

# Pinellas County

12520 Ulmerton Road  
Largo, FL 33774



## Minutes - Final

Friday, June 18, 2021

9:30 A.M.

Budget Information Session

Pinellas County Cooperative Extension

## Board of County Commissioners - Budget Information Session

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

## ROLL CALL - 9:38 A.M.

**Present** 6 - Chair Dave Eggers, Vice-Chair Charlie Justice, Commissioner Rene Flowers, Commissioner Pat Gerard, Commissioner Janet C. Long, and Commissioner Karen Williams Seel

**Absent** 1 - Commissioner Kathleen Peters

**Others Present:** Barry A. Burton County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; and Teresa Ribble, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

Chair Eggers called the meeting to order; whereupon, Mr. Burton indicated that today is the final budget information session prior to the presentation of budget recommendations in July.

### 1. Supervisor of Elections

Supervisor of Elections Julie Marcus provided an overview of budgetary requests including personnel and operating costs associated with the upcoming redistricting process, program funding changes related to legislative mandates, maintaining cybersecurity, and the ability to serve voters with respect to voting options; whereupon, responding to comments and queries by the members, she provided information and clarifications regarding the following:

- Voter education programs
- Change to mail ballot request process
- Early voting and ballot drop-off sites
- Signature verification protocols and cure process
- CDC guidelines regarding masks and voting
- Vote in Honor of a Vet program
- Voter Information Card
- Preservation of of historical documents

### 2. Pinellas County Tax Collector

Tax Collector Charles W. Thomas reported that the Fiscal Year 2022 budget request is 4.2% above the adopted Fiscal Year 2021 budget and includes less than expected inflationary increases. He stated that the proposed budget satisfies statutory requirements of being neither insufficient nor excessive in order to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Tax Collector's Office. He expressed appreciation to the Board for the new South County office location which opened in August 2020; whereupon, he related that there have been local service interruptions related to driver's license applications due to the implementation of a new system at the state level.

Responding to queries by Commissioners Seel and Justice, Mr. Burton, with input by Mr. Thomas, indicated that the requested increase in four personnel positions is to facilitate the return of help desk functions from Business Technology Services; that these services will be

better provided by staff more knowledgeable of the tasks and responsibilities of the Tax Collector's Office; and that there has been no indication that the driver's license system issue is related to cybersecurity vulnerability concerns.

4. Board of County Commissioners

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Countywide Budget Division Director Cecilia McCorkell referred to a document containing Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022) Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Budget Analysis data and discussed information related to staffing and budget summaries. She noted that combined district's expenses are increasing by 2.4% for FY 2022; and that all districts remained within the targeted budget of 2.3% for Fiscal Year 2021.

Proposed Resolution of No Objection

Deviating from the agenda, the members discussed matters unrelated to the budget session and included the following:

- Replacement hire for the Executive Assistant position
- Returning to the Assembly Room in August for regular Commission meetings
- Alternative meeting space or continued use of the Magnolia Room for Work Sessions

Attorney White recommended that any future public hearings which have already been advertised should be reviewed with regard to meeting location; whereupon, Chair Eggers requested that Mr. Burton conduct a review of these and make any needed adjustments.

Additionally, Chair Eggers related that the City of St. Petersburg has requested that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) illuminate the Sunshine Skyway Bridge for a week, to include June 28, 2021; and that FDOT is requesting statements from surrounding counties which confirm no objections to restrict lighting of the bridge.

Attorney White clarified that should the Board wish to move forward with voting on the matter, there is no issue with doing so at a Work Session.

Resolution No. 21-39 adopted indicating no objection to the Sunshine Skyway Bridge being illuminated in a manner to recognize Pride month.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gerard, seconded by Commissioner Seel, 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 Seel

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Peters

Additional comments and discussion by the members ensued regarding methods of managing speakers during meetings, the continuation of Zoom participation by citizens when BCC meetings return to the Assembly Room; and citizen comments during Work Sessions; whereupon, Attorney White advised that decisions regarding changes to Zoom participation and meeting locations should be made well in advance so that public hearings are noticed accurately.

Later in the meeting, Commissioner Seel noted that she would like for a budgetary consideration to be given regarding a cost of living increase to the not-for-profits with which the County has contracts. Mr. Burton indicated that automatic cost of living increases are no longer given, but that he would look at the cost impact of such an increase as the budget recommendations are prepared.

**Meeting Recessed: 11:11 A.M.**

**Meeting Reconvened: 11:38 A.M.**

**3. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office**

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022) Budget Analysis, including projected non General Fund revenue and the total General Fund request by program. He noted that the FY 2022 budget request is in line with the budget target received by the Office of Management and Budget.

Sheriff Gualtieri presented detailed information regarding decision package requests regarding annual vehicle replacements, additional Marine Deputy positions, helicopter inspections and a replacement helicopter, and staffing for a mental health squad.

Responding to comments and queries by the members, Sheriff Gualtieri provided information and clarifications regarding the need for three helicopters, changes related to legislative requests for one-time capital funding items, marine rescue resources, attrition, personnel totals and requests, and other matters.

**5. Office of Management & Budget**

The budget presentation for the Office of Management and Budget was conducted during the Budget Information Session held on June 17, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT - 12:47 P.M.**