

Pinellas County

*333 Chestnut Street, Palm Room
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

9:30 A.M.

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting

Board of County Commissioners

*Brian Scott, Chair
Dave Eggers, Vice-Chair
René Flowers
Chris Latvala
Vince Nowicki
Kathleen Peters
Chris Scherer*

ROLL CALL - 9:30 A.M.

Present: 7 - Chair Brian Scott, Vice-Chair Dave Eggers, Commissioner René Flowers, Commissioner Chris Latvala, Commissioner Vince Nowicki, Commissioner Kathleen Peters, and Commissioner Chris Scherer

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; William Seiter, Finance Division Assistant Director; and Katie Poviones, Senior Board Records Specialist, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

1. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment

John Rieman, Oldsmar
William Johnson, Clearwater
Greta Finney, Largo
Eliseo Santana, Clearwater
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor (submitted documents)
Joseph Cvach, Dunedin
Steven Walker, Seminole
Steve Lounsbury, Dunedin
Chris Steiner, Clearwater
Cynthia Varney, Dunedin
Greg Pound, Largo

PUBLIC HEARINGS - There are no public hearings scheduled for this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 2 through 8

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

2. Minutes of the regular meeting held February 25, 2025.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

3. Vouchers and bills paid from March 2 through March 15, 2025.

Period March 2 - March 8, 2025

Accounts Payable - \$88,383,909.15

Payroll - None

Period March 9 - March 15, 2025

Accounts Payable - \$17,377,254.68

Payroll - \$4,879,995.29

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Reports received for filing:

4. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Annual Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2024.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

5. Juvenile Welfare Board Preliminary FY24 Q4 Financials.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

6. Juvenile Welfare Board FY25 Q1 Financials.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Building and Development Review Services

7. Plat of Innisbrook Parcel L Phases 1 and 3, a 112-lot subdivision.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

Public Works

8. Cooperative Funding Agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District for the Lake Seminole Watershed Management Plan.

SWFWMD Agreement No. 25CF0004619 approved for \$325,000.00 in funding, with a County match of \$325,000.00 for a total contract amount of \$650,000.00. Agreement term, October 1, 2024, through December 31, 2027.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Building and Development Review Services

9. Maintenance agreement with Honeywell, Inc. for an annual facility permit to perform routine service, repairs, and refurbishing of its facilities without having such construction inspected in an in-process fashion by Pinellas County.

Maintenance agreement renewal approved.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Public Works

10. Change Order No. 1 with Southern Road and Bridge, LLC for bridge structures, fixed concrete maintenance, and minor repairs.

(Contract No. 24-0211-ITB-C) Change order approved, increasing the agreement amount by \$5,000,000.00 for a revised agreement amount of \$9,674,762.75.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

11. Second amendment to the agreements with March Marine Construction Company and In Depth Incorporated for Installation and Maintenance of Marine Pilings, Florida Uniform Waterway Markers and Navigational Buoys.

(Contract No. 23-0670-ITB) Amendment approved, increasing the contract amount by \$515,783.99 for a revised total contract amount of \$858,487.98. Contract effective for an additional 24-month period from July 19, 2025, to July 19, 2027.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

COUNTY ATTORNEY

12. Proposed settlement in the case of Katrina A. Black v. Pinellas County; Circuit Civil Case No. 23-005312-CI.

Settlement approved in accordance with the confidential memorandum dated April 8, 2025.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

13. County Attorney Reports

Attorney White provided congratulatory comments related to the University of Florida men's basketball team's victory in the men's National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) championship.

Thereupon, Attorney White also indicated that she attended the women's NCAA championship game in Tampa and provided brief comments regarding the event.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

14. County Administrator Reports

Recent and upcoming Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) hearings

Mr. Burton indicated that a CDBG-DR public hearing occurred on April 7; and that the purpose of each hearing is to receive input regarding the development of a plan, which will be brought before the Board in May; whereupon, he provided information related to future hearings and resources for individuals who wish to provide input.

Upcoming meetings in Tierra Verde regarding a proposed Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU)

Mr. Burton indicated that a meeting regarding a proposed MSTU will occur tonight; and that another meeting is scheduled for the following week.

Substantial damage and reassessment updates pertaining to mobile home communities

Building and Development Review Services Director Kevin McAndrew provided statistical information related to mobile homes that have been through the substantial damage assessment and reassessment processes; whereupon, he summarized various challenges and outreach efforts.

Referencing feedback received from homeowners, Mr. McAndrew provided clarification regarding the reassessment process and explained that homeowners who have received a final substantial damage determination may file an appeal with the County.

He also discussed circumstances under which individuals may continue residing in a home that has been deemed substantially damaged, noting that staff is working with homeowners to minimize displacement; whereupon, Commissioner Eggers provided brief comments related to the unique difficulties faced by owners of mobile homes.

In response to queries by Chair Scott, Messrs. McAndrew and Burton provided information regarding various topics, including extensions, demolition of condemned units, and relocation assistance.

COUNTY COMMISSION

15. Appointment to the Pinellas Opportunity Council Inc. (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Kyle Geoffrey Martin reappointed for a five-year term starting at the date of appointment.

In response to a query by Commissioner Nowicki regarding whether Mr. Martin must reside in Pinellas County to serve on the Pinellas Opportunity Council, Mr. Burton indicated that staff will review eligibility requirements; whereupon, Chair Scott related that Mr. Martin currently holds a seat on the Council; that the members can vote on this item today; and that staff will report back if they find any issues with Mr. Martin's eligibility.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

16. Appointment to the Suncoast Health Council (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Nadine Nickeson and Mary Bennett reappointed as Health Care Consumers and Eric Smith reappointed as a Health Care Provider for two-year terms beginning on the date of appointment.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

17. Reappointment to the Historic Preservation Board (Individual appointment by Commissioner Flowers).

Michael Fridovich reappointed for a three-year term beginning on April 8, 2025.

Commissioner Flowers indicated that due to Mr. Fridovich serving in an interim role on the Gulfport City Council, he could not be reappointed to the Historic Preservation Board (HPB); and that since he is no longer in the interim role, she would now like to reappoint him to the HPB.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

18. County Commission New Business:

Pertinent and timely Committee/Board updates, policy considerations, administrative/procedural considerations, and other new business.

Commissioner Scherer

Commissioner Scherer indicated that he would like to appoint Rob Roberts to the Pinellas County Historical Commission Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Scherer, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the appointment be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

The members provided updates regarding their assigned boards and committees and reported on various topics, as follows:

- Meetings with Parks and Conservations Resources Director Paul Cozzie and Deputy County Administrator Jill Silverboard
- Meeting with Assistant County Administrator Tom Almonte and Assistant to the County Administrator Audrey Ables
- Meeting with Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County Director Dr. Ulyee Choe
- Meeting with Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Ken Burke
- Public Safety Coordinating Council
- Tour of Manatee County wastewater treatment plants

Commissioner Latvala

- National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament Men's Basketball Championship Final Four game
- Youth Advisory Committee tour of the Forensic Science Center at the District Six Medical Examiner's Office
- Health and Human Services Leadership Board
- Hillsborough/Pinellas Workforce Development Consortium
- Upcoming Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Annual Agency Awards Ceremony
- Upcoming 22nd Annual Police Charity Softball Game

Commissioner Peters

- Ongoing efforts related to beach nourishment in collaboration with congressional partners

Commissioner Nowicki

- Homeless Leadership Alliance appointment of new interim CEO, Cheri Holzbacher
- Meeting with Department of Health regarding daycare and home care for children
- Discussions with Legislative Delegation in Tallahassee
- Upcoming meetings in Tierra Verde regarding a potential Municipal Services Taxing Unit
- Upcoming Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. Strategic Planning Committee meeting
- Support for Commissioner Scherer's efforts related to emergency containment ponds
- Wishing Executive Aide Tyler Bonneau a happy birthday

Referring to comments by Commissioner Eggers and concerns expressed by a citizen earlier in the meeting, Commissioner Nowicki discussed the potential to enact a policy that would waive fees for homeowners who are rebuilding their homes; whereupon, Mr. Burton indicated that he would not recommend taking action at this time; and that this will be discussed during his one-on-one meetings with the Commissioners. Chair Scott also related that he believes the members should have an understanding of the potential fiscal impact that this could have on the County before taking action.

Commissioner Flowers

- Meeting with Senator Ed Hooper
- Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas
- School Transportation Safety Committee
- Community event held by All Administrative Solutions, LLC
- Congratulations to those recognized as First Ladies in African American History by The Woodson African American Museum of Florida
- CareerSource Hillsborough Pinellas
- Florida Association of Counties
- Human Rights Board
- Appreciation to Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Ken Burke and staff for work related to a Department of Government Efficiency report
- Upcoming Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference and Educational Exhibition
- First public hearing regarding Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds
- 7th Annual AKAdemy: The Great Debate

Commissioner Eggers

- National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament Men's Basketball Championship Final Four game
- Upcoming meetings in Tierra Verde regarding a potential Municipal Services Taxing Unit
- Palm Harbor Community Services Agency
- Visit to Osgood Industries, LLC
- Oldsmar Days Parade
- Community Coffee Hour at the Palm Harbor Library
- Tampa Bay Water
- Forward Pinellas
- Upcoming Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Annual Agency Awards Ceremony

Chair Scott

- Condolences to Pinellas Park City Councilwoman Patricia "Patti" Reed due to the loss of her husband
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Nominating Committee
- Duke Energy project update regarding resiliency efforts
- Health and Human Services Leadership Board
- U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 11-1 75th Anniversary celebration
- Discussions with Legislative Delegation and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in Tallahassee
- Meeting with Executive Office of the Governor Chief of Staff Cody Farrill

Department of Government Efficiency Resolution

Resolution No. 25-31 adopted.

Earlier in the meeting, Chair Scott provided brief comments regarding a proposed resolution pertaining to the Executive Office of the Governor's Department of Government Efficiency team, noting that it memorializes the County's cooperation, spirit, and intent of finding efficiencies, looking for redundant systems, and implementing best practices; whereupon, discussion ensued.

During discussion, Commissioner Flowers indicated that she believes that a resolution stating that the County will look for efficiencies or inefficiencies is not necessary since this is already being done.

A motion was made by Commissioner Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Flowers

Tri-County Meeting Resolution

Resolution No. 25-32 adopted, indicating the Board's support for a joint meeting to be held with the Boards of County Commissioners of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties on May 2, 2025, and authorizing the Board's participation.

In response to a query by Chair Scott, Mr. Burton confirmed that the joint meeting is scheduled to occur on May 2.

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

Aye: 7 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

ADJOURNMENT - 11:36 A.M.

Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By _____
Deputy Clerk