Pinellas County

333 Chestnut Street, Palm Room
Clearwater, FL 33756

Minutes - Final

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

9:30 A.M.

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting

Board of County Commissioners

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

ROLL CALL - 9:31 A.M.

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

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

INVOCATION by Commissioner Scherer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Commissioner Scott

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

1. 2026 Emergency Medical Services Professional of the Year Awards:
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Ivan Melendez, Firefighter EMT, Pinellas Park Fire Department
Paramedic
- William “Bill” Edling, Firefighter/Paramedic, Largo Fire Rescue
Emergency Medical Dispatcher
- Isaac Stephens, Communications Training Coordinator, Sunstar Paramedics

Pinellas Federal Credit Union
- Yariel Pineiro, Director of Lending

Chair Eggers recognized the Pinellas Federal Credit Union for its support of the Emergency Medical Services Professional of the Year Awards for the past 36 years; whereupon, following a video highlighting the recipients’ hard work and achievements, Chair Eggers introduced them individually, invited them to provide brief comments regarding their recognition, and presented them with their awards. Following brief remarks by Messrs. Stephens, Melendez, and Edling regarding their appreciation for the recognition and the importance of serving the citizens of Pinellas County, Mr. Pineiro also presented each awardee with a check.

2. Emergency Medical Services Week Proclamation:
- Chief William “Trip” Barrs, President, Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association

Chair Eggers invited Mr. Barrs to join him at the podium and read a proclamation recognizing May 18 through 24, 2026, as Emergency Medical Services Week; whereupon, Mr. Barrs expressed his appreciation for the proclamation on behalf of local fire rescue agencies, emergency response personnel, and hospital emergency department staff.

3. 2025 Chad Reed Emergency Manager of the Year Award:
- Cathie Perkins, Director, Emergency Managemen

Chair Eggers provided brief comments regarding Ms. Perkins’ experience and accomplishments, invited her to join him at the podium, and presented her with the 2025

Chad Reed Emergency Manager of the Year Award. Florida Fire Chiefs' Association President, Chief William “Trip” Barrs also expressed his appreciation for Ms. Perkins’ work; whereupon, she thanked them for the recognition and acknowledged the support of various departments, staff, the Commissioners, and partner organizations.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

4. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

James Murray, Redington Beach
Greg Gardner, Largo
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor
Greg Pound, Largo
Sharleen Sullivan, Tallahassee

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

5. Case No. CW 26-05 - City of Largo
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Activity Center, Residential Low Medium, Residential Medium, Retail & Services, Office, Employment, Public/Semi-Public, and Recreation/Open Space to Activity Center, regarding 540 acres more or less, generally located along Clearwater-Largo Road between Belleair Road and Rosery Road, including portions of Alternate U.S. Highway 19 and surrounding properties.

Ordinance No. 26-16 adopted, approving Case No. CW 26-05. 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.

Responding to a comment by Chair Eggers, Mr. Burton clarified that this agenda item pertains to a change in land use for the subject property and does not address any aspects of funding.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Scherer, and Commissioner Scott

6. Case No. CW 26-06 - City of Largo
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Activity Center to Activity Center, regarding 316 acres more or less, generally located in the vicinity of West Bay Drive and Alternate U.S. Highway 19.

Ordinance No. 26-17 adopted, approving Case No. CW 26-06. 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 Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Scherer, and Commissioner Scott

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 7 through 15

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Scherer, and Commissioner Scott

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

7. Minutes of the regular meeting held March 24, 2026.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

8. Vouchers and bills paid from March 29 through April 4, 2026.

Period - March 29 through April 4, 2026
Accounts Payable - $90,501,538.43
Payroll - None

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Reports received for filing:

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

9. City of Clearwater Ordinance No. 9875-26, adopted March 5, 2026, annexing certain properties.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

10. City of Safety Harbor Ordinance No. 2026-02, adopted April 6, 2026, annexing certain property.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Management and Budget

11. Ranking of firms and agreement with Commercial Risk Management, Inc., for Workers' Compensation Third-Party Administration services.

(Contract No. 26-0137-RFP) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the estimated average annual expenditure of $449,596.00 for a 36-month contract value of $1,348,788.00, with provisions for two additional 12-month-term extensions.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Public Works

12. Award of bid to Cone & Graham, Inc. for Madonna Boulevard over Pine Key Cutoff Bridge #154700 (REBID).

Contract No. 25-0946-ITB-C awarded to Cone & Graham, Inc. in the amount of $14,240,778.64 on the basis of being the lowest responsive and responsible bid received. All work to be completed in 810 consecutive calendar days.

In response to a query by Chair Eggers, Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy provided brief comments regarding expected construction processes for the Pine Key Cutoff Bridge, including lane closures and utilization of temporary traffic control devices.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

13. First Amendment to the Joint Project Agreement with the City of Largo for additional utility work on the Whitney Road at Wolford Road Intersection Improvement Project from Sapphire Lane to Hidden Springs Place.

(PID No. 002109A) Amendment approved, increasing the agreement total by $204,226.14, which is necessary due to unforeseen conflicts encountered while performing utility work on the subject property.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

14. Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior for the Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center Water Resource Investigations.

Agreement No. 26MCJFA0030 approved for a total project cost of $267,300.00 for the period of May 1, 2026, to April 30, 2027 (County contribution, $195,574.00).

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Utilities

15. Ranking of firms and agreements with five firms for the requirements of Horizontal Projects Fiscal Years 2026-2031 - Utilities Professional Engineering Services.

(Contract No. 26-0033-RFQ-CCNAC) Ranking of firms and agreements approved in the amount of $750,000.00 per vendor for a five-year total not-to-exceed contract amount of $3,750,000.00. Contract to be used on an as-needed basis with no obligation to spend the full amount of the contract or to spend in any given year.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Public Works

16. Revised Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application with the Florida Division of Emergency Management for the modification of traffic control cabinets to mitigate storm impacts.

(PID 001032A) Grant application approved for a request of $9,592,229.00, with a local match of $3,197,433.00. Total project cost is approximately $12,789,662.00.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Scherer, and Commissioner Scott

Utilities

17. Resolution declaring one County-owned parcel of land on Lake Dan in Hillsborough County as surplus and authorizing the execution of a Real Property Donation Agreement to convey the parcel to Hillsborough County.

Resolution No. 26-31 adopted, declaring a County-owned parcel of land in Hillsborough County as surplus, authorizing the Board Chairman to execute a Real Property Donation Agreement and County Deed to convey the parcel to Hillsborough County, and authorizing County staff to handle the closing.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Scherer, and Commissioner Scott

COUNTY ATTORNEY

18. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. D.B.E. Management, LLC., d/b/a D.B.E. Management, Inc. - damages arising from the Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act.

Initiation of litigation approved.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Scherer, and Commissioner Scott

19. Proposed settlement in the case of Deann Taylor v. Pinellas County; Circuit Civil Case No. 25-002941-CI.

Settlement approved in accordance with the confidential memorandum dated May 5, 2026.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Scherer, and Commissioner Scott

20. County Attorney Reports - None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

21. County Administrator Reports:

Direction on Downtown Redevelopment

Mr. Burton indicated that staff has prepared a request for negotiation (RFN) for the redevelopment and revitalization of downtown Clearwater and the County's downtown Clearwater campus; that CBRE Group, Inc. Executive Vice President Lee Ann Korst will be providing a brief presentation as part of staff's request for the Board's approval to move forward with the RFN; and that Chief Assistant County Attorney Don Crowell will introduce the legal counsel for the RFN. He also related that the RFN will likely be released in June and does not specify a preference for either a lease or fee simple ownership structure.

Ms. Korst explained that members of CBRE Group, Inc. have developed a process through which developers may submit proposals utilizing their preferred transaction structure of either a ground lease or fee simple ownership model, along with associated legal protections and controls; that qualified developers will be brought back to the Board for presentations; and that a Town Hall meeting will then be held prior to the Board making a decision.

Attorney Crowell introduced outside counsel Eric Singer, who is with the Bilzin Sumberg law firm, and indicated that Mr. Singer has been hired to assist the County with this project; and that he has previously represented both local governments and developers; whereupon, Mr. Singer provided brief comments regarding previous discussions with the County Attorney's Office related to obtaining market feedback associated with the RFN process and transaction structures.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Flowers, Ms. Korst confirmed that developers may submit proposals utilizing a combination of transaction structures for different noncontiguous properties within the redevelopment area.

In response to comments and queries by Commissioner Latvala, Attorney Crowell discussed factors associated with the RFN process and applicant proposals, including developer experience, financial capacity, proposed uses, and project activation timelines. Mr. Burton then indicated that the County would not be obligated to accept any proposals that do not align with its objectives; whereupon, Attorney Crowell also noted that the RFN will contain considerations that are completely separated from any religious affiliation of a developer.

Brief discussion ensued regarding redevelopment considerations and long-term control of downtown Clearwater properties; whereupon, in response to comments and queries by the members, Ms. Korst and Mr. Singer discussed various transaction and development options, including partial ownership of a structure through the construction of upper-level condominiums, a 99-year ground lease, and fee simple ownership.

In response to a query by Chair Eggers, Ms. Korst explained that developers will be asked to provide feedback regarding an extensive list of indicative terms compiled by Mr. Singer; whereupon, brief discussion ensued regarding community concerns related to long-term ownership and redevelopment of the downtown Clearwater properties.

Responding to comments by Chair Eggers, Mr. Burton clarified that while staff would like to identify one master developer, he expects to see a combination of uses throughout the development area; that public input regarding any proposed structures will be received before the Board makes a final decision; that staff decided to release an RFN rather than to immediately proceed under a fee simple structure due to feedback received from the Board and the public; and that Mr. Singer was hired to provide legal assistance with the indicative terms; whereupon, Mr. Singer provided brief comments regarding the development of ground lease and fee simple development structures and the ability for the County to receive fair value under either model.

In response to a query by Commissioner Latvala, Mr. Burton explained that, if consensus is reached, staff will finalize the terms of the RFN, conduct another legal review, and then release the RFN in June; whereupon, Chair Eggers confirmed that there is consensus to release the RFN.

News article regarding permits to construct a pier in St. Pete Beach

Mr. Burton indicated that a news article was recently published which claimed that construction of a pier in St. Pete Beach was awaiting County permits; whereupon, he clarified that staff has not received an application for such permits.

COUNTY COMMISSION

22. County Commission New Business:
Pertinent and timely Committee/Board updates, policy considerations, administrative/procedural considerations, and other new business:

- Resolution for Joint Meeting to be held between the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco Counties.

The members provided updates regarding their assigned boards and committees and discussed various topics, as follows:

Commissioner Scherer

- Forward Pinellas meeting
- Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area Leadership Group meeting
- Yom HaShoah: Holocaust Remembrance Day at The Florida Holocaust Museum
- Meeting with Representative Kimberly Berfield
- International trade mission in the United Kingdom
- Town hall meeting regarding the Downtown County Redevelopment Plan

Commissioner Flowers

- Appreciation to Commissioners Peters and Scherer for allowing their aides to assist her with preparing for the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference & Exhibition
- Appreciation to Commissioner Scott for his assistance with transporting art supplies
- Clearwater for Youth (CFY) Banquet on the Beach
- Earth Day events
- Pinellas Education Foundation governance committee meeting and upcoming retreat
- Florida Association of Counties leadership training
- Town hall meeting regarding the Downtown County Redevelopment Plan
- Black Maternal Health Forum at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve’s Hammock Hall
- Structure fire in the University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus’ Marine Science Laboratory
- Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council 2026 Regional Resiliency Summit
- 15th Annual Champions for ACT Breakfast
- Wishing everyone a happy Mother’s Day

Commissioner Latvala

- Tampa Bay Times article addressing issues with the Suncoast Center
- CFY Banquet on the Beach
- Employee Appreciation Picnic
- 13th Annual Learning Independence For Tomorrow, Inc. LiFT Your Spirits at the Derby event
- Future letter regarding closure of the Bob Graham Sunshine Skyway Bridge for the SunSky 10K
- Continuum of Care
- Major League Baseball's Lou Gehrig Day on June 2

Commissioner Scott

- Town hall meeting regarding the Downtown County Redevelopment Plan
- Items discussed at the May 14 work session
- Tour of manufacturing facility in Clearwater with Pinellas County Economic Development Director Cynthia Johnson
- 2026 Florida Cooperative Extension Summit Banquet Dinner & Awards
- Letter he received from a citizen expressing concern regarding rising salaries for non-profit organizations' CEOs

Commissioner Scott inquired as to whether the members have any interest in potentially taking action regarding the use of electric bicycles in Pinellas County; whereupon, Chair Eggers and Commissioner Scherer expressed support for looking into the matter.

Commissioner Nowicki

- Tour of the Tampa Convention Center
- Continuum of Care
- Youth Advisory Committee end-of-year party at Sand Key Beach
- Tour of First Contact
- Pinellas County Animal Services' canine/Commissioner photo shoot

Commissioner Peters

- Event honoring turnaround students of the year
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
- Recognition of Communications Department for its work related to the town hall meeting regarding the Downtown County Redevelopment Plan
- Mental Health Awareness Month

Chair Eggers

- John Morroni Legacy Foundation's 30th Annual Law Enforcement and First Responder Appreciation Dinner
- Presentation of a Water Conservation Month proclamation at a graduation ceremony for the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences County Extension's Water Stewards program
- Recognition of a small business which repairs electric bicycles
- First home renovation project as part of the County's People First Home Rehabilitation and Reconstruction program
- Upcoming trip to Dublin with Pinellas County Economic Development staff
- Ongoing construction work on U.S. Highway 19 Alternate
- Palm Harbor Hero Fest
- Appreciation to County employees for the work they do everyday on behalf of residents
- Wishing everyone a happy Mother's Day

Tri-County Meeting Resolution

Resolution No. 26-32 adopted, indicating the Board's support for a joint meeting to be held with the Boards of County Commissioners of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties on June 5, 2026, and authorizing the Board's participation.

Ms. Revie indicated that a vote is needed regarding the resolution for the joint meeting to be held between the Boards of County Commissioners of Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco Counties.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Latvala, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Scherer, and Commissioner Scott

ADJOURNMENT - 11:58 P.M.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SEAL PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Dave Eggers
Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By ______________________
Deputy Clerk