

Pinellas County

*Pinellas County Cooperative Extension
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo*



Minutes - Final

Thursday, September 17, 2020

9:30 A.M.

Virtual Regular Meeting

Board of County Commissioners

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

Others Present: Jill Silverboard, Deputy County Administrator/Chief of Staff; Jewel White, County Attorney; Jeanette Phillips, Chief Deputy Clerk; and Amelia Hanks, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

Office of Technology and Innovation Director Bryan Zumwalt 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.

1. Citizens To Be Heard

Chair Gerard indicated that public comment for the current and the next item will be heard at this time; whereupon, the following persons expressed their concerns:

Matt Lettelleir, St. Petersburg
David Happe, Tarpon Springs
Aden Barnes, Largo
Sheryl Evarts, Redington Shores
David Waddell, Clearwater
Tracy Sanders, Crystal Beach
Diane Lebedeff, Safety Harbor
Jennifer Kerrigan, Seminole
Carla Rudolph, St. Petersburg
Robin Thompson, Largo
Mona Kelly, Belleair Bluffs
Sherry Fiorenzo, Largo
Sharon Calvert, Tierra Verde
Bonnie DiMartino, Clearwater
Linsey Grove, St. Petersburg
Virginia Frizzle, Largo
John Anderson, Seminole
David Wein, St. Petersburg
Andrea Anderson, Seminole
Karen Mullins, Dunedin
Moon Reilly, Pinellas Park
Rene Flowers, St. Petersburg
Margaret Somerville, St. Petersburg
Jim Boyle, Dunedin
Yvette Gaugh, St. Pete Beach
Julia Meadows, St. Petersburg
Robert Helinger, Largo (spelling uncertain)
Kelly Edwards, Tarpon Springs

Betsy Wells, St. Petersburg
Meghan Panek, Clearwater (spelling uncertain)
Hilary Wahlbeck, Belleair
Laura Edwards, Seminole
Len Wasnock, Tarpon Springs
Isaiah Niel, Largo
Gina Nunez, Seminole
Mary McCarthy, Largo
Greg Pound, Largo
Sharon Herman, Dunedin
Dawn Lechner, Clearwater
Kaitlin Noethen, Clearwater
Stephanie Grey, Clearwater (spelling uncertain)
Barbara Walker, Palm Harbor
Susan Mack, North Redington Beach
Ben Waggoner, Pinellas Park
Beth Weinstein, Tarpon Springs
Kevin Kenneally, Dunedin
Whitney Cordovez, Clearwater
Michele Armstrong, Largo
Tammy Wachter, Tarpon Springs
Larri Gerson, Dunedin
Carol Levinsky, Palm Harbor
Gabriella Barbarigo, Tarpon Springs
Michael Fox, St. Petersburg
Nicole Poulin, Clearwater
Lisa Riefesel, Indian Shores
Devonte Sullivan, St. Petersburg
Tina Muhleisen, Pinellas Park
Erin Olszewski, Tarpon Springs
Heidi Natole, Dunedin
Amanda Holloway, Largo (spelling uncertain)
Marcus Afzali, Clearwater
Travis Norton, Clearwater
Deja-Denice Sherrod, St. Petersburg
Elena Levine, Dunedin
Nathan Kirchner, Clearwater
Debra Williams, Tarpon Springs
Jessica Wiksten, Tarpon Springs (spelling uncertain)
Karla Correa, St. Petersburg
Lucinda Johnston, St. Petersburg
Cathy Greenwood, Dunedin
Tanya Marr, Largo
Brett Candler, Dunedin (spelling uncertain)
Terri Cunningham, Tarpon Springs
Nichelle Threadgill, St. Petersburg

Sally Smith (city not provided)
Michele Knight, St. Petersburg
Paul Timpa, Oldsmar
Kelly Johnson, Dunedin
Johnny Boykins, Pinellas Park
Caroline Spages, Dunedin
Dixie Ross, Dunedin
David Katsaros, Palm Harbor
Joelyn Murphy, Dunedin (spelling uncertain)

2. Local State of Emergency

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Director Dr. Ulyee Choe provided an update regarding COVID-19 in Pinellas County, indicating that data trends are improving; that while some cases have been reported in schools, there are no large outbreaks; and that the improvement in the trends has been achieved through social distancing and mask wearing measures, which are recommended by several health organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He discussed the effectiveness of mask wearing and provided a reference to the CDC website for information regarding the matter; whereupon, he indicated that according to experts, the number of COVID-19 cases is expected to rise in the next few months.

In response to queries by Chair Gerard, Dr. Choe discussed testing and contact tracing efforts, relating that the County and its health partners have the capacity to test all residents who need it; and that the County website has a listing of the testing sites; whereupon, he addressed Commissioner Welch's concerns pertaining to changes in visitation and mandatory staff testing at long-term care facilities, indicating that the facilities are being monitored; and that efforts to improve access to staff testing at nursing homes are underway. Commissioner Welch noted that having a summary of COVID-19 cases occurring in the schools would be beneficial.

Commissioner Peters inquired about a plan for ending the mask mandate and the Local State of Emergency (LSE), noting that COVID trends continue to stay low despite schools reopening; and that the pandemic has caused an escalation of mental health issues. Dr. Choe confirmed that the number of deaths from drug overdose has significantly increased over the last few months and indicated that he will be reviewing the metrics relating to ending the mask mandate with his staff, noting that it is recommended that masks and social distancing measures be continued throughout the pandemic; whereupon, the following topics were discussed:

- Importance of promoting civility, caring, and understanding within the community regarding wearing masks
- The need for additional County communications to the public regarding the mask ordinance exceptions and nutrition/wellness
- Understanding the limits of the County's authority and constitutionality relating to the Board's decisions

- The Board considering citizens' input regarding the mask mandate, but basing its decisions on the advice of local and national health experts
- Transparency regarding Pinellas CARES funding distribution
- Efforts relating to various public health campaigns developed by the Department of Health throughout the years, in partnership with the Communications Department
- COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness

In response to a request by Commissioner Peters, Ms. Silverboard indicated that a report outlining expenditures relating to COVID-19 response by the County is forthcoming; and that continuing the LSE enables staff to exercise emergency powers, including immediate procurement actions.

Commissioner Long moved, seconded by Commissioner Welch, that the order extending the LSE be approved, and discussion continued.

Responding to query by Attorney White regarding advertising a public hearing related to re-consideration of the mask ordinance, Commissioners Welch, Seel, Long, Eggers, and Gerard expressed their desire to hear from the local hospital representatives at the next BCC meeting before scheduling the hearing, and Chair Gerard remarked that the decision regarding changing the ordinance should be regional.

In response to Commissioner Long's proposal to resume in-person meetings by the Board, Attorney White reminded the Board that pursuant to the Governor's order, virtual meetings are allowed through the end of September; and that there is a possibility of extension. Ms. Silverboard indicated that the BCC meeting of September 22 is advertised as virtual; whereupon, Chair Gerard encouraged the members to consider the matter for the future.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Welch, that the order extending the Local State of Emergency be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 20-92 adopted extending the Local State of Emergency established in Resolution No. 20-16 until 3:00 P.M. on September 25, 2020.

Meeting Recessed: 1:13 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 1:46 P.M.

3. Construction Impacts to Airport Noise Abatement Procedures

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport Director Tom Jewsbury referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Construction Impact to PIE Noise Abatement Procedures* and provided background information regarding the project to rehabilitate Runway 18/36, the Airport's primary runway. He indicated that the existing noise abatement procedures cannot be

available during the current construction phase of July through November 2020, which required closure of the runway and shifting the operations to Runway 4/22; that temporary procedures have been identified to mitigate the noise; and that a campaign to inform the public of the temporary measures took place in the spring.

Mr. Jewsbury discussed various efforts to separate air traffic and minimize noise impacts to the residents of Safety Harbor, relating that due to safety concerns, additional adjustments to the direction of the air traffic were not allowed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); whereupon, he noted that the traffic will revert to Runway 18/36 once the construction phase is completed.

In response to queries by the members, Mr. Jewsbury provided further information regarding the temporary re-routing of aircraft, late scheduling of Allegiant Air flights associated with COVID-19 cleaning and safety precautions, and similar matters. He underscored that the County has no control over the airspace; and that the Airport will continue working closely with the airlines, the FAA, U.S. Coast Guard, and other partners to minimize the noise, noting the improvements implemented over the years.

4. Agenda Briefing

Ms. Silverboard and Attorney White provided a review of the agenda items to be addressed at the September 22, 2020 Commission meeting; whereupon, Ms. Silverboard responded to queries and requests for additional information pertaining to the following items:

- Item No. 9 Award of bid relating to the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport Chiller Replacement project

- Item No. 13 Award of bid relating to the Lakeshore Estates Phase 2 Roadway and Drainage Improvement project

- Item No. 14 Award of bid relating to the Water Main Improvement project from Alternate U.S. Highway 19 to Omaha Street and Delaware Avenue to Nebraska Avenue

- Item No. 17 Local State of Emergency

- Item No. 19 Agreement to terminate the Interlocal Agreement for Tampa Bay Advanced Manufacturing Industry Certification Training Centers

Item No. 27 Change Order No. 1 to the contract relating to the Betty Lane at Sunset Point Road intersection improvements project

Item No. 35 Appointments to the Youth Advisory Committee

Item No. 37 Appointments to the Suncoast Health Council

ADJOURNMENT - 2:26 P.M.



Pat Gerard
Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By *Kenneth Carpenter*
Deputy Clerk