

# **Pinellas County**

*Pinellas County Cooperative Extension  
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo*



## **Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, August 10, 2021**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting**

## **Board of County Commissioners**

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

**Others Present:** Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; Katherine Carpenter, Board Records Manager; and Katie Poviones, Board Reporter

**INVOCATION by Pastor Randall Morris, Gulf Coast Church, Largo.****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. Purple Heart Day Proclamation:
  - Mal Clingan, Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart - Dunedin Chapter JFK 1963
  - Marc Brill
  - Patrick Kennedy
  - Rich Weltz
  - Chaplain Stan Beach
  - Father Bob Swick

Chair Eggers invited Commander Clingan and other Chapter members present to the podium, provided background information on Purple Heart recipients, presented the members with a plaque, and read a proclamation recognizing August 10, 2021 as Purple Heart Day; whereupon, Commander Clingan and Messrs. Swick and Kennedy provided brief comments and thanked the Board for their support and recognition.

2. Partner Presentation:
  - Steve Cleveland, Chief Executive Officer, Florida Dream Center

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Cleveland provided information regarding the Center and various community and volunteer-based services it provides in low-income areas through the following programs:

- Case Management
- Mobile Food Bank
- Adopt-A-Block
- Work Readiness Training
- Social Enterprise

Mr. Cleveland related that the Center has been awarded the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Senior Citizen Grant and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Grant to help 50 seniors with job training and

home repairs, respectively, and emphasized the role of volunteers and partners in the organization's success; whereupon, the Commissioners commended him on the tremendous impact the Center has on the community by helping people improve their lives.

### COVID-19 Update

Deviating from the agenda and following introductory comments by Mr. Burton, Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Director Dr. Ulyee Choe provided an update regarding current COVID-19 data trends, noting that in Pinellas County the case count and percent positivity are the highest they have been throughout the entire pandemic; that 25 to 40% of hospitalizations are COVID-related; and that there has been an increased demand for COVID testing.

Dr. Choe provided further information regarding County vaccination statistics and distribution sites and related that there is a vaccine tracker on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website that provides accurate data regarding vaccination rates throughout the county and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

Emergency Medical Services Medical Director Dr. Angus Jameson provided an update regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the County's emergency medical system, indicating that there has been an increase in transport volume and 911 calls from persons with COVID symptoms; that more resources are being utilized to address those needs; and that the COVID patients being admitted for emergency medical care are 30 to 50 years old.

Mr. Burton indicated that the County is working with hospitals and first responder agencies to implement protocols to address emergency room capacity and transport issues and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated; whereupon, Drs. Choe and Jameson, with input from Mr. Burton, responded to queries by the members regarding the following topics:

- Available ICU beds
- Staffing issues
- Medical equipment availability
- CDC guidelines and COVID-19 resources
- First responder vaccination status and precautions
- Messaging to residents about the vaccine and hospital safety
- COVID status at Congregate Care Facilities

During discussion and responding to queries by the members, Dr. Choe indicated that 80 to 90% of COVID patients are not vaccinated; that the Pfizer vaccine should be fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration by the end of September; and that vaccine manufacturers are working on a booster for immunocompromised people before making it available to everyone else. He related that healthcare professionals will continue to promote healthy activities and eating and recommended that residents communicate with their physicians regarding any wellness needs they may have.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD****3. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.**

Fred Irwin, Clearwater  
Ed Dye, Seminole  
James White, Belleair  
Geoffrey Caputo, St. Petersburg  
Tracy Kepur, Palm Harbor  
Paolo Ammannati, St. Pete Beach  
Angela Dubach, Tarpon Springs  
Greg Pound, Largo  
James Lechner, Clearwater  
Andra L. Griffin, Bradenton  
Kevin Stillwagon, Clearwater Beach  
David Happe, Tarpon Springs  
Kali Alonso, Clearwater  
Gina Lugano, Palm Harbor  
Kaitlin Noethen, Clearwater  
Ellen M. Lewis, Largo  
Bryan Beckman, Clearwater  
David Ballard Geddis Jr., Palm Harbor  
Jonathan Riches, Tarpon Springs  
Audra Christian, Seminole  
Ruth Wonderly, Clearwater  
Linda Skempris, St. Petersburg  
Mack Johnson, Largo  
Chris Steiner, Clearwater  
Bruce Feldman, Dunedin  
Karen Mullins, Dunedin  
Nancy LaBare, St. Petersburg  
Craig Murtha, Largo  
Dave Sillman, Tarpon Springs  
David Waddell, Clearwater

In response to comments by Mr. Pound, Commissioner Flowers clarified that Randall Jones from the Sheriff's Office voluntarily resigned.

**Meeting Recessed: 12:16 P.M.**

**Meeting Reconvened: 12:50 P.M.**

**CONSENT AGENDA - Items 4 through 18**

**Approval of the Consent Agenda**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, to approve the Consent Agenda items. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER**

- 4. Minutes of the in-person and virtual regular meeting held May 11, 2021.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

- 5. Minutes of the in-person and virtual regular meeting held May 25, 2021.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

- 6. Vouchers and bills paid from June 13 through July 10, 2021.

Period: June 13 through June 19, 2021

Accounts Payable - \$22,570,120.88

Payroll - None

Period: June 20 through June 26, 2021

Accounts Payable - \$18,150,175.38

Payroll - \$4,266,521.88

Period: June 27 through July 3, 2021

Accounts Payable - \$74,133,039.05

Payroll - None

Period: July 4 through July 10, 2021

Accounts Payable - \$7,133,686.86

Payroll - \$4,025,912.29

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

Reports received for filing:

- 7. Dock Fee Report for the month of June 2021.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

- 8. Quarterly Report of Routine Dock & Dredge/Fill Permits issued from April 1 to June 30, 2021.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

9. Juvenile Welfare Board Quarterly Financial Statement for the period ended June 30, 2021.  
**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**
  
10. City of South Pasadena Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended September 30, 2020.  
**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**
  
11. City of Madeira Beach Notices of Public Hearings held on July 12 and 14 regarding a proposed development agreement.  
**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**
  
12. City of Madeira Beach Notice of Public Hearing held on July 14 regarding proposed Ordinance No. 2021-01.  
**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

### Administrative Services

13. Quarterly report of claim settlements for the period of April 1 through June 30, 2021.  
**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

### Public Works

14. Ranking of firms and agreement with Applied Sciences Consulting, Inc. for engineering, planning, and environmental services for the Klosterman Bayou Watershed Management Plan.

Ranking of firms and Contract No. 190-0353-NC approved in an amount not-to-exceed \$349,946.00 (including \$50,000.00 for owner contingency services); work to be completed within 36 consecutive calendar months from the notice-to-proceed date. Applied Sciences Consulting Inc. and both of their subconsultants are Small Business Enterprise certified for engineering, planning, and environmental services.

In response to queries by Chair Eggers, Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy related that the Southwest Florida Water Management District will contribute 50% of the contract cost, with the remaining balance split between the City of Tarpon Springs and the County, including a contingency for any extra services the County requests.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

15. Ranking of firms and agreements for professional engineering services pertaining to environmental and stormwater engineering services.

Ranking of firms and agreements with each of the eight highest-ranked firms approved with an upset limit of \$1,700,000.00 for each firm, for a total of \$13,600,000.00 over a five-year term. The County Administrator has delegated authority to increase the upset limits of contract purchase orders pertaining to the agreements, pending that the negotiated rates remain the same. All eight recommended firms have committed to utilizing multiple certified Small Business Enterprises for individual work assignments resulting from the agreements.

- Applied Sciences Consulting, Inc.
- Atkins North America, Inc.
- Environmental Science Associates Corporation
- Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.
- Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.
- Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc.
- Singhofen & Associates, Inc.
- Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

#### Utilities

16. Award of bid to Gossamer Bay, Inc. d/b/a Universal Controls Instrument Service Co. for a five-year contract providing flow meters, parts, repairs, and recalibration service for the Utilities Department.

Contract No. 190-0445-B awarded in the average annual amount of \$1,946,376.35 for a 60-month term total of \$9,731,881.76 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received. The contract replaces the current contract expiring on September 12, 2021.

In response to queries by Commissioner Seel, Utilities Director Megan Ross indicated that any nonfunctional meters that were replaced over the last several years will not need to be replaced again, noting that approximately 10% of the meters have been replaced.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

17. Award of bid to TLC Diversified, Inc. for sanitary sewer pump station repair and improvement contract for Fiscal Years 2021-2024.

Bid No. 21-0283-CP (PID No. 000964A) awarded in the estimated average annual amount of \$2,132,925.67 for a three-year term total of \$6,398,777.00 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received. The Small Business Enterprise program commitment for the contract is 10%. All work expected to be completed within 1,095 consecutive calendar days.

**The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.**

## AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Business Technology Services

18. Award of bid to Five Rivers IT, Inc. and Presidio Holdings Inc. d/b/a Presidio Networked Solutions LLC for Rubrik backup solutions: hardware, software, and services.

Bid No. 21-0041-B awarded in the estimated average annual amount of \$731,400.00 for a five-year term total of \$3,657,000.00 (\$2,801,000.00 to Five Rivers IT, Inc. and \$856,000.00 to Presidio Holdings Inc. d/b/a Presidio Networked Solutions LLC) on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bids received. The contract replaces Contract No. 189-0199-B, which did not include a contingency to accommodate unanticipated growth.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None.

Deviating from the agenda, Chair Eggers indicated that Item No. 27 will be taken at this time.

27. Appointments to the Pinellas County Redistricting Board (Individual Commissioners and Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

The following individuals were appointed to the Redistricting Board:

- Mark Weinkrantz (Commissioner Janet Long)
- Mary Louise Ambrose (Commissioner Pat Gerard)
- Allison Nall (Commissioner Charlie Justice)
- Ron Schultz (Commissioner Dave Eggers)
- Christian D. Ruppel (Commissioner Karen Seel)
- James P. Everett (Commissioner Kathleen Peters)
- Esther Eugene (Commissioner Rene Flowers)
- Brian Aungst (at-large)
- Johnny Boykins (at-large)
- Bruce Livingston (at-large)
- Karen Owen (at-large)



Chair Eggers noted that each Commissioner nominated an individual from their district; and that the members must choose an additional four individuals from a group of 22 applicants to fill the at-large positions, and discussion ensued regarding the selection process and whether the prospective Redistricting Board members' party affiliation needs to be considered. Attorney White provided input and responded to queries by the members, clarifying that the new Board members will have their own County emails; that administrative staff and an outside legal counsel and consultant will provide assistance; and that Clerk's Office staff will attend the meetings and take minutes in compliance with Sunshine Law requirements; whereupon, she discussed the role of the consultant.

After the first round of ballot votes, Brian Aungst, Johnny Boykins, and Karen Owen received four or more votes. Through three subsequent ballot votes, Bruce Livingston was selected as the fourth at-large appointee.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the four at-large appointments selected via ballot votes and the seven Commissioner-nominated appointees be approved to serve on the Redistricting Board. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

### Administrative Services

19. Award of bid to Centennial Contractors Enterprises, Inc., Harbour Construction, Inc., Johnson-Laux Construction, and New Vista Builders Group, LLC for requirements of Job Order Contracting for construction services.

Contract No. 21-0324-CP awarded in the upset limit amount of \$6,000,000.00 to each of the four contractors for a five-year term (total amount, \$24,000,000.00) based on being the lowest responsive, responsible price multipliers received meeting specifications; price multipliers are fixed for the term of the contract.

In response to a query by Chair Eggers, Mr. Burton clarified that the contracts are for small construction projects; and that a job order contracting system was utilized to expedite the construction process.

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

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

Housing & Community Development

20. Resolution adopting the 2021 Community Redevelopment Area Policy.

Resolution No. 21-48 approved adopting the 2021 CRA Policy and replacing the 2018 CRA Policy and Implementation Procedures, to make updates consistent with Florida Statutes, to establish reporting requirements, and to align the County Tax Increment Finance (TIF) contributions with the Board's priorities.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Community Redevelopment Areas* and other documents, Planning Division Manager Evan Johnson discussed updates to the CRA since the Board's January work session, major process changes, the County priorities for rebuilding communities, determination of County TIF contributions, and next steps.

In response to queries by Chair Eggers, Mr. Johnson clarified that the policy would limit new CRA terms to 20 years, with a possibility of extension for up to 20 years; and that term limits for CRA renewals are dependent on the year they were approved.

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

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

Public Works

21. Change Order No. 2 (final) with Kamminga and Roodvoets, Inc. for the Pinellas Trail and 54th Avenue North drainage improvements.

(Contract No. 189-0262-CP) Change Order approved increasing the contract amount by \$22,528.16 for a revised total of \$3,257,729.27.

In response to a query by Chair Eggers, Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy indicated that the purpose of the contract is construction of drainage improvements.

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

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

## AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Emergency Medical Services Authority

22. Fifth Amendment to the agreement with Paramedics Logistics Florida, LLC for requirements of ambulance services.

Sitting as the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority, the Board approved the amendment to Contract No. 134-0452-P, increasing the contract amount by

\$68,159,187.00 for a revised total of \$527,399,382.00 and extending the contract through September 30, 2024, with a provision for a two-year extension.

Mr. Burton provided background information regarding the item, noting that the contract addresses paramedic staffing challenges through salary increases.

In response to queries and comments by the members, Safety and Emergency Services Director Jim Fogarty, with input from Mr. Burton, clarified that a three- versus a two-year contract allows capital costs to be attributed over a longer period of time and aligns expiration dates of the contract and the collective bargaining agreement. He recognized his staff and the contractor's representative present in the audience and indicated that the previous amendments included extensions and administrative changes; that pending approval of the current amendment, the contract could be amended to extend for two additional years; and that it must go out for bid every 11 years.

Upon call by Chair Eggers for public comment, Karen Mullins, Dunedin, expressed her concerns.

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

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

## COUNTY ATTORNEY

- 23.** Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Allan Powell v. Royal Stewart Arms Condominium #6, Inc.; HUD Case No. 04-21-4997-8; PC Case No. 21-001 - alleged housing discrimination.

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

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

- 24.** County Attorney Reports:  
- Redistricting Update

Attorney White indicated that the County Charter specifies that the Redistricting Board must be seated within 30 days of the U.S. Census data being released; and that Florida Statutes require County Commissions to conduct redistricting in odd-numbered years and must focus on keeping districts relatively equal in proportion to population.

In response to a query by Chair Eggers, Attorney White confirmed that the Redistricting Board meetings will be open to the public; whereupon, Commissioner Peters requested that the Commission be alerted of the census data release.

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

**25. County Administrator Reports.**

- Red Tide and Piney Point Update
- Pinellas County Emergency Rental Assistance Program Update

Red Tide and Piney Point Update

Chair Eggers expressed appreciation to Public Works Department Director Kelli Hammer Levy for her continuous efforts and leadership; whereupon, she introduced the new Public Works Deputy Director, Dan Mirabile, who provided information about his professional background.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Red Tide and Piney Point Update*, Ms. Levy discussed the red tide planning and response efforts and the present conditions; whereupon, she provided information regarding the Piney Point facility, the current status on its closure process, and the impacts of the emergency wastewater release that occurred from March 30 to April 9.

During discussion and in response to queries by the members, Ms. Levy provided information concerning the actions to address the remaining wastewater at Piney Point, the status on funding from the Department of Environmental Protection to reimburse the County for red tide-related expenses, current seagrass conditions, Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium, and other matters. Commissioner Long suggested that an item about emergency wastewater release prevention be added to the County's legislative package; whereupon, in response to her request, Ms. Levy indicated that she will provide information on phosphate mining facilities in the Tampa Bay Watershed.

Pinellas County Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program Update

Office of Management and Budget Strategic Performance Manager Aubrey Phillips discussed the origin of the ERA Program, stating that last year the County collaborated with community partners to mobilize federal CARES Act funds and provide \$24.6 million in financial assistance to 8,500 households in the County impacted by COVID-19 for rent, mortgage, and utilities; that building on those partnerships led to the launch of the ERA Program through the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program and in partnership with the City of St. Petersburg; and that 15% of the rental assistance funds allocated to the County have been spent through the program.

Housing and Community Development Director Carol Stricklin provided further information regarding the program, indicating that it launched on March 31, and as of August 5, 1,019 individuals received rental assistance, equating to \$7.2 million total and around \$7,100.00

per applicant; and that the program is available to individuals or households at or below 80% of the area median income and are at risk of housing instability, unemployment, or a significant reduction in income due to COVID-19. Referring to a slide, she provided information on how the program can be accessed, noting that renters and landlords can apply.

Responding to queries and comments by the members, Ms. Stricklin indicated that the primary focus for rental assistance will be on eviction situations; that the maximum amount for assistance under the current program is for 12 months of rent; and that there are procedures in place to assist individuals in circumstances where they have to move to another rental place or where a landlord does not cooperate with the program. Ms. Phillips noted that collaborative efforts between community partners and the County have ensured that participants in the program can make progress towards being self-sustaining; and that the Juvenile Welfare Board's Family Services staff are following up with applicants to assist those who have pending information or who did not complete their applications; whereupon, Chair Eggers emphasized that in addition to assisting individuals with rental payments, the County should provide help with employment.

## COUNTY COMMISSION

- 26.** Appointment to the Historic Preservation Board (Individual appointment by Commissioner Justice).

Rachel Velardi appointed to the Historic Preservation Board for a remainder of an existing term ending December 31, 2021.

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

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

- 28.** Appointment to the Pinellas County Housing Finance Authority (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Kristina M. Kovarik appointed for the remainder of an existing term expiring on February 1, 2022, following a ballot vote.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Flowers, Housing Finance Authority Executive Director Kathryn Driver provided information regarding the candidates. Upon call by Chair Eggers for public comment, David Waddell, Clearwater, expressed his concerns.

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

The members commented on various topics, as follows:

Commissioner Flowers

- Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority

Commissioner Seel

- Forward Pinellas

Commissioner Long

- Forward Pinellas
- Tampa Bay Transit Alliance Committee
- Regional Planning Council

Commissioner Gerard

- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority flamingo cards

Commissioner Eggers

- BCC workshops
- Tampa Bay Water

ADJOURNMENT - 3:13 P.M.



*Dave Eggers*  
Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By *Ken Burke*  
Deputy Clerk