

# **Pinellas County**



## **Minutes - Final**

**Friday, June 5, 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:** Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; Jeanette Phillips, Chief Deputy Clerk; and Teresa Adkins, 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. Parks & Conservation Resources**

Office of Management and Budget Analyst Jim Abernathy, with input from Strategic Performance Management Analyst Shane Kunze, provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget request; whereupon, he discussed COVID-19 impacts and department initiatives to add staff positions and increase user fees at County parks and beaches. At the request of Mr. Burton, Parks and Conservation Resources Director Paul Cozzi provided an update on the preparation of the department's realignment proposal, which would increase personnel in front line positions, particularly in the areas of horticultural and facility maintenance.

In response to the Commissioners' comments and queries, Mr. Cozzi, with input by Mr. Burton, addressed the following:

- Park maintenance
- Integrated Vegetation Management Plan
- Creation of Highpoint recreational fields
- Cancellation and park fees at Fort De Soto
- Staffing recovery from 2009 recession
- Recreation Report status

Later in the meeting, at the request of Mr. Burton, Assistant to the County Administrator Brian Lowack provided an update and timeline of the Highpoint project; whereupon, he discussed funding and stakeholder relationships.

**2. Office of Management & Budget**

Office of Management and Budget Analyst Cecilia McCorkell, with input from Strategic Performance Management Analyst Aubrey Phillips, discussed the automated performance reporting process, department impacts from COVID-19, and efforts to improve the customer experience; whereupon, she provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget request, and OMB Director Bill Berger provided input.

In response to comments and queries by the Commissioners, Ms. McCorkell, with input by Ms. Phillips, provided the transition process and timeline of Hyperion to Questica software, noted that consultant support is included in the contract subscription, and discussed the gradual transformation to a centralized customer service center across the various departments under the Board of County Commissioners.

**3. Pinellas County Tax Collector**

Office of Management and Budget Analyst Don Mello provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget request; whereupon, Tax Collector Charles W. Thomas presented information regarding the opening of the South County facility, department impacts from COVID-19, new kiosk renewal locations, and the successes of tax certificate sales.

Responding to query by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Thomas related that remote driving tests will be offered at the North County driving range and explained the process.

**4. County Attorney**

Office of Management and Budget Analyst Yana Matiyuk provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget request; whereupon, County Attorney Jewel White discussed potential challenges pertaining to the upcoming presidential election and COVID-19 litigations. She indicated that her annual memorandum highlighting her office's work will be provided in the next week to members of the County Attorney Oversight Committee.

In response to query by Commissioner Welch, Attorney White discussed litigation regarding mail ballots, and discussion ensued.

**5. Marketing and Communications**

Office of Management and Budget Analyst Yana Matiyuk, with input from Strategic Performance Management Analyst Shane Kunze, provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget request; whereupon, Marketing and Communications Director Barbra Hernandez discussed the department's communication efforts and messaging strategies pertaining to COVID-19, and responded to comments by the members.

**6. County Administration (including Workforce Relations)**

Office of Management and Budget Director Bill Berger, with input from Strategic Performance Management Analyst Aubrey Phillips, discussed County Administration performance measures and opportunities for efficiencies; whereupon, he provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget request.

With input by Employee Relations and Workforce Director Rodney Marion, Mr. Burton addressed reprioritization within the existing workforce, focusing on resiliency efforts and operational impacts. He highlighted workforce relations, the performance evaluation process, and succession planning, and responded to queries from the Commissioners.

**7. Human Resources and Employee Health Benefits**

Office of Management and Budget Analyst Jim Abernathy provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget request; whereupon, Interim Human Resources Director Maureen "Moe" Freaney reviewed current activities and initiatives in her department aimed at addressing employee concerns related to employee benefits. Referring to COVID-19, she related that testing, treatment, and virtual doctor visits are covered at 100 percent under the County's health plan; that the majority of the department's employees are working remotely; that meetings with staff, Appointing Authorities, and the Unified Personnel Board have been held virtually; and that the onboarding of employees during the pandemic has been seamless, and Mr. Burton provided input.

**8. Office of Human Rights**

Office of Human Rights Director Paul Valenti discussed performance measures and COVID-19 impacts; whereupon, Office of Management and Budget Analyst Lori Sullivan provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget request and the recent award of a \$50,000.00 grant through the Department of Housing and Urban Development from the CARES Act. Discussion ensued, and Mr. Valenti responded to queries from the Commissioners.

9. Local State of Emergency

Mr. Burton indicated that the proposed resolution would extend the Local State of Emergency from June 12 to June 19 and clarified that there are no additional local restrictions. He related that messaging will continue to stress that there is still a need for caution. Discussion ensued, and Department of Health in Pinellas County Director Dr. Ulyee Choe and Emergency Medical Services Medical Director Dr. Angus Jameson provided input.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Seel, 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. 20-51 adopted extending the Local State of Emergency established in Resolution No. 20-16 until 3:00 P.M. on June 19, 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT - 12:39 P.M.**

*Pat Gerard*  
Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By *Ken Burke*  
Deputy Clerk

