

Pinellas County

*333 Chestnut Street
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Minutes - Final

Thursday, September 8, 2022

2:00 P.M.

**Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting
Public Hearings at 6:00 P.M.**

Board of County Commissioners

*Charlie Justice, Chairman
Janet C. Long, Vice-Chair
Dave Eggers
Rene Flowers
Pat Gerard
Kathleen Peters
Karen Williams Seel*

ROLL CALL - 2:02 P.M.

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

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; Derelynn Revie, Board Records Manager; and Katie Poviones, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

Chairman Justice noted the recent passing of longtime community leader Reverend Watson Haynes and Largo High School student Ethan Weiser and spoke in remembrance honoring the victims of the terror attacks on September 11, 2001.

INVOCATION by Chaplain Milton Smith, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue, Palm Harbor.**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation:
- Jaclyn Ballard (Boland), CEO, InterCultural Advocacy Institute, Hispanic Outreach Center

Chairman Justice invited Ms. Ballard and the Center's board members to the podium and read a proclamation recognizing September as Hispanic Heritage Month; whereupon, Ms. Ballard and the Center's incoming president Ismael Torres thanked the Commission for the proclamation, and Mr. Torres expressed the importance of Hispanic Heritage.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

2. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor (submitted documents)
Greg Pound, Largo
Corey Garlow, Largo
Ted Morris, Palm Harbor
Mark Birenbaum, Clearwater (submitted documents)
James Jackson, Clearwater
Matt Croasmun, Lakeland

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 3 through 21

(Item Nos. 12, 19, 20, and 21 addressed under Regular Agenda)

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

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

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

3. Minutes of the regular meeting held June 7, 2022.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

4. Vouchers and bills paid from July 17 through August 13, 2022.

Period July 17 - 23, 2022

Accounts Payable - \$17,183,521.15

Payroll - \$4,056,658.69

Period July 24 - 30, 2022

Accounts Payable - \$33,991,230.04

Payroll - None

Period July 31 - August 6, 2022

Accounts Payable - \$64,087,769.50

Payroll - \$4,118,530.03

Period August 7 - 13, 2022

Accounts Payable - \$10,540,153.97

Payroll - None

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Reports received for filing:

5. Dock Fee Report for the month of July 2022.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

6. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2022-13 dated August 3, 2022 - Investigation of Contractor Licensing Department Investigator Engaging in Conduct Unbecoming.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

7. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2022-15 dated August 15, 2022 - Observation of the Fleet Management Services Annual Physical Inventory of Surplus Fixed Assets.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

8. Quarterly Donation Listing of \$1,000 or more for the quarter ended June 30, 2022.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

9. City of Tarpon Springs Ordinance No. 2022-15 adopted July 26, 2022, annexing certain properties.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

10. Independent Audit of the City of Largo Community Redevelopment Agency Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Administrative Services

11. Declare surplus and authorize the sale of County-owned equipment and vehicles.

Surplus declared and the authorization granted. Assets to be liquidated through public auction conducted by Tampa Machinery Auction and Royal Auctions under provisions of existing contracts. Distribution of proceeds approved as recommended in the Staff Report.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Public Works

13. Award of bid to Keystone Excavators, Inc. for the South Myrtle Avenue - Road and Drainage Improvements Project

Contract No. 22-0467-CP (PID No. 002434A) awarded in the amount of \$2,698,334.00 for a term of 400 consecutive days on the basis of being the lowest responsive and responsible bid received.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

14. Joint Project Agreement with the City of Largo for the Starkey Road Watershed Management Plan update.

(County Project No. 004937A) Agreement approved. Estimated total project cost in the amount of \$500,000.00 to be shared among Southwest Florida Water Management District (250,000.00), the City (\$136,000.00), and the County (\$114,000.00), with an anticipation to complete date of October 31, 2024.
The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

15. Ranking of firms and agreement with Burgess and Niple Inc. for professional engineering, planning, and environmental consulting services for the Preliminary Engineering Report study for the Crystal Beach Drainage and Roadway Improvements Project.

(Contract No. 21-0022-NC) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the amount of \$1,201,471.44 for a term of 525 consecutive calendar days from the notice to proceed date.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

16. Ranking of firms and agreements with eleven firms for professional engineering design services of roadway, drainage, structural, civil, and traffic projects primarily funded through federal grant dollars including the American Rescue Plan Act.

(Contract No. 22-0355-CN) Ranking of firms and agreements with the eleven highest-ranked firms approved as per the staff report. Costs negotiated per specific assignment based on rates with terms that will be locked-in for five years and not-to-exceed \$6,000,000.00 per firm for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$66,000,000.00 for a five-year term from the notice to proceed date.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

17. Ranking of firms and agreements with the six top-ranked firms for Traffic Engineering Consulting Services for Advanced Traffic Management and Intelligent Transportation Systems.

(Contract No. 22-0304-CN) Ranking of firms and agreements with the following firms approved in the maximum amount of \$2,500,000.00 per firm for a five-year term for a total of \$15,000,000.00 from the notice to proceed date and replacing the existing expiring contract:

- HNTB Corporation
- Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
- WSP USA, Inc.
- Cardno, Inc.
- Gannett Fleming, Inc.
- Metric Engineering, Inc.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

18. Ranking of firms and agreement with StreetScan, Inc. for sidewalk network assessment and inspection services.

(Contract No. 22-0271-P) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the total amount of \$438,000.00 for a six-month term.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Management and Budget

- 12.** Fiscal Year 2022 Board Budget Amendment No. 3 to realign appropriation from Reserves in the Fleet Management Fund for unanticipated Fiscal Year 2022 expenditures.

Amendment approved realigning \$3,500,000.00 from Reserves to the Fuel Management, Fleet Vehicle Replacement, and Fleet Parts Management cost centers in the Department of Administrative Services.

Responding to queries by Commissioners Eggers and Seel, Mr. Burton indicated that inflationary cost increases, including parking, vehicle, and fuel costs, are reflected in the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget; and that there will be some purchasing delays to accommodate the changing market. Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose related that the appropriation would cover the costs through the end of the current fiscal year.

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

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

Utilities

- 19.** Ranking of firms and agreement with Halff Associates, Inc. for the professional engineering design services per the Consultant Competitive Negotiation Act for the Manufactured Home Communities Wastewater Collection Systems improvement project funded by the Restore Act.

(Contract No. 22-0056-NC) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the amount of \$2,049,452.75 for a term of 475 consecutive calendar days from the notice to proceed date.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Acting Director for Utilities Hillary Weber, with input by Mr. Burton, indicated that the contract reflects one of the phases of a wastewater design work project for 14 mobile home park communities; that the combined project grant funding will be \$44 million; that the County received \$25 million from Resilient Florida to fund wastewater construction; and that the total cost of the project will not be determined until the designs are completed.

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

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

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Business Technology Services

20. Ranking of firms and agreements with the six highest-ranked firms for requirements of information technology staff augmentation (temporary staffing) services.

(Contract No. 22-0120-P) Ranking of firms and agreements approved with the following firms in the not-to-exceed annual amount of \$1,000,000.00 for a five-year term total of \$5,000,000.00:

- 22nd Century Technologies, Inc.
- Computer Aid Inc.
- Image Technology Resources Corp d/b/a IT Resources
- Serigor, Inc.
- SoftSages, LLC d/b/a SoftSages Technology
- US Tech Solutions, Inc.

The contract replaces the current contract expiring on September 20, 2022.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Office of Technology and Innovation Director Bryan Zumwalt indicated that the annual not-to-exceed amount of \$1,000,000.00 will be spread over the six pre-qualified firms to perform staff augmentation services for the County.

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

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

Emergency Medical Services Authority

21. Ranking of firms and agreement with Prehospital Medicine Consultants, LLC to provide medical direction services.

(Contract No. 22-0252-P) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in an average annual amount of \$1,617,282.00 for a five-year term total of \$8,086,410.00 (contingency services total not to exceed \$250,000.00) from the effective date through September 30, 2027.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Eggers Mr. Burton briefly discussed the contract, relating that only one bid was made; that it was professionally negotiated and provides 24/7 coverage based on the standards for countywide Emergency Medical Services (EMS); and that individuals from the firm will be a part of the on-call EMS response system.

Safety and Emergency Services Director Jim Fogarty indicated that the EMS system budget has been historically low; and that the increase is bringing it back up to where it should be in order to provide additional medics, increase the number of transports, and cover any increasing costs.

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

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Airport

- 22.** Interlocal Agreement with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services at the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport for Fiscal Year 2023.

Agreement approved in the amount of \$1,459,512.00 for a one-year term commencing October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

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

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

Convention and Visitors Bureau

- 23.** Increase to the contract with On Time Marketing Corporation for promotional and novelty items.

(Contract No. 178-0007-B) Increase approved in the upset limit amount of \$188,948.74, for a revised contract total of \$1,438,948.74 effective through February 10, 2023.

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

County Administrator

- 24.** EmpowHERment Community Center Computer Literacy for HER Project Fiscal Year 2022 Municipal Services Taxing Unit special projects funding request.

Funding request approved in the amount of \$17,799.90.

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

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

25. FEAST, Inc. Walk-In Cooler/Freezer Project Fiscal Year 2022 Municipal Services Taxing Unit special projects funding request.

Funding request approved in the amount of \$18,364.00.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Gerard, Mr. Burton provided information regarding the funding source for the expenditure.

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

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

Housing & Community Development

26. Affordable Housing Program loan to Pinellas County Housing Authority, for an affordable multi-family rental housing project known as Valor Preserve to be developed by the Pinellas County Housing Authority.

Loan approved in the amount not to exceed \$1.710 million (total maximum loan amount of \$1.7 million plus estimated loan document recording fees) utilizing State Housing Initiatives Partnership funds for construction of a 64-unit multi-family affordable rental apartment complex. Total estimated project cost is \$29,912,069.00. County Administrator authorized to execute loan documents, restrictive covenants, and any other such agreements and documentation associated with the loan in the amount authorized by the Board.

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

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

Human Services

27. Funding agreement with the Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas, Inc. for operational costs and direct services.

Agreement approved in the amount not to exceed \$288,330.00.

Mr. Burton recognized the CEO of the Homeless Leadership Alliance Monika Alesnik, present in the audience.

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

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

28. Funding recommendations for the 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant-Countywide and related grant administration documents.

Mr. Burton requested that the item be deferred to the October 11, 2022 meeting, and no objection was noted; whereupon, responding to a query by Chairman Justice, Attorney White indicated that no action needs to be taken by the Board with regard to the request.

29. Pinellas County Health Program hospital provider agreements.

Continuation Agreements with Tarpon Springs Hospital Foundation, Inc. d/b/a AdventHealth North Pinellas and OHI West, Inc. d/b/a Bayfront Health St. Petersburg approved for two-year terms. Agreement with BayCare Health System, Inc. active until September 30, 2024 and does not require renewal. Fiscal Year 2023 total funding distribution amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.00, providing partial reimbursement for ambulatory and inpatient hospital services for authorized clients actively enrolled in the Pinellas County Health Program and the Health Care for the Homeless Program, as follows:

- AdventHealth North Pinellas: \$60,000.00
- Bayfront Health St. Petersburg: \$840,000.00
- BayCare Health System: \$2,100,000.00

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

30. Service Area Competition grant application for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources Services Administration for the Health Care for the Homeless program.

Grant application for federal funding approved in the amount of \$1,764,565.00 for the first budget year of a 3-year project, beginning March 1, 2023 through February 28, 2026. Authority delegated to the Human Services Department Director to administer grant activities.

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

Public Works

31. Amendment No. 1 to the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Program Subrecipient Agreement with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

(DEO Agreement No. MT028) Amendment approved modifying certain language; agreement amount and term remain unchanged.

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

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

- 32.** Award of bid to Adapco, LLC, Clarke Mosquito Control Products, Inc., Rentokil d/b/a JC Ehrlich Co Inc. and Target Specialty Products, and Es Opco USA LLC d/b/a Vesperis for annual requirements of mosquito abatement products.

Contract No. 22-0466-B awarded in an amount not to exceed \$4,030,695.50 for a 24-month term to the following firms on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid per item received:

- Adapco, LLC: Items 1, 12-20, 22 and 24
- Rentokil d/b/a JC Ehrlich Co Inc. and Target Specialty Products; Items 5, 23, 26, and 27
- Clarke Mosquito Control Products, Inc.: Items 2, 4, 6-11, and 25
- Es Opco USA LLC d/b/a Vesperis: Item 32

Following a drawing in accordance with County Code 2-176, tie bids awarded as follows:

- Rentokil: Items 21 and 28
- Vesperis: Items 29 and 31
- Clarke Mosquito Control: Item 30

This contract replaces the existing contract which expired on June 1, 2022.

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

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

- 33.** Change Order No. 1 to R.J.P. Enterprises, Inc. for the Sidewalk and Underdrain Replacement Program for Fiscal Years 2021-2023.

(Contract No. 21-0216-CP) Change order approved for an increase of \$350,000.00, for a new total amount of \$3,465,360.00.

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

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

- 34.** Purchase authorization agreement with Davenport Aviation, Inc. for the purchase of an Airbus H125 Helicopter.

(Contract No. 22-0376-PB) Agreement approved in the not-to-exceed amount of \$3,995,620.00.

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

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

Safety and Emergency Services

- 35.** Increase the upset limit to the agreement with Frontier Communications of America, Inc. for 911network services.

Contract No. 167-0161-Q approved increasing the upset limit in the amount of \$851,982.13 for a revised total contract value of \$2,482,764.41, effective through October 14, 2023.

Mr. Burton noted that the increase would provide the ability for all County 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points to be connected.

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

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

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Emergency Medical Services Authority

- 36.** Issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to 1st Choice Trans, L.L.C. for provision of non-medical wheelchair transport services.

Certificate approved and issued to 1st Choice Trans, L.L.C., in accordance with Chapter 54, Pinellas County Code and Florida Statutes. Certificate to expire on June 30, 2023.

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

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

COUNTY ATTORNEY

37. Proposed ratification of initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Terry Mann; County Court Case No. 22-005251-CO - animal cruelty.

Action taken by the County Attorney's Office with advance approval of the BCC Chairman ratified.

Attorney White indicated that the animals involved in the case are now in the custody of the County.

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

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

38. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. F&H Electrical Contractors, Inc. - damages arising out of negligence.

County Attorney authorized to initiate litigation.

Attorney White indicated that the request to file suit is due to the defendant causing damage to a reclaimed water line.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Flowers, Attorney White related that the contractor named in the proposed lawsuit was doing independent work where the damage occurred. She clarified that efforts are made to recover these types of damages before requesting Board authority to file a lawsuit, but that those efforts have been unsuccessful in this instance.

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

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

39. County Attorney Reports. - None.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

40. County Administrator Reports.
- Tenant's Bill of Rights vouchers
- Recognition of County employee, Park Ranger Jim Armstrong

Tenants Bill of Rights / Housing Vouchers

Mr. Burton reported that housing voucher value is increasing by 17%, which should provide citizens with more purchasing power in the current market.

Recognition of County employee, Park Ranger Jim Armstrong

Mr. Burton read a letter written by a citizen regarding an interaction with Mr. Armstrong; whereupon, Mr. Burton thanked Mr. Armstrong for making a difference, recognizing the potential impact and value of a smile and a conversation.

COUNTY COMMISSION

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

Commissioner Peters indicated that 26 students have applied; that all 26 are recommended; and that their residence locations represent the entirety of the County; whereupon, Commissioner Flowers expressed appreciation for the effort that was made to ensure representation from all sectors of the community.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters related that students are solicited from all high schools in the County; whereupon, she briefly discussed recent challenges for the program, including the effects of operating throughout the pandemic and staff turnover, noting that she hopes to establish more consistency and a return to the program's original intent in the coming year.

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

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

42. County Commission New Business: Pertinent and Timely Committee/Board Updates, Policy Considerations, Administrative/Procedural Considerations, and other New Business:

- Preparing for Extreme Heat and Preventing Heat Illness (Commissioner Long)
- Skyway Lighting Resolutions (Commissioner Justice)
- Updates to Commission Appointments by Chair

Updates to Commission Appointments by Chair

Chairman Justice requested approval of an appointment and a reappointment, as follows:

- Appoint Commissioner Gerard for the remainder of Commissioner Seel's term on the Forward Pinellas Board
- Reappoint Commissioner Peters to the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors

Chairman Justice noted that the PSTA Board reappointment is due to PSTA calendar issues; and that the incoming BCC Chair will make new appointments for all boards.

Commissioner Gerard related that her term with the PSTA Board is expiring, but that she has been asked by that Board to extend it until the end of the year; whereupon, Chairman Justice referenced a recommendation made by the attorney for PSTA that Commissioner Gerard remain as Chair of that Board until the end of the calendar year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Eggers, that the above-referenced appointment and reappointment be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Skyway Lighting Resolutions

Resolution No. 22-66 adopted indicating the Commission's support of the Florida Department of Transportation lighting of the Bob Graham Sunshine Skyway Bridge in recognition of Alzheimer's Awareness Month on November 3, 2022.

Resolution No. 22-67 adopted indicating the Commission's support of the Florida Department of Transportation lighting of the Bob Graham Sunshine Skyway Bridge in recognition of Operation Green Light for Veterans, November 7-10, 2022.

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

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

The Commissioners provided updates regarding their assigned boards and committees and discussed various topics, as follows:

Commissioner Gerard

- Inquiry from a citizen regarding a Gold Star Memorial Monument

Mr. Burton indicated that requests may be made through an application process with the County's Parks & Conservation Department.

Commissioner Seel

- Forward Pinellas

Commissioner Eggers

- AdventHealth
- HCA Florida Largo Hospital

- Mayors' Council of Pinellas County
- 9/11 Memorial Service Ceremony - Curlew Hills Memory Gardens

Commissioner Long

- Heat index and preventing heat illness
- Passing of Queen Elizabeth II

Commissioner Flowers

- St. Petersburg Housing Authority
- CareerSource Pinellas
- SunRunner Bus Rapid Transit
- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity grant award
- Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority
- Appreciation for the recognition of Reverend Watson Haynes

Commissioner Peters

- Remember the Climb 9/11 Event - September 9

Commissioner Justice

- Wounded Warrior Abilities Ranch Memorial Garden dedication

Meeting Recessed: 3:21 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 6:01 P.M.

42. County Commission New Business: Pertinent and Timely Committee/Board Updates, Policy Considerations, Administrative/Procedural Considerations, and other New Business:
- Preparing for Extreme Heat and Preventing Heat Illness (Commissioner Long)
 - Skyway Lighting Resolutions (Commissioner Justice)
 - Updates to Commission Appointments by Chair

Chairman Justice indicated that one additional proposed lighting of the Bob Graham Sunshine Skyway Bridge resolution related to alopecia was missed earlier in the meeting.

Resolution No. 22-68 adopted indicating the Commission's support of the Florida Department of Transportation lighting of the Bob Graham Sunshine Skyway Bridge in recognition of Alopecia Areata Awareness Month on September 30, 2022.

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

6:00PM

PUBLIC HEARINGS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- 43.** Resolutions adopting tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2023 (first public hearing).

A public hearing was held regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 tentative millage rates and budgets for Pinellas County; resolutions adopted approving tentative millage rates (No. 69) and budget (No. 22-71) for the Pinellas County General Fund; resolutions adopted approving tentative millage rate (No. 22-70) and budget (No. 22-72) for the Pinellas County Health Department Fund; resolutions adopted approving tentative millage rates (No. 22-73) and budgets (No. 22-74) for the Emergency Medical Services Authority, Unincorporated Area Municipal Service 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 unincorporated portions of the Belleair Bluffs, Clearwater, Dunedin, Gandy, High Point, Largo, Pinellas Park, Safety Harbor, Seminole, South Pasadena, Tarpon Springs, and Tierra Verde Fire Protection Districts. Resolutions adopted approving tentative millage rate (No. 22-75) and tentative budget (No. 22-76) for the Pinellas County Planning Council.

At the request of Chairman Justice, Board Records Manager Derelynn Revie reported that no correspondence has been received by the Clerk's Office; and that the Office of Management and Budget has received 46 phone calls.

Chairman Justice reviewed the sequence of events for the evening's proceedings, relating that Mr. Burton will provide an overview of the proposed budget, including changes which have been made following the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) July 19 meeting; and that the final hearing will be held on September 22 to adopt the 2023 millage rates and budgets.

Chairman Justice indicated that a representative from the Property Appraiser's Office is available to assist anyone having questions or concerns regarding the assessed value of their property or information that appears on the Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notice.

Chairman Justice related 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 call for citizen participation, none requested that an item be separately reviewed.

Thereupon, Chairman Justice opened the first public hearing on the tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2023.

Ms. Revie 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.

Chairman Justice announced that the BCC, as taxing authority for the BCC Countywide, the Dependent Special Districts, and the MSTUs, 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 and subsequent decreases to such rates, to fund the Fiscal Year 2023 tentative budget is a 4.02% 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 are as follows:

- In the General Fund, including Unincorporated Area MSTUs and the Emergency Medical Services Authority, revenue increases are required to support personnel and operating expenditure levels that are driven by inflationary factors and BCC priorities. The Pinellas Planning Council revenue increases are required for the same purposes, as per the request from 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 seven Special Fire Protection Districts, revenue increases are needed to support increased expenditures by the agencies providing services for those districts.
- In five Special Fire Protection Districts, the revenue need remained flat due to the districts having sufficient reserve levels to provide for future planned capital along with property values that can support annual operations.

Mr. Burton noted that a schedule of changes to the tentative budget was distributed to the BCC on September 2, 2022 and is attached to the agenda packet available online; that the modifications include changes discussed at BCC meetings or work sessions and technical adjustments related to accounting presentations, updated information, corrections, and other minor revisions; whereupon, Mr. Burton conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Tentative FY23 Annual Operating and Capital Budget*, discussing the basis for various budget recommendations, and responded to queries by the members, with input provided by Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose.

During and following the presentation, discussion ensued regarding the following and other topics:

- Requested millage rate increase by the Pinellas Planning Council
- Reserve levels
- Intracoastal waterway service
- Neighborly Services

Chairman Justice 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 wishing to be heard regarding the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget.

Upon the Chairman's call for citizens wishing to speak, Joanne Kennedy, Indian Rocks Beach, appeared and provided input.

Meeting Recessed: 6:50 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 6:53 P.M.

Noting that public comment is complete, Chairman Justice queried the members as to any recommended changes to the tentative millage rates and budgets; whereupon, Commissioner Eggers indicated that he recommended a change to the General Fund tentative millage rate, but that it did not receive support.

Chairman Justice announced that resolutions will now be considered to set the tentative millage rates and budgets; and that resolutions for adopting the final millage rates and budgets are scheduled for the public hearing on September 22, 2022; whereupon, Mr. Burton announced each of the resolutions separately, which have been made a part of the record.

Resolution No. 22-69 adopted approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Pinellas County General Fund.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Vice-Chair Long, that the tentative millage rates for the General Fund be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Eggers

Resolution No. 22-70 adopted approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Health Department.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative millage rate for the Pinellas County Health Department be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 22-71 adopted approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Pinellas County General Fund.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the tentative budget for the General Fund be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Eggers

Resolution No. 22-72 adopted approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Health Department.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the tentative budget for the Pinellas County Health Department be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Chairman Justice requested a motion for the Pinellas Planning Council tentative millage rate and budget to be pulled and discussed separately.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative millage rates and tentative budget for Pinellas Planning Council be voted on separately, excluding them from the decisions for MSTU and Special Districts as a whole. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 22-73 adopted approving the tentative millage rates for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs, excluding the Pinellas Planning Council.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the Special Districts and MSTU tentative millage rates be approved (excluding Pinellas Planning Council). The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 22-74 adopted approving the tentative budgets for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs, excluding the Pinellas Planning Council.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the Special Districts and MSTU tentative budget be approved (excluding the Pinellas Planning Council). The motion carried by the following vote:

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

At the request of the Chairman, Forward Pinellas Executive Director Whit Blanton provided information related to the requested Pinellas Planning Council millage increase, noting that the agency does not have a balanced budget; that carryover funds will be depleted this year; and that the lack of these funds will prevent salary increases commensurate with other County employees under the Unified Personnel System and create a dramatic reduction in services provided to local government partners; whereupon, he indicated that an alternative to the original millage increase request of 0.0235 mills has been prepared and is a proposed increase of 0.0212 mills.

In response to queries and comments by the members, Mr. Blanton discussed the amounts of tax levies and agency return for both proposed tentative millage increases, total agency budget and reserve, funding sources, and an attempt to establish a working capital fund; whereupon, a lengthy discussion ensued.

Responding to queries by the members, Mr. Burton, with input by Mr. Blanton, related that the proposed lower alternative millage rate increase request of 0.0212 mills would be a 58% increase over the rolled-back rate, which would still necessitate some use of reserve funds; whereupon, Mr. Burton reminded the Commissioners that there will be an additional opportunity to address this matter at the second public hearing; that the original proposed increase will require a unanimous vote by the Board; and that the lower proposed increase will require only a supermajority vote, which Attorney White later clarified is an affirming vote of five out of the seven members.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that a tentative millage rate of 0.0212 for Pinellas Planning Council be approved (requiring a super majority). The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Justice, Vice-Chair Long, Commissioner Flowers, and Commissioner Gerard

Nay: 3 - Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Commissioner Seel opined that the upcoming one-on-one Commissioner meetings with Mr. Blanton, combined with the second public hearing, will allow for a more prepared and judicious decision to be made; whereupon, Attorney White suggested that the Board could pass the proposed millage rate increase of 0.0235 and still have the opportunity to decrease the rate at the second public hearing.

In response to a query by Commissioner Peters, Attorney White, with input by Chairman Justice, clarified that the Board would need to unanimously adopt the proposed 0.0235 millage rate increase at today's meeting if it wishes to leave open the opportunity to adopt the rate at the second public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that a tentative millage rate of 0.0235 for Pinellas Planning Council be approved (requiring a unanimous vote). The motion failed by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Peters

Brief discussion ensued, with Chairman Justice reiterating that the Board will have the option to decrease the adopted tentative millage rate at the second public hearing.

Resolution No. 22-75 adopted approving a tentative millage rate of 0.0210 for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Pinellas Planning Council.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gerard, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that a tentative millage rate of 0.0210 for Pinellas Planning Council be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Seel

Responding to a query by Commissioner Seel, Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose indicated that the adopted tentative millage rate of 0.0210 creates a \$263,000 reduction in the agency’s budget if compared with the originally proposed 0.0235 millage rate; and that the proposed budget will be modified to reflect the reduction.

Resolution No. 22-76 adopted approving the pending modified tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Pinellas Planning Council.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the Pinellas Planning Council pending modified tentative budget be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Chairman Justice closed the first public hearing on the tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2023.

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 22 at 6:00 P.M., and that the notice will be published in the Tampa Bay Times on September 18.

ADJOURNMENT - 7:29 P.M.



Charles Justice
Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By: *Dee Lynn Lewis*
Deputy Clerk