

# **Pinellas County**

*333 Chestnut Street  
Clearwater, FL 33756*



## **Minutes - Final**

**Monday, October 7, 2024**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Emergency Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Meeting**

**Palm Room**

## **Board of County Commissioners**

*Kathleen Peters, Chair*

*Brian Scott, Vice-Chair*

*Dave Eggers*

*René Flowers*

*Charlie Justice*

*Chris Latvala*

*Janet C. Long*

**ROLL CALL - 9:30 A.M.**

**Present:** 6 - Chair Kathleen Peters, Vice-Chair Brian Scott, Commissioner Dave Eggers, Commissioner René Flowers, Commissioner Charlie Justice, and Commissioner Chris Latvala

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Janet C. Long

**Others Present:** Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; and Katie Poviones, Senior Board Records Specialist, Deputy Clerk

**1. Emergency BCC Meeting**

Resolution No. 24-70 adopted, extending the State of Local Emergency established in Resolution 24-68, as of 10:09 A.M. on October 7, 2024, as provided in Section 252.38(3)(a)5, Florida Statutes.

Mr. Burton provided introductory comments regarding Hurricane Milton, including its projected path and potential storm surge, and indicated that, regardless of where the storm makes landfall, it will impact Pinellas County. He related that an evacuation order for all health care facilities within Evacuation Zones A, B, and C was issued yesterday; that residents have been encouraged to evacuate; and that staff will continue to monitor the path of the storm and issue mandatory evacuation orders based upon conditions observed; whereupon, Mr. Burton related that staff will remain in close contact with local municipalities and agencies as the storm develops.

Emergency Management Director Cathie Perkins provided additional information regarding the storm, indicating that current storm surge approximations, provided by the National Hurricane Center, are between eight and twelve feet. She noted that Pinellas County is currently under hurricane, storm surge, and flood watches, which will likely be upgraded to warnings; and that five to ten inches of rainfall is projected, with the possibility for up to 15 inches in localized areas.

Ms. Perkins emphasized that inland areas will experience some hurricane and tropical storm force winds; and that citizens planning to evacuate out of the county should consider traffic conditions and whether their intended destination is in an evacuation zone.

Ms. Perkins related that a mandatory evacuation order will be issued for individuals on the special needs registry in Evacuation Zones A, B, and C and for individuals who are electric-dependent; and that evacuation is recommended for special needs registrants in Evacuation Zones D and E, as well as for all mobile home residents throughout the county; whereupon, she provided information regarding resources available to Pinellas County residents and their families, evacuation alerts and notifications, and various preparative measures being implemented by the County.

Mr. Burton requested that the Board extend the State of Local Emergency adopted on September 24, 2024, and delegate authority for him to issue future extensions related to the storm, as warranted by response and recovery; whereupon, he explained that the extension would continue to authorize him and the Pinellas County Sheriff to take necessary protective measures.

Mr. Burton and Ms. Perkins responded to comments, concerns, and queries by the members related to various topics, including water consumption, potential impacts to wastewater treatment plants and sewer systems, shelter preparations, and accommodations available for those evacuating.

Mr. Burton indicated that the proposed extension would expire prior to the Board of County Commission meeting on Tuesday, October 15; that he would have the ability to order another extension on Monday, October 14; and that, due to the path and timeline of the storm, the work session scheduled for Thursday, October 10, 2024, will be cancelled.

Attorney White pointed out that, when the resolution was prepared, it referenced Tropical Storm Milton; and that, prior to the resolution's execution, it will be corrected to refer to the storm as a hurricane; whereupon, in response to a query by Commissioner Justice, she provided clarifying information related to a State-imposed limitation regarding the allowable duration of Local State of Emergency orders, and noted that there is an existing County ordinance which addresses the Board's ability to order a State of Local Emergency without a quorum.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Vice-Chair Scott, that the proposed resolution extending the State of Local Emergency be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Long

Chair Peters expressed appreciation to first responders, staff, and volunteers for their hard work and urged residents to heed evacuation warnings; whereupon, discussion ensued regarding the October 15 Board of County Commission meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT - 10:15 A.M.**