

Pinellas County

*950 Lake Carillon Drive
St. Petersburg, FL 33716*



Minutes - Final

Friday, October 13, 2023

1:00 P.M.

Joint BCC/State Legislative Delegation Meeting

Hilton St. Petersburg

Board of County Commissioners

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

ROLL CALL – 1:04 P.M.

Board of County Commissioners (BCC)

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

Not Present: Vice-Chair Kathleen Peters

State Legislative Delegation

Present: Representative Kimberly Berfield, Representative Linda Chaney, Senator Ed Hooper, Representative Berny Jacques, Representative Michele Rayner-Goolsby, and Senator Darryl Rouson

Not Present: Representative Adam Anderson, Representative Lindsay Cross, and Senator Nick DiCeglie

Others Present: County Administrator Barry A. Burton, Chief Assistant County Attorney Don Crowell, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Ken Burke, Supervisor of Elections Julie Marcus, Sixth Judicial Circuit Judge Keith Meyer, Property Appraiser Mike Twitty, Board Reporter Sitara Coyle, and other interested individuals

1. Welcome

- Commissioner Janet Long, Chair, Board of County Commissioners
- Representative Linda Chaney, Chair, Legislative Delegation

Chair Long called the meeting to order and requested that those in attendance introduce themselves.

Following introductions, Senator Hooper and Representative Jacques presented the County Commission with a check. Mr. Burton indicated that the funds will be utilized to expand the infrastructure of the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport.

2. Pinellas County 2024 Legislative Program

Laura Boehmer, The Southern Group, thanked the Legislative Delegation for its continued support and highlighted several 2023 key accomplishments. Referring to a document titled *2024 State Legislative Program*, she related that the guiding principles are similar to previous years and expressed concern regarding future funding for the Transportation Trust Fund due to increased use of electric vehicles. She provided a brief overview of the legislative priorities, including information related to local fertilizer ordinances, waste-to-energy facilities, short-term rentals, and classification of potentially dangerous dogs; whereupon, she indicated that appropriation requests include funding for portable generators for use during storm events and for three water main replacements.

Representative Chaney expressed appreciation for everyone's attendance and for the work that they do, noting that the 2024 legislative session is scheduled for January 9 through March 8, 2024. She reminded everyone that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and led a moment of silence for the counties affected by Hurricane Idalia and for Israel.

In response to a query by Representative Berfield, Mr. Burton indicated that the portable generators would be utilized during storms to provide support at lift stations where there is not a backup power source.

Upon her arrival and at the request of Chair Long, Representative Rayner-Goolsby introduced herself.

Commissioner Eggers thanked the members of the Delegation for their continued efforts on behalf of the county.

Commissioner Scott and Mr. Twitty expressed concerns regarding the impacts of short-term rentals, including the ability to identify them. Commissioner Scott discussed, with input by Mr. Burton, anchorage limitation areas and limited options to address derelict and liveaboard vessels; whereupon, Representative Chaney provided comments, and a brief discussion ensued.

Commissioner Flowers expressed appreciation for the additional funding provided for affordable housing and shared her concerns regarding property and flood insurance rates; whereupon, she thanked those, including Senator Rouson, who supported the appointment of Terri Lipsey Scott to a statewide committee regarding an African American museum. Representatives Berfield and Rayner-Goolsby provided insight into the different options being considered to address insurance rates.

3. Constitutional Officers

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Ken Burke

Mr. Burke noted the passing of former Broward County Clerk of Court Howard Forman and spoke of his many years of public service.

Mr. Burke provided information related to concerns regarding a task force which is aimed at potential consolidation of Florida judicial circuits, noting that the Sixth Judicial Circuit works very well and expressed his opposition to it being made part of a larger operation; whereupon, he also discussed concerns regarding the Clerk's budgets being determined by the Revenue Estimating Commission, as well as his plans to again discuss challenges related to funding and pay raises for Clerk's employees. Following remarks by Senator Hooper, Mr. Burke provided additional information regarding the Revenue Estimating Commission.

Property Appraiser Mike Twitty

Mr. Twitty briefly discussed accessory dwelling units and the Save Our Homes cap, efforts to increase citizens' understanding of the impacts of risk ratings, and work being done to propose a bill related to disclosure of ad valorem property taxes; whereupon, he provided information regarding a local option for an exemption that the County has not adopted, known as the "granny flat" bill, and a brief discussion ensued.

Sixth Judicial Circuit Judge Keith Meyer

Judge Meyer expressed appreciation to the Commissioners and to the Legislative Delegation for their continued support and briefly highlighted some of the resulting benefits to the citizens of Pinellas County.

Judge Meyer related that significant funding will be sought for court reporting and due process resources, case management technology, and for more case managers; whereupon, Commissioner Flowers provided information regarding partnerships and programs which can positively impact those individuals navigating the family and juvenile court systems.

Supervisor of Elections Julie Marcus

Supervisor Marcus related that there are three countywide elections which will take place in 2024 and provided information regarding preparation which has already begun for the upcoming presidential election cycle, stressing the importance of conducting fair, accurate, and secure elections; whereupon, she responded to queries by Chair Long regarding funding, artificial intelligence software, and the need to maintain cyber and physical security.

Senator Rouson thanked Supervisor Marcus for her work.

4. Open Discussion with Legislative Delegation

Commissioner Eggers thanked the Delegation for its support of Tampa Bay Water and commented advancing discussions regarding a regional Metropolitan Planning Organization, the gas tax fund, and the ability to manage land use at the local level.

In response to a query by Senator Hooper, Mr. Burton provided details regarding beach renourishment efforts and related issues; whereupon, discussion ensued.

Responding to a query by Senator Rouson, Mr. Burton, with input by Executive Aide Nicholas Eddy, provided information related to the opioid litigation settlement, noting that decisions are still in progress regarding allocation of the funds by the County.

5. Public Comment

Chair Long opened the meeting for public comment; whereupon, David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, appeared and expressed his concerns.

Senator Hooper expressed appreciation to the Commission for its efforts regarding the successful negotiations related to the Tampa Bay Rays.

ADJOURNMENT – 2:29 P.M.