

# **Pinellas County**

*315 Court Street  
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



## **Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, January 23, 2018**

**2:00 PM**

**Public Hearings at 6:00 PM**

**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 Morroni*

**ROLL CALL - 2:02 P.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; Clarethia N. Harris, Chief Deputy Clerk; and Chris Bartlett, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk.

**INVOCATION by Commissioner Charlie Justice****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. Human Trafficking Prevention Month Proclamation:
  - Paul Valenti, Director, Office of Human Rights

Chairman Welch invited Mr. Valenti and his staff to the podium and provided background information, relating that Presidential Proclamation established January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in 2015; and that the Board of County Commissioners adopted an anti-trafficking ordinance in 2016. Mr. Valenti introduced his staff and briefly spoke about the work conducted by the Office of Human Rights; whereupon, Chairman Welch presented him with a plaque and read a proclamation recognizing January 2018 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Pinellas County.

2. Partner Presentations:
  - Chief Judge Anthony Rondolino, Sixth Judicial Circuit
  - Matthew Jordan, General Manager, Tampa Bay Water

Chairman Welch recognized Judge Rondolino, noting that he has been working as a judge since 1990 and is responsible for the administrative supervision of the courts and staff within the Sixth Circuit. Judge Rondolino expressed appreciation and thanked the Commissioners for the continued working relationship that the court system has with the County.

Chairman Welch invited Mr. Jordan to the podium and commended Tampa Bay Water for continuing to operate efficiently and focusing on delivering high quality drinking water to the Tampa Bay region. Mr. Jordan introduced Christina Sackett, Chief Financial Officer, and Michelle Stom, Chief Communications Officer, and provided an overview of Tampa Bay Water and an update on current operations and plans for future needs.

Chairman Welch inquired as to why Pinellas County now comprises 27 percent of the total water usage when it had previously comprised 40 percent, and Mr. Jordan stated that there has been a loss of wholesale customers, as Tarpon Springs and Oldsmar have built their own systems.

Discussion ensued regarding House Bill 1303 and Senate Bill 1710 pertaining to reclaimed water, and the importance of working together with the member governments. Commissioner Morroni inquired as to whether the sponsors of the bills would continue to pursue the issue in light of the Tampa Bay Water Board's 6 to 3 vote in opposition to the legislation. Mr. Jordan indicated that he has not spoken to the bill sponsors and, responding to queries by the members, related that the bills would allow member governments to start producing drinking water through the use of reclaimed water; and that he believes they have been assigned to committees, which have not yet met; whereupon, Chairman Welch thanked Mr. Jordan for the presentation and commended him and his staff for the work they do.

Later in the meeting and referring to water consumption, Commissioner Eggers noted that Pasco and Hillsborough Counties have continued to experience a high rate of growth, reducing the percentage attributed to Pinellas County.

### **CONSENT AGENDA - Items 3 through 15 (Items 10, 12, and 13 addressed under Regular Agenda)**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Morroni, 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

### 3. Vouchers and bills paid from November 26 through December 23, 2017.

Period: November 26 through December 2, 2017

Payroll - \$3,448,411.19

Accounts Payable - \$32,736,313.76

Period: December 3 through December 9, 2017

Payroll - None

Accounts Payable - \$41,275,827.15

Period: December 10 through December 16, 2017

Payroll - \$3,445,278.88

Accounts Payable - \$17,228,621.21

Period: December 17 through December 23, 2017

Payroll - None

Accounts Payable - \$11,259,160.46

Reports received for filing:

4. Dock Fee Report for the month of December 2017.
5. Quarterly Report of Routine Dock and Dredge/Fill Permits issued from October 1 to December 31, 2017.
6. Annual Investment Report for the Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2017.
7. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2017-37 dated December 21, 2017 - Audit of the Intergovernmental Radio Communication Program.

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

8. City of Clearwater Ordinances Nos. 9066-17, 9069-17, 9080-17, 9083-17, 9086-17, and 9089-17 adopted December 7, 2017, annexing certain properties.
9. City of Dunedin Notice of Public Hearing to be held March 15, 2018, regarding proposed Ordinance No. 18-06 annexing certain property.

#### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

##### County Administrator

11. Receipt and file report of purchasing items delegated to the County Administrator for the quarter ending December 31, 2017.

#### AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

##### Sheriff's Office

14. Receipt and file report of Sheriff's Office grants received and service contracts for the quarter ending December 31, 2017.
15. Receipt and file report on the Law Enforcement Trust Fund for the quarter ending December 31, 2017.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

County Administrator

10. Receipt and file report of non-procurement items delegated to the County Administrator for the period ending December 31, 2017.

Referring to Item No. 8 on the delegated log, Commissioner Seel inquired as to why a \$950,000.00 grant is being requested for renovations at the 501 Building in St. Petersburg when a grant is being applied for to construct a stand-alone building. She stated that she has been visited by an individual interested in purchasing the building for a co-working space; and that a considerable amount of money has been invested in the building in the past. She suggested that a discussion be held at an upcoming meeting to obtain a clearer vision of the past, present, and future of the building.

Mr. Woodard indicated that the state legislative package includes an appropriation request for a business and technology incubator in the City of St. Petersburg, but it has not been successful largely due to the magnitude of the request. He stated that the application in question is essentially a backup plan in a much smaller amount; that it would allow for the accommodation of a business incubator within existing County-owned space until additional funding is available; and that it would also provide for building modifications to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, opening up space for additional tenants; whereupon, he suggested that the 501 Building be discussed as part of the upcoming Capital Improvement Program presentation.

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Seel, 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

Public Works

12. County incentive grant program agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the Forest Lakes Boulevard Phase II project.

Resolution No. 18-1 adopted approving the agreement (FDOT Financial Project No. 441794 1 54 01). Grant amount, \$1,953,091.00; County cost, \$9,617,304.00; total estimated cost, \$11,570,395.00. Chairman authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.

At the request of Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Woodard provided background information, indicating that the Forest Lakes Boulevard project is comprised of three phases, one of which has been completed. He explained that Agenda Item No. 12 pertains to a grant award for the construction of Phase II; and that Item No. 13 is a grant application for the design and construction of Phase III.

Referring to an aerial photograph, Transportation Division Director Ken Jacobs pointed out the project boundaries and described the work related to each of the phased segments, noting the cost and projected timeline.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Seel, Mr. Jacobs indicated that the traffic count in the Phase III segment is currently 17,500 vehicles per day; that the conceptual design plan will allow for the construction of the four-lane divided highway without impacting the existing businesses or homes; that there have been some issues with high water in the Phase II project area; that sections of the road will be rebuilt using a different submaterial to combat any deterioration; that the road has been repaved, milled, and resurfaced; and that in certain areas, the road will have to be completely rebuilt, which has raised the cost of the segment to \$11.5 million.

In response to additional queries by Commissioner Seel, Mr. Jacobs related that the project was originally proposed as a four-lane divided roadway with the ability to add a fifth and sixth lane inside the median; that it was re-scoped to a four-lane divided section after a finding that the additions would be cost prohibitive; and that he is unaware of any plans by Hillsborough County to widen Linebaugh Avenue.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Eggers, 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

- 13.** Grant application with the Florida Department of Transportation for the Forest Lakes Boulevard Phase III project between SR 580 and Tampa Road.

Grant application approved for 50-percent match funding in the amount of \$3,845,600.00 for the design and construction phases (total anticipated project cost, \$7,691,200.00). Staff authorized to electronically submit the application.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Eggers, 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

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

### Parks and Conservation Resources

- 16.** Air Quality Consent Order A17-053 with Oak Ridge Largo, LLC.

Consent order approved assessing a penalty in the amount of \$34,400.00 to resolve asbestos air quality violations.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gerard, 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

Public Works

17. Resolution dedicating a portion of County-owned property as public road right-of-way for the Sunset Point Road and North Betty Lane Intersection Improvement project.

(PID No. 001018A) Resolution No. 18-2 adopted. Clerk authorized to record.

**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

Real Estate Management

18. Change Order No. 1 to the contract with Anderson & Shah Roofing, Inc. of Florida for the Roof Recoating Project at the Young-Rainey STAR Center.

(Bid No. 167-0453-B; PID No. 002885A) Change Order in the amount \$79,000.00 approved increasing the project scope by 37,314 square feet and extending the project timeframe by 40 consecutive days (revised total expenditure \$350,000.00).

**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

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

19. County Administrator Miscellaneous.  
- Legislative Session Update  
- Budget Public Hearing Announcement

Legislative Session Update

Mr. Woodard introduced the item stating that it would focus on legislative bills regarding the Tourist Development Tax (TDT), the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board (PCCLB), and the proposed merging of the University of South Florida (USF) and USF St. Petersburg (USFSP) campuses.

Intergovernmental Liaison Brian Lowack reported that the TDT bills in the House and Senate are nearly identical; that the House bill additionally expands the use of TDT funds to finance estuary and lagoon improvements; and that the Senate bill is in its second of three committees while the House bill is in its third and final committee.

Mr. Lowack indicated that changes to the PCCLB are included in House Bill (HB) 1137,

which contains the agreed upon language between the Board and the local delegation; that the bill has unanimously passed its first committee; and that it will be heard by the second and third committees as early as next week.

Mr. Lowack related that a Higher Education bill, HB 423, includes language that addresses a proposed merger of USF and its branch campuses, specifically stating the following:

- The USF Board of Trustees must submit an implementation plan to phase out accreditation of the USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee campuses by January 15, 2019.
- Separate accreditation for both branches must be terminated by June 30, 2020 with no lapse in accreditation for any USF campus.
- The entirety of all USF campuses and other component units of the university shall operate under a single institutional accreditation on or before July 1, 2020.
- Data for all campuses must be consolidated for the purposes of reporting to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and the Board of Governors.
- USF will be held harmless for students who enroll in a branch campus prior to consolidation or who drop out of all USF campuses before the separation.
- The Florida Center for Partnerships for Arts-Integrated Teaching shall remain headquartered at the USF Sarasota-Manatee branch campus.

Mr. Lowack indicated that the USF portion of the bill concerns expectations that USF Tampa would achieve preeminent status in the near future; that achieving preeminent status would award additional funds above and beyond other universities' funding; that a state university is required to meet 11 of the 12 qualifying metrics for preeminent status; and that USF Tampa currently meets nine of those requirements and qualifies as an emerging preeminent university. He noted that the bill would enable both USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee to benefit from the impending preeminent status of USF.

Chairman Welch related that he had a conversation with USF President Judy Genshaft and Representative Chris Sprowls over the weekend; that there has been poor communication regarding the bill as it has taken many people by surprise; and that the issue of USF St. Petersburg's independence, self-governance, and ability to tie directly into the County's needs and the needs of its students is important. He related that Ms. Genshaft stated that the university's preeminence is the main driving factor for proposing the merger; that the USFSP campus would not lose its identity; that there will be programs to address the range of qualifications between the campuses for enrollment; and that it would likely require a two-year transition period should the bill pass.

In response to queries by Commissioner Gerard, Mr. Lowack indicated that once the

merger is completed, the branch scores would combine with the main university towards meeting the 12 metrics; and that the branch scores would have either a positive or negative effect depending on how they differ from the current main score.

Commissioner Justice stated that the idea of preeminence has merit, but USFSP self-governance, together with the lack of communication surrounding the bill, trumps all other concerns. He related that the St. Petersburg City Council is drafting resolutions to table the issue at this time, and proposing that a town hall meeting be held allowing Representatives Sprowls and Rodrigues to convince local stakeholders to support the bill. He indicated that there is a minimal level of trust between USFSP and USF Tampa; and that over time, decisions including tenure, curriculum, and more would be made in Tampa and not St. Petersburg; whereupon, he suggested that the Board send a letter to Representative Sprowls and the Legislative Delegation to encourage removing the USF merger provision from the bill and requesting a means to discuss the issue together over the next year.

Discussion ensued regarding the complex decision in the 1990's to grant USFSP its independence from USF Tampa, and the concern of how the merger might affect current and future USFSP students, especially with regard to enrollment requirements; whereupon, several members indicated their support of drafting a letter requesting a delay of the decision in order to encourage more discussion of the issue.

Commissioner Justice indicated that he feels Representative Sprowls genuinely believes the merger is the right thing to do and is not motivated by other factors; and that there are likely several ways to make the best decision on the matter.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Morroni, that the Chairman direct a letter to the Legislative Delegation and Representatives Sprowls and Rodrigues communicating the Board's desire that the USF merger language be removed from HB 423 pending further discussion with the community. 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

Chairman Welch stated that the Board should be prepared for when the PCCLB legislation passes and is signed by Governor Scott; that the Board will need to reappoint or appoint new members to establish a board for the new organization; and that after meeting with PCCLB Interim Executive Director Gay Lancaster, he understands there are some pressing needs around technology and other matters.

Commissioner Eggers referred to Senate Bill (SB) 1710 and HB 1303 regarding the use of reclaimed water, as discussed earlier in the meeting, noting that Tampa Bay Water has worked to accommodate the City of Tampa regarding the issue for the past year. He stated that the County and other member governments should oppose both bills and any attempts to change the interlocal agreement related to Tampa Bay Water; and that it is important for the Board to make a strong statement to that effect; whereupon, Commissioner Gerard indicated that the statement should also include the Board's commitment to the process that is already in place.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the Chairman direct a letter to the Legislative Delegation, Senator Dana Young, and Representative Janet Cruz, along with Tampa Bay Water and its member governments, communicating its opposition to SB 1710 and HB 1303 of the Florida Legislature. 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

Responding to query by Commissioner Long regarding the Tourist Development Tax bills and with input by Mr. Woodard, Mr. Lowack related that both bills have remained intact while moving through the legislative process; that both bills would expand the allowable uses of TDT funds; and that the House bill includes language that allows for financing estuary and lagoon improvement projects, which is not specifically included in the Senate bill.

Commissioner Long reported that the Tourist Development Council (TDC) decided to oppose any changes to the allowable uses of TDT funds; and that the TDC should be included in conversations if changes will be made, and Chairman Welch concurred and provided input.

Discussion ensued regarding preserving the TDC 60/40 funding structure already in place, assuring that the proper message is communicated to the Legislative Delegation, and the approach of monitoring the bill without advocating the expansion of allowable uses; whereupon, Mr. Lowack recited language from the bill pertaining to specific uses.

Commissioner Justice noted that transportation and transit may not be the only things impacted by tourism in the county; and that other items not related to infrastructure might also be included such as law enforcement and public safety. Mr. Woodard related that the bill does not require spending on any new category; and that it would allow the Board to make separate funding decisions as it sees fit.

Commissioner Long commented that the tourism impact on the County's hospital system is enormous, and in response to query by Chairman Welch, Mr. Woodard stated that tourists contribute to first responder services through the property tax levy; that ambulance transport services are fee based; and that seasonal residents and tourists more than double the population of some communities at certain times of the year.

#### Budget Public Hearing Announcement

Mr. Woodard announced that a public hearing will be held at the February 6 meeting to discuss a proposed amendment to the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget regarding carryover items from the previous year.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEY

20. County Attorney Miscellaneous - None.

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

**21. County Administrator Reports:**

- St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport: Economic Activity Analysis
- 2017 Doing Things For You! Accomplishments

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport: Economic Activity Analysis

Mr. Woodard introduced the item and noted that the County had recently commissioned an economic impact study of the Airport and its operations on the county's local economy.

Airport Director Thomas Jewsbury referred to a document titled *St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport: Economic Activity Analysis* and stated that the Airport has registered its fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth, surpassing two million passengers in 2017; that it is one of the top three fastest growing small hub commercial service airports in the nation; and that as a result, Volaire Aviation was engaged to analyze runway dependent businesses and the activity of commercial, military, and general aviation, including the specific impacts of Allegiant Airlines.

Mr. Jewsbury highlighted the following regarding the Airport's economic impact:

- The Airport's estimated economic regional impact is in excess of one billion dollars annually.
- Regional employment includes over 7,000 full-time-equivalent jobs, with approximately 1,400 related non-airport jobs.
- The total of all jobs represents \$80 million in annual payroll.
- If the Airport was considered a single employer, it would be the 19th largest in the county.
- Allegiant Air is the fourth largest airline in Tampa Bay and provides more nonstop destinations than any other airline serving the Tampa Bay area.

Mr. Jewsbury related that for each new city added to Allegiant Air's destinations, nearly 86 new full-time jobs are created with an economic impact of \$13 million; that for each of its 12 aircraft based at the Airport, 430 equivalent regional jobs are created with an economic impact of \$65 million; and that Allegiant Air alone contributes an estimated total economic impact of nearly \$800 million annually.

In response to query by Chairman Welch, Mr. Jewsbury indicated that the number of parking stalls available at the Airport has doubled over the past two years; that parking was near maximum capacity over the 2017 holidays; that construction has begun to expand long-term parking by approximately 25 stalls; and that an initial study and design for a parking garage is being considered. He noted that staff is working to stay ahead of demand so as not to inhibit future growth; and that Allegiant Air has indicated it is projecting a ten-percent growth in 2018.

Responding to query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Jewsbury related that the Noise Abatement Task Force met last week; that Allegiant is working with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to mandate that a specific noise abatement procedure be issued to pilots; that the Airport staff works with the airlines to minimize noise impacts and communicate to the community what it can and cannot do under FAA regulations; and that he plans to communicate with the FAA at the local level about the issues.

In response to query by Commissioner Seel regarding older aircraft, Mr. Jewsbury noted that all Allegiant-owned McDonnell Douglas MD-80 aircraft based at the airport have been replaced with Airbus planes; and that Allegiant will transition all of its remaining aircraft to Airbus by the end of the year. He noted that some of the local Airbus aircraft are new and most are not older than ten years; and that the Airbus aircraft are generally considered quieter than MD-80 planes.

Responding to query by Commissioner Morrone, Mr. Jewsbury indicated that he has a staff of 68 employees; and that St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport has surpassed single airports in Dayton, Ohio; Syracuse, New York; and Colorado Springs, Colorado, despite having an additional international airport in Tampa that serves close to 20 million passengers annually.

#### 2017 Doing Things for You! Accomplishments

Mr. Woodard distributed copies of a report titled *Doing Things for You! Pinellas County 2017 Accomplishments* to the members and noted that the report is available on the County website in a fully-interactive version that allows users to receive highly-detailed information on the various topics within the report; whereupon, Marketing and Communications Director Barbra Hernandez provided an online demonstration of the interactive report.

In response to queries by the members, Ms. Hernandez indicated that a flyer in Spanish will be distributed in the near future and provided draft copies of the flyer to the members, a copy of which has been made a part of the record.

Thereupon, a video was shown highlighting the 2017 accomplishments.

#### CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

##### 22. Public Comment.

Donna Davis, Clearwater, re affordable housing.

David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, re both sides now?

## COUNTY COMMISSION

- 23.** Appointment to the Pinellas County Housing Finance Authority (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Mr. Woodard noted that the Board appointed Dennis Long last year to fill an unexpired term; and that the term has now expired and a new appointment is required.

In response to a request by Commissioner Justice, Housing Finance Authority (HFA) Executive Director Kathryn Driver provided an overview of the organization's history and purpose, stating that the HFA works in conjunction with the County and other jurisdictions to help provide affordable housing for low to moderate income residents of Pinellas County, and discussion ensued regarding what information is shared on the County website and the Board's authority and responsibility with respect to its partner organizations.

Later in the meeting, Ms. Harris announced that Dennis Long was reappointed for a four-year term following a ballot vote.

- 24.** Appointments to the Citizen Advisory Committee for South St. Petersburg Community Redevelopment Area (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).  
Chairman Welch provided input regarding the candidates and noted that Caprice Johnson has also applied for appointment to the CareerSource Pinellas and Economic Development Council boards, and discussion ensued regarding the CareerSource appointment process.

Later in the meeting, Ms. Harris announced that Ramona Hunter and Javan Turner were appointed and Arthur O'Hara was reappointed for three-year terms following a ballot vote.

- 25.** County Commission New Business Items:
- County Administrator Recruitment & Selection - Executive Search Firm (BOCC)
  - Resolution for HB509 / Direct File - Juvenile Justice (Commissioner Welch)
  - Women and Minority Business Enterprise Program (WMBE) (Commissioner Welch)

County Administrator Recruitment and Selection - Executive Search Firm

Mr. Woodard related that based upon research conducted by the Purchasing Department, two executive search firms have been selected for the Board's consideration; that both firms have been competitively procured by other jurisdictions in the State of Florida; and that the firms' rates have been included in the agenda packet along with a list of past and current recruitments conducted by each firm.

Mr. Woodard indicated that the recruitment fee for Waters & Company is \$24,500, which includes travel and lodging for staff and background checks of the applicants; that the recruitment fee for Colin Baenziger & Associates is \$20,000 but does not include travel and lodging for staff, and background checks are an additional \$600 per applicant; and that a third firm, Deloitte Consulting, was not selected for consideration as it did not have a fixed-price negotiated fee. He noted that the selected firms are nationally known and have

recruited for Pinellas County in the past; and that both have contracts in place for jurisdictions within Florida that the County can utilize through its procurement ordinance.

In response to query by Chairman Welch, Mr. Woodard indicated that the Board has the option to select one of the two firms directly or work through the bid process to solicit other proposals; whereupon, Chairman Welch acknowledged Mr. Woodard's performance and continued efforts as the Board prepares to select the next County Administrator.

Chairman Welch indicated that he would support the selection of Waters & Company for the following reasons:

- The installment payment schedule follows four key milestones within the process.
- Recruitment is guaranteed for 24 months against termination or resignation.
- Travel costs and background checks are included in the fixed price.
- The list of past recruitments includes several large counties and cities.

Commissioner Justice concurred and stated that Waters appears to have more history with counties rather than cities and other districts; and that he understands some Commissioners had concerns with the selection process of a previous search; whereupon, Commissioner Seel discussed the 2007 County Administrator search and provided background information. She noted that if the selected firm were to utilize Human Resources to help with due diligence, she would likely support the selection of Waters & Company.

In response to query by Commissioner Gerard, Mr. Woodard related that Colin Baenziger & Associates conducted a 2011 recruitment for the County's Director of Environment and Infrastructure, and discussion ensued regarding the scope of involvement expected from Human Resources and receiving the best-qualified account representative from the selected vendor.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gerard, seconded by Commissioner Long, that Waters & Company be selected as the executive search firm for the new County Administrator recruitment and selection. 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

#### Resolution for HB 509 / Direct File - Juvenile Justice

Chairman Welch related that the Commission often receives requests for resolutions of support; and that the NAACP St. Petersburg Branch Executive Committee voted December 18 to ask each Commissioner to support the Southern Poverty Law Center's efforts to modify the direct filing of children in the adult justice system by passing House Bill 509 in the Florida Legislature. He noted that the Board has three options: approve a resolution, defer the item to a future meeting allowing staff more time to gather information and analysis, or table the request. Several members indicated that they would support deferring the item.

Responding to query by Chairman Welch, Mr. Woodard stated that initial information has been included in the agenda packet; and that the issue is very complex; whereupon, Mr. Lowack conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *HB 509 Juvenile Justice*, which has been made a part of the record, and reviewed the current Juvenile Justice process and the proposed changes. He related that the House and Senate bills are in the early stages of the committee approval process.

In response to queries by the members, Mr. Lowack related that an involuntary mandatory waiver requires the State Attorney to transfer a minor's case to adult court if the child is age 14 or older under specific circumstances and without discretion.

Chairman Welch stated that he addressed the matter with State Attorney Bernie McCabe, who has expressed some concerns, and Senator Rouson, who has initially responded favorably; and that he will ask the State Attorney and Public Defender to summarize their thoughts in writing to the members, and discussion ensued.

#### Women and Minority Business Enterprise Program (WMBE)

Chairman Welch stated that he would like the Board to schedule a workshop to discuss the current Small Business Enterprise program; that for various reasons, it is not performing at a high level for a large county such as Pinellas; and that there are opportunities to significantly improve the program. He related that he has spoken with several individuals who have shared ideas for improvements and, where applicable, have stated their intent to bring the matter to their respective councils and commissions.

Thereupon, Chairman Welch noted that there was consensus among the members to schedule a future workshop on the topic.

#### 26. County Commission Board Reports and Miscellaneous Items.

##### Commissioner Morrone

- Indicated that the Value Adjustment Board and Human Rights Board did not meet; and that due to a prior engagement, he was unable to attend the Pinellas Park Water Management District meeting.
- Noted that Forward Pinellas received updates on several area transit projects from the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA); that Mr. Lowack has provided monthly legislative updates to the members; and that there was discussion regarding the patent issue related to rectangular rapid-flashing beacons used at various crosswalks; whereupon, Commissioner Eggers provided input and discussion ensued.

##### Commissioner Eggers

- Related that the Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area Leadership Group is narrowing its focus on Wesley Chapel through downtown to Westshore, and across the bridge to St. Petersburg; and that reducing project costs by utilizing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) has come into greater acceptance among its members.

- Indicated that several citizens have voiced concerns regarding substandard roads that are not immediately addressed by the County's road paving program; and that the County should take a hard look at moving the program forward more quickly. In response to queries by the members, Mr. Woodard noted that there are some options available that can be discussed in greater detail at the upcoming strategic planning meeting.
- Congratulated Habitat for Humanity and the Perry family on their new home in Safety Harbor.

#### Commissioner Seel

- Reported that the Homeless Leadership Board Executive Committee is working to refine how 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares and the Tampa Bay Information Network work together, and is looking at the Sunshine and Open Records laws and how they affect the Board.
- Noted that Senator Brandes has filed Senate Bill 984 dealing with changes to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and brief discussion ensued.

#### Commissioner Long

- Reported that the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) has assumed responsibility of implementing the Regional Public Transportation Feasibility Plan; that the TBARTA Policy Committee will present its recommended process for selecting the new Executive Director to the full Board; and that the Board discussed the importance for all transit organizations to come together as a group in order to present the best message moving forward; whereupon, she briefly discussed Bus Rapid Transit.
- Indicated that she met with AmSkills Executive Director Tom Mudano last week; and that the organization remains on track to be self-sustaining in the next two to three years.
- Noted that PSTA has authorized an Autonomous Vehicle Study; and that a private firm has committed to fund pilot projects in South St. Petersburg and north county.
- Reported that the February 12 Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council meeting will focus on its Sea Level Rise and Climate Resilience program and transportation.

Discussion ensued regarding the legislative authority for TBARTA to implement the Feasibility Plan, the involvement of the MPOs in the plan, and the general response to creating one regional MPO for the Tampa Bay area by merging the existing organizations.

Commissioner Gerard

- Noted that PSTA is advocating for a phone application that would integrate trip planning options for Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties, including using the phone to pay for services.
- Indicated that she will attend her first Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative meeting on February 1; and that as Chair of the Public Safety Coordinating Council, she has distributed a report from the Sheriff regarding the Adult Diversion Program to the members.
- Reported that she has recently attended events for Habitat for Humanity; that the organization is on track for at least 80 homes this year; and that she and Chairman Welch represented the Board at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade.

Responding to query by Commissioner Gerard regarding recent allegations pertaining to CareerSource Pinellas, Chairman Welch noted that any State or Federal investigations will continue separate from any action by the BCC; that the BCC has limited options and control over how CareerSource operates; and that the BCC should start exploring ways to improve the process of selecting CareerSource board members. He acknowledged that applications are currently received by the BCC and forwarded to CareerSource for evaluation; and that most recently, the Executive Committee members only received one name and not multiple applications.

Commissioner Eggers stated that the reaction of the CareerSource executive director to the members' questions is unacceptable, and discussion ensued concerning what options may be available to the BCC to address the issues; whereupon, Chairman Welch asked the County Attorney to research what authority the BCC may have over the CareerSource budget and report back to the Board at a later time.

Later in the meeting, Commissioner Justice noted that he had requested that Pinellas County Inspector General Hector Collazo, Jr. perform an audit on CareerSource Pinellas; that in reviewing the interlocal agreement between CareerSource and the County, Mr. Collazo determined that his office is not authorized to conduct such an audit, as the responsibility lies with the CareerSource Audit Committee to do so; and that the Florida State Inspector General is now doing its own review of the organization.

Chairman Welch

- Reported that the Tourist Development Council (TDC) has discussed the possible legislative changes to the Bed Tax; that the Elite Event Funding Program process will begin in March, for final BCC approval in May; and that TDC staff is using Business Intelligence to better understand visitors through anonymously collected data.

**Meeting Recessed: 4:50 P.M.**

**Meeting Reconvened: 6:02 P.M.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**All public hearing items have been properly advertised. Affidavits of Publication have received and are on file in the Board Records Department.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS****27. Q Z/LU-16-12-17 (Pinellas County)**

A request for a zoning change from PC, Preservation/Conservation to R-3, Single Family Residential and a land use change from Recreation/Open Space to Residential Low on 0.25 acre located approximately 200 feet north of the northeast corner of Pine Street and Wilcox Road in unincorporated Largo.

Resolution No. 18-3 and Ordinance No. 18-06 adopted. The Local Planning Agency recommended approval of the request, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

Mr. Woodard provided background information and noted that the proposed changes would help facilitate the construction of an affordable single-family residence in the Dansville community; and that the Board has donated several parcels in the area to Habitat for Humanity in the past.

Planning Division Manager Bruce Bussey referred to aerial maps and pointed out the location of the subject parcel and the 13 parcels that were previously donated. He indicated that Habitat for Humanity has completed 11 homes dedicated to new homeowners and is near completion of two others; and that the proposed changes would create an additional opportunity to provide a single-family home to a qualified homebuyer in the area.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Eggers, 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

**28. Q Z-17-12-17 (Pinellas County)**

A request for a zoning change from PC, Preservation/Conservation to RBR, Resource-Based Recreation on approximately 12.4 acres located on the north side of Wilcox Road between Jackson Street and Pine Street in unincorporated Largo (first hearing).

Mr. Woodard referred to an aerial map, pointed out the location of the property, and stated that the zoning change would allow the area to be developed for recreational use.

Planning Division Manager Bruce Bussey related that through public outreach, the community indicated a desire for more green space and park-like opportunities near the retention pond in the center of the Dansville community. He noted that the proposed change would allow the County to consider the use of recreational trails, community gardens, and a

possible pier or bridge in the area; and that the amenities would be more park-like and passive, rather than recreational fields.

Responding to query by Commissioner Justice, Mr. Bussey indicated that residential development along 130th Avenue North is precluded by the existing category; that existing debris in the area was found when the retention pond was constructed; and that any housing construction would incur additional costs for debris removal.

Chairman Welch related that this is the first of two public hearings on the matter; and that there would be no action or vote at this time.

29. Ordinance amending Pinellas County Code Section 38-61 related to the City of St. Petersburg Redevelopment Trust Fund for the Intown Redevelopment Plan.

Ordinance No. 18-07 adopted. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

Mr. Woodard related that in September 2017 the Board voted to amend the interlocal agreement with the City of St. Petersburg regarding the Intown Community Redevelopment Area (CRA); and that the proposed changes would align the ordinance with the amended agreement.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Seel, Mr. Woodard indicated that the CRA is scheduled to sunset in 2032; that a maximum project amount is set at \$191 million; and that reaching the maximum amount prior to 2032 would satisfy the County's obligation under the existing agreement.

In response to query by Commissioner Morroni, Planning Director Renea Vincent stated that the 15-year review schedule did not change; and that the City of St. Petersburg will be responsible for submitting the data and analysis in 2019. She noted that the original sunset date was not subject to modification in the amended interlocal agreement or in the proposed ordinance.

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

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

**Nay:** 1 - Commissioner Eggers

- 30. Ordinance amending the Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption process by amending Sections 118-181 to 118-191.

Ordinance No. 18-08 adopted amending Sections of the Pinellas County Code. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

Mr. Woodard indicated that the ordinance would align the County's Economic Development exemptions with changes made to the laws at the state level. He noted that references to "enterprise zones" would be removed from the local ordinance; and that the exemption period authorized for data centers would be extended.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gerard, 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

**ADJOURNMENT - 6:17 P.M.**

*Kenneth T. Welch*  
 Chairman

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By *Palore J. Smitke*  
 Deputy Clerk

