

Pinellas County

*Pinellas County Cooperative Extension
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo*



Minutes - Final

Thursday, September 9, 2021

2:00 P.M.

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting

Public Hearings at 6:00 P.M.

Board of County Commissioners

Dave Eggers, Chair

Charlie Justice, Vice-Chair

Rene Flowers

Pat Gerard

Janet C. Long

Kathleen Peters

Karen Williams Seel

ROLL CALL - 2:07 P.M.

Present: 7 - Chair Dave Eggers, Vice-Chair Charlie Justice, Rene Flowers, Pat Gerard, Janet C. Long, Kathleen Peters, and Karen Williams Seel

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; Jeanette Phillips, Chief Deputy Clerk; and Shirley Westfall, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

Chair Eggers remarked that the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks is nearing and requested a moment of silence to honor the survivors, those who lost their lives, and their families.

INVOCATION by Reverend Clarence Williams, Greater Mt. Zion AME Church, St. Petersburg.**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Eggers related that Commissioner Seel wishes to attend the meeting and vote virtually, and Attorney White advised that the Board must vote to allow it.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Long, that Commissioner Seel be allowed to appear virtually. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Peters

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Seel

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

1. Business Partner Presentation:
- Ben Vargas, President and General Manager, AeroMatrix Composites

Chair Eggers provided brief remarks regarding AeroMatrix Composites and invited President and General Manager Ben Vargas and Human Resources Director Angel Barton to the podium. Mr. Vargas provided an overview of the company and thanked the Commission for their support; whereupon, Ms. Barton discussed job opportunities at the company and how to apply.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

2. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor (submitted documents)
David Sillman, Tarpon Springs
Brooke Errett, Largo
Craig Murtha, Largo

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 3 through 13 (Item Nos. 10 and 13 addressed under Regular Agenda)

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seal

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

- 3. Minutes of the in-person and virtual regular meeting held June 8, 2021.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

- 4. Vouchers and bills paid from July 25 through August 14, 2021.

Period: July 25 through July 31, 2021

Accounts Payable - \$23,840,487.69

Payroll - None

Period: August 1 through August 7, 2021

Accounts Payable - \$44,630,424.75

Payroll - \$3,967,474.10

Period: August 8 through August 14, 2021

Accounts Payable - \$13,130,577.05

Payroll - None

This matter was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

Reports received for filing:

- 5. Correspondence from the Association of Inspectors General dated July 21, 2021, regarding results of the Peer Review of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Division of Inspector General.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

- 6. Memorandum dated August 10, 2021, from Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Ken Burke and County Administrator Barry Burton regarding changes to the capitalization thresholds for tangible personal property and non-capital assets subject to inventory procedures, effective October 1, 2020.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

- 7. City of Clearwater Ordinance Nos. 9463-21, 9466-21, and 9472-21 adopted August 5, 2021, annexing certain properties.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Administrative Services

- 8. Ranking of firms and agreement with Johns Eastern Company, Inc. for workers' compensation third party administration services.

Contract No. 21-0239-P approved in the estimated annual amount of \$247,320.00 for a total contract value not to exceed \$1,236,600.00. The contract is for 60 months.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

Human Services

- 9. Ranking of firms and agreement with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul South Pinellas, Inc. d/b/a St. Vincent de Paul Cares for a direct service provider for the Rapid Rehousing Program.

Contract No. 21-0125-P approved in the amount of \$2,943,000.00 for a term of 60 months ending on September 30, 2026.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

Solid Waste

- 11. Award of bid to Recycling Services of Florida, Inc. for recycling collection and processing services for the Solid Waste Department.

Contract No. 21-0544-B-BW in an amount not to exceed \$1,682,617.40 for a 60-month term commencing in October of 2021 awarded on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

Utilities

- 12. Award of bid to Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc., Mader Electric Motors, Inc., and Southeast Pump Specialist, Inc. for pumps, parts/repairs, installation, and calibration.

Contract No. 21-0222-B approved for an average annual amount of \$5,708,150.00 for a 60-month term; total amount not to exceed \$28,540,750.00 awarded on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bids received meeting specifications.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Public Works

- 10.** Ranking of firms and award of agreement with Pennoni Associates Inc. for engineering services to develop the preliminary engineering report and plans for the Anclote Road Roadway and stormwater improvements.

Contract No. 190-0209-NC approved in the amount of \$848,575.38. Work to be completed within 550 consecutive calendar days from the notice-to-proceed date.

In response to queries by the members, Public Works Engineering Section Manager Tom Washburn, with input from Mr. Burton, indicated that Pennoni Associates Inc. utilized relevant findings of past audits and surveys during the process of creating the proposal; that the preliminary engineering report will take almost two years in duration; and that the inclusion of five Small Business Enterprise firms in Pennoni's submittal for the project was part of the reasoning that its application was prioritized.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seal

Business Technology Services

- 13.** Award of bid to Presidio Holdings Inc. d/b/a Presidio Networked Solutions LLC for Cisco equipment, software, and maintenance.

Bid No. 21-0299-B in the amount of \$24,500,00.00 for a 60-month term awarded based on being the highest percentage discount from manufacturer's suggest retail price. The contract will replace current Contract No. 156-0272-B that expires in September of 2021.

Business Technology Services Chief Information Officer Jeff Rohrs appeared, provided an overview of what the funds would go towards, and responded to queries by the members, noting that County telephones are nearing the end of their supported lifespan and new telephones must be purchased to replace them; that other related expenses included in the contract total are for training and professional services, anticipated phone expenses for the next five years, and unexpected requests; and that this contract has a 10% higher discount on the equipment being purchased than the previous agreement.

During his presentation, the members commented on the significance of cybersecurity and investing in modern technology.

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

Aye: 6 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Peters

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Seel

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

County Administrator

- 14.** Municipal Services Taxing Unit funding for the Tierra Verde Community Association for repairs to playground equipment.

Funding request approved in the not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000.00.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

- 15.** Municipal Services Taxing Unit funding for the Palm Harbor Historical Society to construct a Native Plant and Historic "Living Landscape" with Interpretive Signage project.

Funding request approved in the not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000.00.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

- 16.** Municipal Services Taxing Unit funding for the Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce Downtown Palm Harbor Beautification Streetscape project.

Funding request approved in the amount of \$19,923.97 to develop and install streetscape amenities that support the revitalization of the historic downtown Palm Harbor area.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

17. Municipal Services Taxing Unit funding for Pinellas Police Athletic League Video Surveillance for the Lealman Sports Complex and the Landings Clubhouse.

Funding request approved in the not-to-exceed amount of \$11,507.00.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seal

Human Services

18. Agreement with the District Six Medical Examiner for professional services related to the Medical Examiner's Office and Pinellas County Forensic Laboratory.

Professional services agreement between Pinellas County and District Six Medical Examiner Jon R. Thogmartin M.D., P.A. in the amount of \$6,778,360.00 for operational support, approved.

Dr. Thogmartin appeared and provided information on recent COVID-19 trends, an award given to the laboratory, and staffing issues.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seal

19. Funding Agreement with Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc. for legal aid services.

Agreement approved in an amount not to exceed \$390,900.00 to provide funding for legal assistance to eligible residents of the County in the areas of family law, elder law, consumer law, housing law, tax law, and public benefits advocacy.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seal

20. Grant award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for Assisted Outpatient Treatment services for individuals with serious mental illness.

Grant funding approved and accepted in the amount of \$997,160.00 per year, with an additional \$25,000.00 annual technical assistance supplement on the first three years, for a four-year total award of \$4,063,640.00. No County match is required.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

21. Human Services Social Action Grant Funding recommendations.

Recommendations approved awarding funding to 18 agencies. An amount not to exceed \$1,551,000.00 in Social Action Grant Funding is anticipated to be available in Fiscal Year 2022. Human Services Department staff directed to negotiate agreements for the recommended programs.

In response to a query by Chair Eggers, Mr. Burton, with input from Human Services Director Karen Yatchum, discussed the application process and the review committees that recommend awards.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Parks and Conservation Resources

22. Agreement with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services by Environmental Lands Unit Deputies.

Contract approved in the amount of \$308,990.00 for Fiscal Year 2022.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Safety and Emergency Services

23. Medicaid Public Emergency Medical Transportation Letter of Agreement between Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services d/b/a Sunstar and the Agency for Health Care Administration that allows Pinellas County to participate in the State Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Medicaid Public Emergency Medical Transportation Intergovernmental Transfer program.

Letter of Agreement approved in accordance with Agency for Health Care Administration requirements, providing for projected Fiscal Year 2022 net revenue in the amount of \$5,145,820.23.

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 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Solid Waste

- 24.** Annual certificate of the Lealman Solid Waste Collection and Disposal District Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll.

Sitting as the governing body of the Lealman Solid Waste Collection and Disposal District, the Board approved the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2021. Chair authorized to certify the roll to the Tax Collector prior to September 15, 2021.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Utilities

- 25.** First Amendment to the Agreement with PCL Construction, Inc. for design-build services for the Dunn Water Reclamation Facility Filtration and Disinfection Improvements Project.

(Contract No. 178-0407-NC) Amendment in the amount of \$11,921,504.00 approved for Phase II construction services (total amount for Phases I and II is \$13,192,300.00). Work to be substantially completed within 405 consecutive calendar days from the construction notice to proceed date.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Economic Development Authority

- 26.** Third Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between STAR-TEC Enterprises, Inc., and the Pinellas County Industrial Development Authority d/b/a Pinellas County Economic Development Authority.

Third amendment approved identifying responsibilities of both parties in the joint project to design and construct a business incubator in Pinellas County for a twelve-month period with an annual automatic renewal for up to two consecutive years.

In response to queries and concerns by the members, Assistant County Administrator Kevin Knutson provided background information regarding the project timeline, delays, and increased costs. He further explained that the purpose of an incubator is to assist startup companies and individuals to develop their businesses by providing an array of business support resources and services such as office space, laboratory space, technology, consulting, financing, marketing, and training.

In response to queries by the members, Tampa Bay Innovation Center Board Chairman Chris Paradies and CEO and President Tonya Elmore clarified their strategic plan, fundraising efforts, increased costs, and the major opportunities that are expected and indicated that the MOU is needed to continue to move forward with the project.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seal

Emergency Medical Services Authority

27. Amendments to the Emergency Medical Services Advanced Life Support First Responder Agreements with five municipalities and two independent fire districts.

Sitting as the Pinellas County Emergency Management Services (EMS) Authority, the Board approved the amendments to the EMS Advanced Life Support First Responder Agreement with five municipalities and two independent fire districts as follows:

- Palm Harbor: \$222,790.00
- Largo: \$644,933.00
- Seminole: \$220,656.00
- South Pasadena: \$54,238.00
- St. Pete Beach: \$141,375.00
- Dunedin: \$50,000.00
- Lealman for Tierra Verde: \$50,000.00

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seal

Housing Finance Authority

28. Resolution approving the issuance by the Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County of Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds to finance a multifamily residential rental housing project.

Resolution No. 21-58 adopted allowing the Housing Finance Authority (HFA) to issue multifamily housing revenue bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$20,000,000.00 for the benefit of Palmetto Preservation, Ltd., a Florida limited partnership. This development was previously approved by the BCC through Resolution No. 21-31 on May 11, 2021, but due to cost escalation impacts and an expanded ADA accessibility scope, the developer requested an increase in bond amount from \$14.25 to \$20 million. No County General Funds are required; all lendable funds are generated from the sale of tax-exempt housing bonds and the sale of low-income housing tax credits from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

In response to queries by Commissioner Seel, Executive Director of the HFA Kathryn Driver clarified the bond allocation, the third party financial analysis, and the developer fee, stating that the developer is very committed and invested in the project, which is currently in the credit underwriting process and will be presented to the HFA and BCC for final approval.

During discussion, HallKeen representatives Oren Richkin and Mark Hess responded to queries by the members regarding occupancy and the renovation process.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Pinellas County Community Redevelopment Agency

29. Fiscal Year 2022 Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Work Plan.

Sitting as the Community Redevelopment Agency, the Board approved the Fiscal Year 2022 Plan that includes \$2.75 million of Tax Increment Financing.

Responding to the Chair's call for public comment, David Lee, St. Petersburg, appeared and expressed his appreciation for the improvements.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

30. Fiscal Year 2022 Lealman Community Redevelopment Trust Budget.

Sitting as the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), the Board approved the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Lealman CRA Trust budget in the amount of \$3.2 million.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

COUNTY ATTORNEY

31. Resolution approving early extension of 2021 tax rolls.

Resolution No. 21-59 adopted directing the Property Appraiser to extend the 2021 tax rolls and deliver them to the Tax Collector on or before October 8, 2021, upon authority of Section 197.323, Florida Statutes, and directing the Clerk to deliver the resolution to the Property Appraiser.

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 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

32. County Attorney Reports:
- County Redistricting Board Update

Attorney White related that the County Redistricting Board members had their first meeting; that it was conducted like an organization meeting; that they selected a chair and vice-chair; that the members received training on the Sunshine Law and Public Records; and that their next meeting will be held on October 6. Chair Eggers indicated that the meetings will be televised.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

33. County Administrator Reports.

- New Director, Office of Management and Budget
- New Director, Economic Development
- COVID-19 Update

New Directors

Mr. Burton introduced Chris Rose, the new Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Dr. Cynthia Johnson, the new Director of Economic Development; whereupon, they both provided a brief statement.

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Burton provided an update on COVID-19 regarding data trends, vaccine statistics, and immunization and testing sites, noting the biggest challenge is staffing issues. Upon request by Chair Eggers, Mr. Burton related that the information he provided is from the Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; that a county-wide dashboard should be available next week; and that staff are preparing for the booster shot that should be accessible on or about September 20.

Miscellaneous

In response to Commissioner Long's concern related to the meeting being held on a Thursday rather than a Tuesday, Attorney White indicated that the BCC often has a Thursday meeting in September due to statutory guidelines and timeframes regarding the budget; and that the BCC meetings cannot conflict with School Board hearings.

COUNTY COMMISSION

- 34.** Appointments to the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative Board of Directors (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Brian Lowack, Chris Moore, and Jeffrey Gellerman appointed to serve three-year terms.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

- 35.** Appointments to the Youth Advisory Committee (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Commissioner Peters indicated that 37 students have applied; that all 37 are being recommended; that the 4-H curriculum will be utilized this year; and that a majority of last year's members have obtained certification in Mental Health First Aid.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

- 36.** County Commission New Business: Pertinent and Timely Committee/Board Updates, Policy Considerations, Administrative/Procedural Considerations, and Other New Business.

Commissioner Flowers

- St. Petersburg resolution regarding equity

Commissioner Justice

- St. Petersburg Powerboat Grand Prix
- Gulfport merchants' supplies to Hurricane Ida victims

Commissioner Long

- Tierra Verde Grand Canal presentation by Brian Lowack and Kelli Levy
- Meeting regarding John's Pass

Commissioner Eggers

- Herb Polson appointed as an Alternate Canvassing Board Member representing the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for the November 2, 2021 St. Petersburg General Election cycle
- Tampa Bay Water General Manager update

Chair Eggers requested that the Board vote on a letter to submit to the Florida Department of Transportation indicating that the BCC does not wish to restrict special lighting of the Skyway Bridge recognizing Red Ribbon Week, October 24 - 31, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the submission of a letter of no objection be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Meeting Recessed: 4:29 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 6:01 P.M.

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.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- 37.** Resolutions adopting tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2022 (first public hearing).

A public hearing was held regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 tentative millage rates and budgets for Pinellas County; resolutions adopted approving tentative millage rates (No. 21-60) and budgets (No. 21-61) for the Pinellas County General Fund; resolutions adopted approving tentative millage rates (No. 21-62) and budgets (No. 21-63) for the Pinellas County Health Department Fund; resolutions adopted approving tentative millage rates (No. 21-64) and budgets (No. 21-65) for the Emergency Medical Services Authority, Pinellas Planning Council, Unincorporated Area Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU), Public

Library Services District MSTU, Palm Harbor Community Services District, Feather Sound Community Services District, East Lake Library Services District, East Lake Recreation Services District, and the Belleair Bluffs, Clearwater, Dunedin, Gandy, High Point, Largo, Pinellas Park, Safety Harbor, Seminole, South Pasadena, Tarpon Springs, and Tierra Verde Fire Protection Districts.

Chair Eggers announced that the public hearing is being held in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 200.065; and that the final public hearing will be held on September 21, 2021.

Ms. Phillips reported that two letters and 24 phone calls have been received; whereupon, at the Chairman's request, Office of Management and Budget Director Bill Berger indicated that the two letters received related to Turning Point; and that a portion of the phone calls were transferred to the property appraiser or the tax collector.

Chair Eggers indicated that a representative of the Property Appraiser's Office is available to respond to anyone having questions or concerns about the assessed value of their property or the information that appears on the TRIM Notice.

Chair Eggers reviewed the sequence of events for the evening's proceedings, relating that even though Florida Statutes provide that a taxing authority may adopt tax levies and budgets of all its dependent special taxing districts and municipal service taxing units by a single unanimous vote, members of the general public can request that the Board discuss and adopt any of those items separately; whereupon, in response to his queries, no citizen requested that an item be separately reviewed.

Thereupon, Chair Eggers opened the first public hearing on the tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2022.

Ms. Phillips reported that the public hearing is being held in accordance with Chapters 129 and 200 of the Florida Statutes; and that the meeting has been duly noticed by the Property Appraiser's mailing of the TRIM notice.

Chair Eggers announced that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), as taxing authority for the BCC Countywide, the Dependent Special Districts, and the Municipal Service Taxing Units, as listed above, will now proceed with the public hearing.

Mr. Burton related that the percentage increase in the millage rate for all budgets, over the rolled-back rate, based on the maximum rates on the TRIM Notice, to fund the Fiscal Year 2022 Tentative Budget is a 1.93% increase over the aggregate rolled-back rate; whereupon, he indicated that the primary purposes for the increase in the millage over the rolled-back rate is as follows:

- In the General Fund, including Unincorporated Area MSTU and the Emergency Medical Services Authority, revenue increases are required to support personnel and operating expenditure levels that are driven by inflationary factors, and the Pinellas Planning Council revenue increases are required for the same purposes as per the request of Forward Pinellas.
- In the Public Library Services District MSTU, the Palm Harbor Community Services MSTU, the Feather Sound Community Services MSTU, the East Lake Library Services MSTU, the East Lake Recreation Services MSTU, and five Special Fire Protection Districts, revenue increases are needed to support increased expenditures by the agencies providing services for those districts.
- In seven Special Fire Protection Districts, revenue decreases are due to those districts having sufficient reserve levels to provide for future planned capital along with property values that can support annual operations.

Mr. Burton indicated that a schedule of changes to the proposed budget was distributed to the Board on September 2, 2021; and that modifications include both Board-directed changes approved at BCC meetings or work sessions and technical adjustments related to the accounting presentation, updated information, corrections, and other minor revisions; whereupon, Messrs. Burton and Berger conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Tentative FY22 Annual Operating and Capital Budget*, a copy of which has been made a part of the record, and answered queries by the members. Mr. Burton related that there has not been a rollback rate since 1997.

Following the presentation, Chair Eggers announced that the Board of County Commissioners will continue the hearing as the taxing authority for the BCC Countywide, Dependent Special Districts, and MSTU levies by taking public comment from citizens who wish to be heard regarding the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget.

No one appeared in response to the Chair's call for persons wishing to speak.

Discussion ensued regarding the following topics:

- Increase to the Sheriff's Department budget
- Anticipated CARES reimbursement for County staff
- Change in schedule for the Water Meter Replacement Project
- Using property taxes versus a gas tax increase to supplement the Transportation Trust Fund
- Increase to the Tourist Development Tax Fund
- Current state of County reserves and whether to use reserves in the future to help supplement infrastructure projects

Chair Eggers announced that resolutions will now be considered to set the tentative millage rates and budgets; and that the amounts will not be finalized until the public hearing on September 21, 2021; whereupon, Mr. Burton announced each of the resolutions separately, which have been made a part of the record.

Resolution No. 21-60 adopted approving the tentative millage rates for Fiscal Year 2022 for the Pinellas County General Fund.

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

Aye: 5 - Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Seel

Nay: 2 - Chair Eggers, and Commissioner Peters

Resolution No. 21-61 adopted approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2022 for the Pinellas County General Fund.

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

Aye: 5 - Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Seel

Nay: 2 - Chair Eggers, and Commissioner Peters

Resolution No. 21-62 adopted approving the tentative millage rates for Fiscal Year 2022 for the Health Department.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Resolution No. 21-63 adopted approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2022 for the Health Department.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Resolution No. 21-64 adopted approving the tentative millage rates for Fiscal Year 2022 for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Resolution No. 21-65 adopted approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2022 for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Eggers, Vice-Chair Justice, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

At this time, Chair Eggers closed the first public hearing on the tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2022.

Mr. Burton stated that the County will advertise the Budget Summary and Notice of Tax Increase in advance of the second public hearing to be held on September 21 at 6:00 PM; and that the notice will be published in the Tampa Bay Times on September 19.

ADJOURNMENT - 6:56 P.M.

Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By _____
Deputy Clerk