

Pinellas County



Minutes - Final

Thursday, June 4, 2020

9:30 A.M.

Virtual Budget Information Session

Board of County Commissioners

Budget Information Session

Pat Gerard, Chair

Dave Eggers, Vice-Chair

Charlie Justice

Janet C. Long

Kathleen Peters

Karen Williams Seel

Kenneth T. Welch

ROLL CALL - 9:30 A.M.

Present: Pat Gerard, Chair; Dave Eggers, Vice-Chair; Charlie Justice; Janet Long; Kathleen Peters; Karen Williams Seel; and Kenneth T. Welch.

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; and Jenny Masinovsky, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk.

Information Technology Manager Dana Zordan, Office of Technology and Innovation, introduced himself and announced that he would be the Technology Moderator for the virtual meeting; and that Chief Assistant County Attorney Don Crowell would serve as Process Moderator; whereupon, he conducted a roll call of the members.

Budget summary documents pertaining to each presentation and copies of all PowerPoint presentations provided to the Clerk's Office have been made a part of the record.

1. Office of Asset Management

Referring to various documents, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Analyst Krishna Gandhi, with input from OMB Section Manager Aubrey Phillips, discussed the department's purpose, performance summary, COVID-19 impacts, and opportunities for future efficiencies; whereupon, Mr. Gandhi provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget request.

Office of Asset Management Director Jeremy Waugh referred to a document and provided information regarding the Asset Management Program and staffing plan for its implementation. He indicated that the initially estimated 59 Full Time Employee (FTE) positions across the participating Enterprise Departments were reduced to 37 by realigning and training internal staff; and that implementation of the Cityworks software that supports the program is on track for the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2022. Mr. Burton provided input, stressing the importance of managing the County's physical assets and ensuring that every requested staffing position is justified; whereupon, he and Mr. Waugh responded to queries by the members, and OMB Director Bill Berger provided clarification as to the budgeting of the program's staffing.

2. Solid Waste

Referring to various documents, Ms. Phillips and OMB Analyst Linda Larkins discussed the department's performance summary, COVID-19 impacts, opportunities for efficiencies, and potential threats. Ms. Phillips related that extending the life of the landfill is the primary focus and the department continues to implement projects and make investments toward that end; and that the waste-to-energy facility is operating at an all-time high as a result; whereupon, Mr. Burton and Solid Waste Department Director Paul Sacco addressed the Commissioners' questions regarding the Duke Energy power purchasing contract,

monitoring the life of the landfill, a materials recycling facility, municipal waste tonnage requirements, and incinerating electronics.

Ms. Larkins provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget request and OMB Analyst Jennifer Castagner discussed the Solid Waste Capital Improvement projects and budget. Ms. Larkins and Mr. Sacco, with input by Messrs. Burton and Berger, responded to queries and concerns of the members relating to user fee changes, the City of St. Petersburg utilities services fee increase, Industrial Water Treatment Plant capacity issues, declining revenues, and other topics. Commissioner Seel requested additional information on whether certain County properties are subject to a 25-percent utility surcharge or a payment in lieu of taxes by the City of St. Petersburg.

3. Utilities

Referring to various documents, Ms. Phillips and Larkins, with input by OMB Analyst Lori Sullivan, discussed the department's performance summary, COVID-19 impacts, performance measures, opportunities for efficiencies, and potential threats.

Ms. Phillips provided information regarding the implementation and benefits of the Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and an upgrade to the customer information system software. Ms. Larkins provided a budget summary, including the Fiscal Year 2020 Estimate and Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request; whereupon, Budget and Financial Analyst Erica Mitchell discussed the department's capital improvement projects, and Ms. Sullivan reviewed user fee changes.

Utilities Director Megan Ross, with input by Messrs. Burton and Berger, responded to queries by Commissioner Eggers pertaining to the AMI, user fees, reclaimed water master plan, reclaimed water metering, and water and sewer line condition assessments; whereupon, she stated that the proposed budget reflects the department's goal of providing reliable services to the customers and aligns effectively with the Board's strategic goals.

4. Public Works

Referring to various documents, Mr. Gandhi, with input by Ms. Phillips and OMB Analyst Yana Matiyuk, discussed the performance measures, COVID-19 performance impacts, opportunities for efficiencies, and potential threats and risks; whereupon, Ms. Matiyuk discussed the budget summary.

Commissioner Eggers opined that the plan to address sidewalk repairs in order to avoid legal claims associated with trip and fall accidents and ensure safety for the residents should be more aggressive. Commissioner Long agreed, and responding to her query, Attorney White provided information regarding the related current legal claims. Director of Public Works Kelli Hammer Levy discussed the immediate efforts and the long range plan for sidewalk repairs, as well as the work done in the last two years, noting that a significant amount of repairs has been completed; and that resources are limited. Mr. Burton

indicated that while the sidewalk maintenance program meets statutory requirements and hazardous segments are being addressed, the long range plan should be improved. Commissioner Eggers suggested raising the public awareness of the County's See Click Fix application for reporting roadway, sidewalk, and other problems that residents may encounter, noting the prompt response he had experienced when using the application.

Mr. Burton discussed the budget expenditures associated with ownership of a mosquito control helicopter and changes in salaries and benefits resulting from the implementation of the Evergreen Study, noting the importance of providing fair compensation and career ladder incentives to County employees in order to stabilize the workforce. Responding to query by Commissioner Long, he provided clarification regarding a Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority membership funding request.

Ms. Levy remarked that Capital Improvement Program Advanced Traffic Management Systems/Intelligent Transportation Systems projects will stay on track in spite of the Transportation Fund reduction resulting from the COVID-19 impact on the ninth-cent fuel tax revenue; whereupon, she provided an update on various ongoing projects. In response to queries by Commissioners Seel and Peters regarding the recently completed study on the Shell Key/Grand Canal area, Ms. Levy and Mr. Burton discussed the status of dredging the canal, projection of its closure, the need to obtain an agreement for special assessment by 60-percent of the surrounding property owners, and related topics, and Commissioner Long provided input. Commissioner Peters stated her concerns relating to the delay of the dredging, stressing that the residents have been acquiring quiet titles; and that the matter is time-sensitive, as the canal has been filling in significantly, and Ms. Levy and Mr. Burton noted the importance of working toward obtaining permitting and assessments concurrently and without delay.

Meeting Recessed: 12:03 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 12:30 P.M.

5. Capital Improvement Program

OMB Manager Jacqueline Trainer referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Capital Improvement Program (CIP) FY21-FY26* and provided a program overview, indicating that it covers the projects outside of the Enterprise Departments, including the roads, bridges, drainage, beach nourishment, parks, facilities, and fire stations, which are funded primarily by the Penny for Pinellas infrastructure sales surtax; that the six-year program is updated annually; and that the first year must be balanced as part of the approved budget; whereupon, she discussed the following:

- Funding sources
- FY21 proposed budget - Capital Fund: \$206.8 million
- Capital Fund forecast
- Capital Fund project requests

- Covid-19 impacts on revenues of Penny for Pinellas and other funding sources
- Penny for Pinellas forecast
- Penny for Pinellas plan strategies

Responding to queries and concerns of the members, Ms. Trainer and Messrs. Burton and Berger provided a status update and other information pertaining to various projects, and discussion ensued regarding the importance of delivering on commitments to the residents, prioritizing projects from the previous Penny lists, managing expectations of the County partners with respect to their requests, and showing estimated construction costs versus design-only costs in the CIP plan.

In response to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Berger, with input by Ms. Trainer and Mr. Burton, explained how the CIP budget is balanced and managed considering the project schedule and prioritization, annual reevaluation of resources, adjustments to estimated construction costs based on design, front-loading of projects, and the actual revenues of the Penny for Pinellas and other funds.

6. Miscellaneous

Commissioner Peters pointed out that the Governor has extended his Executive Order allowing local governments to conduct virtual meetings through July, and suggested that the June 23 Board meeting be held virtually instead of the previously discussed in-person meeting at the Pinellas County Extension facility, to avoid the expense of moving equipment for a single meeting. Mr. Burton indicated that the equipment has already been set up based on the Board's direction, with the understanding that in-person meetings will continue to be held there; and that the advertisements for the June 23 public hearings reflect that location, and Chair Gerard and Attorney White provided input.

Chair Gerard indicated that pursuant to the members' discussion during the June 3 meeting, she drafted a statement on behalf of the Commission concerning the need to review the use of force policies of the local police departments, following the protests against police brutality prompted by the death of George Floyd, and discussion regarding the statement and its dissemination ensued.

Mr. Burton indicated that the agenda for the June 5 Commission meeting will include an item regarding extending the Local State of Emergency from June 12 to June 19.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Eggers, he confirmed that the Magnolia Room at the Pinellas County Extension facility will be utilized by other County Boards.

ADJOURNMENT - 1:36 P.M.