representation, as outlined in his memorandum dated January 3, 2018, which has been made a part of the record:

1. Renew the current contract with Dean, Mead, Egerton, Bloodworth, Capouano, Bozarth, P.A. expiring on May 31, 2018.
2. Circulate a new Request for Proposal (RFP) for an open and competitive bid process for services.
3. Change the representation model to include utilizing multiple firms based on specific areas of expertise.

During discussion and responding to queries by the members, Messrs. Woodard and McCaslin provided information regarding the current contract, costs associated with utilizing multiple firms, and specialty representation services in key areas.

Commissioner Long stressed the importance of ensuring that the prospective firm has a local presence and an understanding of the region, and Chairman Welch agreed, noting that it should be a prerequisite; whereupon, responding to Commissioner Long's concerns related to conflicts of interest, Mr. Woodard indicated that the RFP documents would include a Disclosure of Conflict statement along with a list of the Board's legislative priorities; that any conflicts would be identified as part of the RFP response; and that County contracts include a provision to address potential conflicts on an ongoing basis.

Commissioner Seel suggested extending the current contract until the Governor's bill signing deadline, and following discussion, Mr. Woodard indicated that staff will confirm that the start date of the new contract will not be an issue.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the members to proceed with Option No. 2, stated above; and that the contract term be two years with a three-year extension option; whereupon, responding to query by Commissioner Long, Mr. Woodard pointed out that there is always an opportunity to terminate a contract.

Mr. McCaslin indicated that the new contract would be submitted to the Board for approval by April 2018.

National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Intergovernmental Liaison Brian Lowack referred to maps and documents pertaining to the proposed oil drilling program, which have been made a part of the record, and provided background information, including the scope and timeline of the program and its implementation, noting that two of the proposed oil and gas leases would occur in 2023 and 2024 in the eastern Gulf of Mexico region, which is currently under a leasing moratorium through 2022.

Mr. Lowack discussed the next steps with regard to opportunities for the Commission to respond to the proposal, indicating that the first public hearing in Florida will occur on February 8, 2018 in Tallahassee; and that Van Scoyoc Associates has registered to attend the public hearing in Washington, D.C. on February 22 to lobby on the Commission's behalf; whereupon, he recommended that the Board submit comments concerning the draft proposed program to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and adopt a resolution opposing the local offshore drilling such as the ones it adopted in 2006 and 2009.

During discussion and responding to queries by the members, Mr. Lowack referred to maps depicting the 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft

Proposed Program Areas and Potential Exclusion Areas and discussed where the drilling could potentially take place, and Commissioner Eggers noted that the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, which occurred much farther out than the proposed areas, resulted in multi-million dollar payouts to address the damage it had caused.

Commissioner Morroni expressed his support for a strongly-worded resolution against the drilling, indicating that he is disappointed with the proposal; whereupon, Mr. Lowack related that Governor Rick Scott has requested a meeting with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to advocate against the matter. Noting that the drilling would be unneeded, Chairman Welch directed that the resolution be drafted right away and confirmed that the Commission will have representation at the public hearing on February 8. Following further discussion regarding the resolution content, Chairman Welch thanked Mr. Lowack for his work on the report.

30. County Commission Board Reports and Miscellaneous Items.

Commissioner Morroni

- Provided an update on the activities and accomplishments of the Human Rights Board with regard to continued successful administration of the Wage Theft ordinance; generating revenue from contracts with federal partners; obtaining recertification as a Fair Housing Assistance Program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and commencing Unified Personnel System-wide training on the revised anti-harassment policies. He related that Human Rights Office Director Paul Valenti has been elected to the Board of Directors of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies as the Southern Regional Representative.
- Indicated that Forward Pinellas has received applications from local governments for its two grant programs and will select recipients in March; and that the Board approved the State Road 60 corridor implementation plan for formal consideration by the City of Clearwater, and discussed the Tampa Bay Regional Transit Feasibility Plan. He related that a Forward Pinellas work session is scheduled for January 11 at the St. Petersburg College Clearwater Campus and it is open to the public.

Commissioner Eggers

- Thanked Commissioner Morroni for his leadership on the Forward Pinellas Board and congratulated Commissioner Long on her selection as Chair of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors.
- Provided an update regarding Tampa Bay Water, including new members and upcoming meeting dates. He discussed the efforts made by local governments with regard to taking ownership of their reclaimed water and related new legislation, Senate Bill 1710 and House Bill 1303.

- Invited the public to attend events for Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Dunedin and Clearwater.
- Related that he attended a ceremony dedicating a portion of U.S. Alternate Highway 19 as the *Officer Charles 'Charlie K' Kondak Jr. Memorial Highway* in honor of the fallen Tarpon Springs Police Department Officer and thanked the Board for adopting a resolution in support of the renaming.
- Related that he was interviewed by a news reporter regarding the County contract with Randstad USA and discussed the importance of reviewing the County policies and responsibilities of the Appointing Authorities with regard to temporary employment agency services. He thanked Mr. Woodard for reaching out to him regarding the issue.

Commissioner Seel

- Provided an update on the activities and accomplishments of the Juvenile Welfare Board relating to a successful children's summit, the Council on Accreditation accreditation process, and budget-related matters.
- Provided a summary of the matters discussed at the Homeless Leadership Board (HLB) meeting, including (1) the importance of addressing the unsatisfactory condition of mobile home parks in the Lealman area, (2) a review of the policies regarding Housing First services provided through the HLB, given the discovery that visiting construction workers are using homeless shelters as temporary residences, noting that the shelters may potentially be utilized as emergency housing for families, and (3) compiling a final report analysis regarding housing needs and costs throughout the county.

Commissioner Justice

- Indicated that he will be traveling to Washington, D.C. in March for meetings with the Congressional Delegation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program.
- Provided information relating to the dates and agendas for upcoming meetings of the Historic Preservation Board, the Wastewater/Stormwater Task Force, and the Gulf Consortium.
- Commented on the Area Agency on Aging's ninth consecutive successful annual evaluation by the Department of Elder Affairs and praised its work.
- Noted the passing of Curtis D. Thomas, Jr., former President/CEO of PARC, and offered condolences to his family.

- Wished safe travels to the Pinellas Legislative Delegation members and staff who will be traveling to and from Tallahassee over the next 60 days.

Commissioner Long

- Related that the PSTA continues its efforts to implement autonomous vehicle programs in St. Petersburg and Clearwater and to advocate for a \$475,000 appropriation for an integrated cell phone application allowing ticket purchasing for various types of transportation.
- Provided an update regarding the recent PSTA Legislative Committee meeting, including a new bill related to Special Districts' taxing authority.
- Thanked the members and staff for attending the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council sea level rise workshop and noted that the organization will continue working on the matter throughout the year. The members thanked her for the presentation and provided input.
- Provided an update regarding the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority, indicating that there is a commitment by Senator Bill Galvano to obtain a million dollars in funding for the new agency; and that the transit feasibility study is ready to be released to the public, and the agency has agreed to be responsible for implementation of the plan.
- Related that she had requested financial data regarding the commitment by the County to the Advanced Tampa Bay Manufacturing Industry Certification Training Center Program, d/b/a AMSkills, noting that the program's objectives had not been met. Commissioner Seel discussed the efforts and progress made by AMSkills last year and expressed hope that CareerSource Pinellas will cooperate with AMSkills, providing it with a valuable resource.
- Expressed condolences to the family of the St. Petersburg political and community activist Gene Smith, and Commissioner Welch echoed the sentiment.

Commissioner Gerard

- Indicated that she plans to attend the City of Largo work session regarding the Complete Streets project on West Bay Drive.
- Reported that she is chairing the Child Care Licensing Board this year and briefly discussed the decline in the number of daycare providers.

- Provided an update regarding recent or upcoming meetings and activities relating to the Mayors' Council, CareerSource Executive Committee, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Executive Committee, and the Youth Advisory Committee.
- Received citizen complaints about duck hunting. Mr. Woodard indicated that staff will look into the matter.
- Inquired about domestic partner benefits available to County employees, and discussion ensued. Mr. Woodard provided background information, indicating that as a result of an audit, there may be a possibility of back taxes associated with those benefits; and that various Appointing Authorities and staff are analyzing the issue. Responding to queries by Commissioner Welch, Attorney White related that the benefits were provided by the Appointing Authorities through the Unified Personnel System (UPS); that the affected employees were contacted for information needed to assess the impact; and that the matter will be brought back to the Board for consideration.
- Commented about not being provided with requested information regarding the County's contract with Randstad USA in light of the recent inquiries by the media. Mr. Woodard apologized for the delay, noting that the requested report was received in mid-December and not reviewed sooner due to the holidays; and that it will be shared with the members; whereupon, he provided a history of temporary employment services utilization by the County.

Mr. Woodard discussed his review of the report and provided details regarding an instance where a retired County employee was rehired for a high-ranking technical position through Randstad USA at a higher rate than that previously paid by the County. He provided the rationale behind the action and noted that the engagement of a private party or contractor would have likely been more expensive.

Indicating that the Florida Retirement System (FRS) prohibits the employment of a retiree by an FRS employer for a 12-month period following retirement, Mr. Woodard stated that the person in question was employed by Randstad USA, not the County; that the situation could be viewed negatively by the public; and that while staff made a lawful and sound decision, it was ultimately a wrong decision for which he takes responsibility; whereupon, noting the importance of complying with both the letter and spirit of the law, he related that he had directed staff to contact Randstad USA and terminate the employment relationship.

Mr. Woodard stated that based on his preliminary review, he does not foresee problems with other temporary staff. Discussion ensued, and in response to queries by Commissioner Welch, he confirmed that he is in the process of conducting a review of the County's overall practice of using temporary services, and discussed opportunities for improvement.

Responding to comments by Commissioners Eggers and Seel, Mr. Woodard indicated that staff is in process of negotiating a contract with a new vendor for temporary employment services, which will be brought to the Board for review along with a question concerning the establishment of an alternative temporary employment minimum wage rate. He pointed out that pay rates for temporary employees are based on the market, as was the pay rate of the terminated employee.

Chairman Welch

- Congratulated the County Administrator and Business Technology Services on the successful vertical integration of applications and transfer of personnel to their new Office of Technology and Innovation under the Administrator.
- Requested clarification regarding the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in St. Petersburg.
- Mentioned that community service functions will be held throughout the County during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

ADJOURNMENT - 12:44 P.M.

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By _____
Deputy Clerk

Chairman