Pinellas County

333 Chestnut Street, Palm Room
Clearwater, FL 33756

Minutes - Final

Thursday, September 4, 2025

2:00 P.M.

Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting

Public Hearings at 6:00 P.M.

Board of County Commissioners

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

ROLL CALL - 2:04 P.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; Derelynn Revie, Board Records Manager; and Katie Poviones, Senior Board Records Specialist, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION by Commissioner Flowers

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Commissioner Nowicki

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

1. IT Professionals Day Proclamation:
- Business Technology Services - Jeff Rohrs and Bryan Zumwalt
- Clerk of the Court - Chris Short and Rakesh Patel
- Court Technology - Brandon Kling
- Property Appraiser - Jim Armstrong and Ivan Morley
- Public Defender - Erik Ferguson
- Sheriff - Bert Mills and Jamie Cunningham
- Tax Collector -Jennifer Bryant and Nick Fatolitis
- Supervisor of Elections - David Wise and Marc Gillette

Chair Scott invited the Information Technology (IT) professionals to join him at the podium and read a proclamation recognizing September 16, 2025, as National IT Professionals Day; whereupon, Mr. Rohrs expressed appreciation for the recognition and provided brief comments regarding Business Technology Services' partnerships with IT professionals across the County.

2. National Workforce Development Month Proclamation:
AmSkills

Chair Scott invited AmSkills, Inc. President and CEO Tom Mudano and Pinellas Program Coordinator Tim Martin to join him at the podium and read a proclamation recognizing September 2025 as National Workforce Development Month. Mr. Mudano provided brief comments regarding the services offered by AmSkills, Inc.; whereupon, Commissioners Eggers, Flowers, and Peters expressed appreciation to Mr. Mudano and his staff for their great work.

3. Remembrance Day Proclamation:
East Lake Fire Rescue
- Fire Chief Jason Gennaro
- Chairman Kevin Kenne

Chair Scott invited Chief Gennaro and Mr. Kenney to join him at the podium and read a proclamation recognizing September 11, 2025, as Remembrance Day; whereupon, Mr. Kenney provided brief comments regarding the loss of lives on September 11.

Deviating from the agenda, Chair Scott expressed appreciation to Pinellas County Sheriff's Office deputies for their presence at today's meeting; whereupon, he requested a moment of silence in recognition of the recent passing of a Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Deputy.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

4. Citizens To Be Heard - Public Comment.

David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor (submitted documents)
Hillary Simpson, Seminole (submitted documents)
Angie, Pinellas County
Greg Pound, Largo

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 5 through 9 (Item Nos. 7 and 8 addressed under Regular Agenda)

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, 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

5. Minutes of the regular meetings held July 22 and August 5, 2025.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

6. Vouchers and bills paid from July 27 through August 9, 2025.

Period - July 27 through August 2, 2025
Accounts Payable - $76,203,239.32
Payroll - $4,820,673.85

Period - August 3 through August 9, 2025
Accounts Payable - $34,147,267.87
Payroll - None

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Utilities

9. Joint Project Agreement with the City of Madeira Beach for relocation and replacement of County Utilities conflicting with the City's proposed roadway and drainage system improvements along 129th Avenue, 131st Avenue, and Pelican Lane.

Agreement approved. Estimated cost to the County is $1,936,000.00. Work is expected to be completed within 300 consecutive calendar days.

The item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Convention and Visitors Bureau

7. Ranking of firms and agreement with Envisionit Chicago, LLC for advertising and promotion (media planning, buying and brand strategy, creative and content).

(Contract Nos. 25-0506-RFP and 25-0507-RFP) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the not-to-exceed contract value of $139,605,073.53, effective for 60 months.

In response to comments by Commissioner Eggers, Visit St. Pete-Clearwater (VSPC) President and CEO Brian Lowack indicated that VSPC currently has an agreement with one agency for traditional advertising and an agreement with a different agency for digital advertising; and that since the agreements are nearing the end of their terms, and as part of VSPC's efforts to make improvements, staff released two Requests for Proposals (RFPs).

Mr. Lowack provided details regarding the number of applications received and the committee that reviewed them, relating that Envisionit Chicago, LLC, applied and was the top-ranked firm for both RFPs; whereupon, he noted that, due to the combination of traditional and digital advertising, there is a slight price increase over the term of the agreement; and that it also takes into account the increase to VSPC's advertising budget over the next five years.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Lowack indicated that the review committee's ranking determination was unanimous; whereupon, in response to queries by Commissioners Latvala and Peters, Mr. Lowack briefly discussed VSPC staff's role in the strategic development of the "Still Shining" and "Ampersand" campaigns.

In response to additional comments and queries by Commissioner Peters, Mr. Lowack provided information related to the number of short-term vacation rentals and hotel rooms that are not yet operational following last year's hurricanes, as well as VSPC's advertising efforts in the Tampa Bay market; whereupon, Commissioners Peters and Eggers provided supportive comments regarding "727 Day" and the efforts of VSPC staff to market the destination.

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

Human Services

8. Ranking of firms and agreement with Nomad Global Communication Solutions, Inc. for the CARE Mobile Medical Unit.

(Contract No. 25-0170-RFP) Ranking of firms and agreement approved in the not-to-exceed amount of $541,444.83, as outlined in the Staff Report.

In response to comments by Commissioner Eggers, Human Services Director Karen Yatchum indicated that the new mobile medical unit will be the third vehicle in the Health Care for the Homeless Program and will provide services specifically related to behavioral health; and that staff is exploring the possibility of utilizing the new mobile medical unit as an extension of the Pinellas Matters Program.

Responding to queries by Chair Scott, Ms. Yatchum provided details regarding the anticipated number of residents that the new mobile medical unit will serve each year and indicated that while the County would own the vehicle, all services and staffing would be provided by contractors; and that the vehicle would operate five days each week.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, 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

10. Funding recommendations and agreements with nonprofit entities for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund.

Funding recommendations from the Substance Abuse Advisory Board and execution of four agreements with nonprofit entities approved in the total amount of $33,898.00, as outlined in the Staff Report.

In response to a query by Commissioner Flowers, Human Services Director Karen Yatchum indicated that the agreement with one of the nonprofit entities, Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc., would purchase laptops for staff who provide substance use services.

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

11. Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board bylaws.

Bylaws approved, as outlined in the Staff Report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, 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

12. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Point of Contact form modification with the Florida Division of Emergency Management for the Countywide Mast Arm Hardening - Utility Projective Measures Project.

Modification approved, changing the staff name on the Point of Contact form.

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

13. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Point of Contact form modification with the Florida Division of Emergency Management for Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IV Funding for the replacement of span-wire-supported traffic signals with mast arm traffic signals.

Modification approved, changing the staff name on the Point of Contact form.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, 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

14. Local Agency Emergency Repair Agreement and Resolution with the Florida Department of Transportation for emergency repair of Dunedin Causeway unpaved roadways surface and walkways due to Hurricane Helene.

(FDOT Financial Project ID 456525-1-G8-01 and 2HL-15-020) Agreement approved and Resolution No. 25-70 adopted, allowing for emergency repair services associated with Causeway Boulevard and City of Dunedin, Dunedin Causeway Beach main bridge and tide relief bridge. County to be reimbursed by the Florida Department of Transportation in the amount of $58,767.00. Agreement term expires September 30, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, 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

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Business Technology Services

15. Intergovernmental Services Agreement with the Juvenile Welfare Board for Information Technology Services from Business Technology Services.

Agreement approved, continuing Business Technology Services' service to the Juvenile Welfare Board from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2030, as outlined in the Staff Report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, 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

Housing Finance Authority

16. Resolution approving the issuance of Single-Family Mortgage Revenue Bonds by the Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County to finance Single-Family Mortgage Loans through a joint program with other Housing Finance Authorities in various counties.

Resolution No. 25-71 adopted, approving the continuation of the issuance of bonds in a principal amount not to exceed $250,000,000.00 in calendar years 2025 through 2028. No Pinellas County funds are required.

In response to a query by Commissioner Nowicki, Pinellas County Housing Finance Authority (HFA) Executive Director Kathryn Driver provided information regarding the Authority's single-family program, including interlocal agreements with Pasco and Polk Counties and the use of carryforward allocations.

Commissioner Nowicki indicated that he wants to ensure that no Pinellas County taxpayer funds are provided to Pasco or Polk Counties; whereupon, Ms. Driver related the HFA does not receive any County dollars; and that the HFA finances down payment and closing cost assistance loans in these counties through interest and program income.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, 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. Resolution approving Pinellas County as an area of operation for the Housing Finance Authority of Hillsborough County, Florida (Authority) with respect to the financing by the Authority of the acquisition and rehabilitation of a multi-family housing development located in Pinellas County.

Resolution No. 25-72 adopted, granting area of operation authority to Hillsborough County, as outlined in the Staff Report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, 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

18. County Attorney Reports - None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

19. County Administrator Reports

Hiring of Tristan Sommer to fill Intergovernmental Liaison position

Mr. Burton indicated that Representative Linda Chaney's Legislative Aide, Tristan Sommer, has been hired as the County's new Intergovernmental Liaison; and that Mr. Sommer starts on September 22.

Consensus regarding the County's State lobbying contract

Mr. Burton referenced recent interviews conducted by the Board with regard to the County's State lobbying contract and indicated that the members must now select a firm. He related that the contract amount is within his authority; and that if the members can come to a consensus regarding selection of the firm, he can execute the contract and will not need to bring it back to the Board for approval.

Discussion ensued regarding the firms and the Commissioners' preferences related to which should be selected; whereupon, in response to comments by Commissioner Peters, Attorney White and Chief Assistant County Attorney Don Crowell provided details related to a potential conflict between the County and one of the firms interviewed, GrayRobinson, P.A.

Following discussion, Chair Scott indicated that the Commissioners have narrowed down the selection to two firms, Johnston & Stewart Government Strategies and Shumaker Advisors. Upon the Chair's call for a show of hands, Johnston & Stewart Government Strategies was selected by a majority of the Commissioners.

COUNTY COMMISSION

20. Appointments to the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).

Following a ballot vote, Steven James II and James Millican reappointed and Brian Kron, Craig A. Boyle, John Soucy, and Michael Williams appointed for terms of four years beginning on October 1, 2025.

21. County Commission New Business:
Pertinent and timely Committee/Board updates, policy considerations, administrative/procedural considerations, and other new business:

a.) Resolution for Joint Meeting to be held between the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco Counties.

The Commissioners reported on the activities of their assigned boards and committees and discussed various topics.

Commissioner Nowicki

- Pinellas County Licensing Board
- Upcoming Continuum of Care meeting
- Tour of Independence Hall
- Ongoing budget discussions

Commissioner Flowers

- Founders Point ribbon-cutting ceremony
- Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas
- Meeting with Florida Association of Counties Executive Director Ginger Delegal
- Barrier Islands Government Council meeting
- National Association of Counties subcommittee meeting

Commissioner Eggers

- Discussions with the County Attorney's Office and Human Resources regarding the possibility of the Palm Harbor Community Services Agency being allowed to receive State or County benefits
- Public safety concerns on Estancia Boulevard in Clearwater
- Chromalloy manufacturing facility ribbon-cutting ceremony
- Signal box art by Anna Hamilton
- Death of community activist Carol Bumiller
- Death of Dunedin Refrigeration President Mike Bowman
- Death of attorney Ed Armstrong
- Upcoming Forward Pinellas meeting
- Upcoming joint Board of County Commission meeting with the Tourist Development Council
- Upcoming Honor Flight
- Attendance at a recent Tampa Bay Rays game wherein Keep Pinellas Beautiful received a funding award
- Upcoming 9/11 events in Curlew Hills, Madeira Beach, and Treasure Island

Responding to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Burton, with input from Assistant to the County Administrator Matthew Spoor, provided information regarding determination of topics that the members would like to discuss with the County's Legislative Delegation.

Commissioner Latvala

- AMPLIFY Clearwater Post-Legislative Session Reception
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Clearwater Station groundbreaking

- Home2 Suites by Hilton Clearwater St. Petersburg - Ulmerton Road ribbon-cutting ceremony
- Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association Pinellas Chapter Recognition of Service Excellence (ROSE) Awards
- Death of attorney Ed Armstrong

Commissioner Peters

- Death of attorney Ed Armstrong
- Upcoming 9/11 ceremonies in Madeira Beach and Treasure Island
- Pinellas County Animal Services' canine/Commissioner photo shoot
- Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board

Commissioner Scott

- Tourist Development Council
- Meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers
- Meeting with the Philadelphia Phillies
- Proclamation for Habitat for Humanity Tampa Bay Gulfside's 40th anniversary and 1,000th home dedication
- PSTA Clearwater Station groundbreaking
- Gulf Beaches Rotary Club
- Upcoming speaking engagement at the Seminole Rotary Club

Tri-County Meeting Resolution

Resolution No. 25-73 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 October 17, 2025, and authorizing the Board's participation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Vice-Chair Eggers, that the resoution 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

Deviating from the agenda, Commissioner Scott indicated that, at a recent work session, he proposed that Visit St. Pete-Clearwater (VSPC) receive the $861,000.00 that the County has historically provided to Creative Pinellas; and that $500,000.00 of those funds would be utilized for an arts and cultural tourism grant program administered by VSPC. He also provided brief comments regarding Creative Pinellas' utilization of Tourist Development Tax (TDT) monies; funding of museums, cultural institutions, and arts events through the Capital Projects Funding Program and Elite Events Funding Program; and the intended use of TDT monies.

Discussion ensued regarding Creative Pinellas' funding sources and potential ways in which VSPC could utilize the additional funding received; whereupon, Commissioner Eggers expressed concern related to the topic being discussed now since any proposed changes to

the budget will be presented at a public hearing this evening and provided brief comments regarding his apprehension with regard to potentially defunding Creative Pinellas. Commissioner Eggers indicated that while he believes scrutinization of the budget is important, he also believes that honoring previous commitments made by the Board, utilizing phased approaches to introducing or eliminating certain items, and engaging in thorough discussions are important.

Meeting Recessed: 4:28 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 6:02 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

All public hearing items have been properly advertised. Affidavits of Publication have been received and are on file in the Board Records Department.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

22. Resolution for the Surface Water Assessment within the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County.

Item continued to the September 11 Board of County Commission (BCC) meeting.

Chair Scott indicated that the Board will not be taking a vote on this item tonight; and that, following any public comment, he will entertain a motion to continue the item to the September 11 BCC meeting, which has been scheduled for 1:00 P.M.

At the request of Chair Scott, Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose explained that the item is being continued since the State requires a few more days between the mailing of the Truth in Millage notice and the item's approval.

Upon the Chair's call for public comment, David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, appeared and expressed his concerns.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Vice-Chair Eggers, that the item be continued until September 11. 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

Thereupon, Attorney White explained that, since the September 11 meeting will not have virtual technology support, any members of the public wishing to provide commentary will need to be physically present. In response to queries by Commissioner Latvala, Mr. Burton also indicated that the meeting will not be televised; and that the Clerk will be present at the meeting and will prepare an audio recording and minutes.

23. Resolutions adopting tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2026 (first public hearing).

A public hearing was held regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 tentative millage rates and budgets for Pinellas County; resolutions adopted approving tentative millage rates (No. 25-74) and budgets (No. 25-75) for the Pinellas County General Fund and Health Department Fund; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-76) and budget (No. 25-77) for the Emergency Medical Services Authority; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-78) and budget (No. 25-79) for the Pinellas Planning Council; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-80) and budget (No. 25-81) for the Unincorporated Area Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU); resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-82) and budget (No. 25-83) for the Public Library Services District MSTU; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-84) and budget (No. 25-85) for the Palm Harbor Community Services MSTU; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-86) and budget (No. 25-87) for the Feather Sound Community Services MSTU; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-88) and budget (No. 25-89) for the East Lake Library Services MSTU; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-90) and budget (No. 25-91) for the East Lake Recreation Services MSTU; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-92) and budget (No. 25-93) for the Greater Seminole Recreation Area MSTU; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-94) and budget (No. 25-95) for the Belleair Bluffs Fire Protection District; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-96) and budget (No. 25-97) for the Clearwater Fire Protection District; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-98) and budget (No. 25-99) for the Dunedin Fire Protection District; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-100) and budget (No. 25-101) for the Gandy Fire Protection District; resolutions adopted approving tentative millage rate (No. 25-102) and budget (No. 25-103) for the High Point Fire Protection District; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-104) and budget (No. 25-105) for the Largo Fire Protection District; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-106) and budget (No. 25-107) for the Pinellas Park Fire Protection District; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-108) and budget (No. 25-109) for the Safety Harbor Fire Protection District; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-110) and budget (No. 25-111) for the Seminole Fire Protection District; resolutions adopted approving tentative millage rate (No. 25-112) and budget (No. 25-113) for the South Pasadena Fire Protection District; resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-114) and budget (No. 25-115) for the Tarpon Springs Fire Protection District; and resolutions adopted approving the tentative millage rate (No. 25-116) and budget (No. 25-117) for the Tierra Verde Fire Protection District.

At the request of Chair Scott, Ms. Revie reported that 156 emails and 108 voicemails in opposition, regarding the tentative budget, have been received by the Clerk's Office; and that the Office of Management and Budget also received 50 phone calls.

Following a review of the sequence of events for the evening's proceedings, Chair Scott related that Mr. Burton will provide an overview of the proposed budget, including changes that have been made following the July 22 Board of County Commission (BCC) meeting; and that the final hearing to adopt the Fiscal Year 2026 millage rates and budgets will be held on September 18.

Chair Scott indicated that a representative from the Property Appraiser's Office is available to assist anyone who has questions or concerns regarding their property's assessed value, exemptions, or classifications or information that appears on the Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice.

Chair Scott related that even though Florida Statutes provide that a taxing authority may adopt tax levies and budgets of all its Dependent Special Taxing Districts and Municipal Service Taxing Units (MSTUs) by a single unanimous vote, members of the general public can request that the Board discuss and adopt any of the items separately. In response to his call for citizen participation, no one requested that an item be separately reviewed.

Thereupon, Chair Scott opened the first public hearing on the tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2026.

Ms. Revie reported that this public hearing is being held in accordance with Chapters 129 and 200 of Florida Statutes; and that the meeting has been duly noticed by the Property Appraiser's mailing of the TRIM notice.

Chair Scott announced that the BCC, as taxing authority for the BCC Countywide, the Dependent Special Districts, and the MSTUs, as listed above, will proceed with the public hearing.

Mr. Burton indicated that the percentage increase in the millage rates for all budgets over the rolled-back rate, based on the maximum rates on the TRIM notice and subsequent decreases to the rates to fund the Fiscal Year 2026 tentative budget, is a 2.5% increase over the rolled-back rate; whereupon, he noted that the increases in the millage over the rolled-back rate are primarily due to the following:

- In the General Fund, the Unincorporated Area MSTU, and the Emergency Medical Services Authority, revenue increases are required to support personnel and operating expenditure levels that are driven by inflationary factors and Board priorities. With regard to the Pinellas Planning Council, sufficient revenues exist with a decreased millage to support personnel and operating expenditure levels, as per the request of Forward Pinellas.

- In the Public Library Services District MSTU, Palm Harbor Community Services MSTU, Feather Sound Community Services MSTU, East Lake Library Services MSTU, East Lake Recreation Services MSTU, Greater Seminole Recreation Area, and seven Special Fire Protection Districts, revenue increases are needed to support increased expenditures by the agencies providing services for those districts.

- In the other five Special Fire Protection Districts, sufficient revenues will exist with a decreased millage to support personnel and operating expenditure levels.

Thereupon, Mr. Burton reviewed a schedule of changes to the proposed budget, which was distributed to the Board on August 22 and which is available online. He indicated that modifications include changes discussed at BCC meetings or work sessions and technical adjustments related to the accounting presentation, updated information, corrections, and other minor changes.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose discussed the progression of the proposed millage rate thus far, including that the original proposed budget included a millage rate that was identical to last year's rate; and that while changes considered at the August 14 work session would bring the proposed millage rate to 4.5580, the members also discussed additional changes at the August 28 work session that would result in a proposed millage rate of 4.5423; whereupon, he noted that the changes discussed at the August 28 work session are recommended for amendment into the budget at tonight's hearing.

Mr. Rose also provided a brief overview of the proposed budget and discussed the impacts related to unfunded mandates, contracts due for funding, and hurricanes from the past year; whereupon, he reviewed the following changes to the proposed budget, which were discussed at the August 14 and 28 work sessions:

Changes - August 14 work session

- Reduce risk reserves by $2.170 million
- Reduce fleet reserves by $1 million
- Reduce State-required County match for juvenile detention by $714,490.00
- Eliminate reserve for personnel lapse savings by $980,000.00
- Reduce one position in BCC budget, totaling $71,380.00

Changes - August 28 work session

- Planned drawdown of Health Benefits Fund ($1.7 million recurring)
- Creative Pinellas ($156,000.00 in the General Fund)
- Funding Enterprise Resource Planning system ($5.9 million)
- Tax Collector increase fully offset

In response to comments and queries by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Rose, with input from Mr. Burton, provided clarifying details regarding whether reductions to risk reserves and the State-required County match for juvenile detention will recur in future budget years.

Mr. Rose noted that, while this has not yet been brought before the Board, staff recommends that the members approve a formulaic change in the Tax Collector's expenditures, which will be offset by additional revenues received by the Tax Collector's Office; and that implementation of the formulaic change is required by State law.

Responding to queries by Commissioners Eggers and Flowers, Mr. Rose, with input from Mr. Burton, confirmed that the aforementioned reduced County match for juvenile detention is still in alignment with the State's required reserve amount; and that, if funding for Creative Pinellas remained in the budget, the millage rate would increase by 0.0011 mills, which amounts to $156,000.00, for a final millage rate of 4.5434.

Chair Scott announced that the BCC will continue the hearing as the taxing authority for the BCC Countywide, Dependent Special Districts, and MSTU levies by taking public comment from citizens wishing to be heard regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Upon the Chair's call for public comment, the following individuals appeared and expressed their concerns:

Margaret Murray, St. Petersburg (submitted documents) (spoke on behalf of others)
David Ramsey, St. Petersburg (spoke on behalf of others)
Beth Daniels, Largo (spoke on behalf of others)
Ganesha Barojas-Chaigneau, St. Petersburg
Reid Jenkins, St. Petersburg
Maggie Duffy, St. Petersburg
Allison McCarthy, St. Petersburg
Shane O'Hara, Largo
Michelle Tonnu, St. Petersburg
Jonathan Ogle, Palm Harbor
Debbie Garrett, St. Petersburg
Barbara St. Clair, Safety Harbor
Carol Mickett, Tarpon Springs
Kendra Patterson, Pinellas Park
Mark Aeling, St. Petersburg
Jenee Priebe, St. Petersburg
Laura Spencer, St. Petersburg
Matthew Faulhaber, St. Petersburg (submitted documents)
George Ann Bissett, Dunedin
Gerald Strain, Clearwater
Heather Rippert, Clearwater
Chris Dyer, St. Petersburg
Elizabeth A. Baker, St. Petersburg
Jeff Surrena, St. Petersburg
Alex Kaufman, St. Petersburg
Karen Seel, Safety Harbor
Peter Biafore, Clearwater
Mitzi Gordon, St. Petersburg
Tina Piracci, St. Petersburg
Michaela Oberlaender, Tarpon Springs
Barbara Cordova, Seminole
Ash Alonzo, St. Petersburg
Richel Lavette Lewis, Safety Harbor
Leslie Curran, St. Petersburg
Sam Obeid, St. Petersburg

John Stewart, St. Petersburg
Keaton Fox, St. Petersburg
Angel Kourkoulou, Clearwater
Anne Scofield, Largo
Laurie Elmer, Seminole
Leigh Davis, St. Petersburg
Medina Karagic, Largo
Ashley Marbet, St. Petersburg
Grace Prior, Seminole
Taylor Rhoades, Clearwater
Heather Tinnaro, St. Petersburg
Elizabeth Dimmitt, Belleair
Hal Freedman, St. Petersburg
Willi Rudowsky, St. Petersburg
Victoria Jorgensen, Gulfport
Ingrid Bredenberg, Gulfport
Joy Garrett, St. Petersburg
Julie Wilson, St. Petersburg
Ora Fraze, St. Petersburg

Commissioner Latvala provided lengthy comments and made a motion to approve the budget amendment, which would establish a millage rate of 4.5423. Chair Scott, with input from Mr. Burton, indicated that he must first read specific language mandated by State law; whereupon, the motion died for lack of a second.

Discussion ensued, with input from Attorney White and Mr. Burton, regarding the potential defunding of Creative Pinellas, including details related to the importance of the arts in Pinellas County, whether grants that directly fund artists are an allowable use of Tourist Development Tax, and the possibility of Visit St. Pete-Clearwater creating and administering an arts and cultural tourism grant program.

During discussion, Commissioner Eggers provided lengthy comments regarding the small portion of property taxes going toward Creative Pinellas and the importance of the connections between artists and the community, indicating that he believes the members should pause to allow for further conversations related to the Board's expectations of the County's arts representative.

Commissioner Flowers also elaborated on the importance of the arts in Pinellas County and the nominal portion of the County's budget that goes toward Creative Pinellas, relating that she supports the continuation of the agency's existence; that she would like to see clear language in the contract with Creative Pinellas that delineates what the funding provided by the County is going toward; and that while she supports the Board's efforts to assist residents through lowering property taxes, she believes that the State should look into utilizing a different formula to calculate property tax; whereupon, she expressed support for a millage rate of 4.5434, which would re-incorporate Creative Pinellas into the budget.

Chair Scott indicated that he will now entertain a motion to amend the tentative budget, as discussed at the August 28 work session and as recommended by the County Administrator in a memorandum distributed to the members on September 3; whereupon, he listed the aforementioned changes and indicated that approval would allow the millage rate to be reduced to 4.5423, which is a 2.2% increase over the aggregate rolled-back rate of 6.0265.

In response to a query by Commissioner Eggers, Chair Scott, with input from Mr. Burton, provided brief comments regarding the scope of the Board's vote and confirmed that the members will not be voting related to defunding Creative Pinellas, specifically; whereupon, Commissioner Eggers indicated that while he might support the overall budget, he will not support the decision to defund Creative Pinellas.

A motion was made by Commissioner Latvala, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the tentative budget be amended, as discussed at the August 28 work session and as recommended by the County Administrator in a memorandum distributed to the members on September 3. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Scott, Commissioner Latvala, Commissioner Nowicki, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Scherer

Nay: 2 - Vice-Chair Eggers, and Commissioner Flowers

Following a query by Chair Scott regarding whether the members desire any other changes to the tentative millage rates or tentative budget, Commissioner Scherer pointed out that the tentative budget is only $5,000,958.00 from a 50% rollback; and that he is confident that the County Administrator could determine how to accomplish approximately $5 to $6 million in reductions, based on the $26.8 million in reductions that he previously proposed; whereupon, Commissioner Scherer made a motion for a 50% rollback and a millage rate of 4.5049, which was seconded by Commissioner Nowicki.

Thereupon, discussion ensued, with input from Mr. Burton, regarding potential impacts of the reductions previously proposed by Commissioner Scherer. During discussion, Commissioners Latvala, Flowers, Peters, and Eggers expressed concern related to Commissioner Scherer's motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Scherer, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, for a 50% rollback and a millage rate of 4.5049. The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Nowicki, and Commissioner Scherer

Nay: 5 - Chair Scott, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Latvala, and Commissioner Peters

Chair Scott indicated that resolutions will now be considered to set the tentative millage rates and budgets; whereupon, Mr. Burton announced each of the resolutions separately.

Resolution No. 25-74 adopted, approving the tentative millage rates for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Pinellas County General Fund and Health Department Fund.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the tentative millage rates for the General Fund and Health Department Fund 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

Resolution No. 25-75 adopted, approving the tentative budgets for the Fiscal Year 2026 for the Pinellas County General Fund and Health Department.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative budgets for the General Fund and Health Department Fund 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

Mr. Burton indicated that the Board will now consider the tentative millage rates and tentative budgets of the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs. At the Chair's request for a motion to adopt the tentative millage rates, Commissioner Peters made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Flowers. Upon the Chair's call for the vote, the motion carried by a vote of 6 to 1, with Commissioner Nowicki dissenting; whereupon, Chair Scott, with input from Commissioner Eggers and Chief Assistant County Attorney Don Crowell, indicated that since a unanimous vote was not received, the Board must now address each resolution separately.

Resolution No. 25-76 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Emergency Medical Services Authority.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the tentative millage rate for the Emergency Medical Services Authority 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

Resolution No. 25-77 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Emergency Medical Services Authority.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative budget for the Emergency Medical Services Authority 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

Resolution No. 25-78 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Pinellas Planning Council.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers,. seconded by Vice-Chair Eggers, that the tentative millage rate for the Pinellas Planning Council 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

Resolution No. 25-79 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Pinellas Planning Council.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Vice-Chair Eggers, that the tentative budget for the Pinellas Planning Council 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

Resolution No. 25-80 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Unincorporated Area MSTU.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative millage rate for the Unincorporated Area MSTU 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

Resolution No. 25-81 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Unincorporated Area MSTU.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative budget for the Unincorporated Area MSTU 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

Resolution No. 25-82 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Public Library Services District MSTU.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative millage rate for the Public Library Services District MSTU be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Nowicki

Resolution No. 25-83 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Public Library Services District MSTU.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative budget for the Public Library Services District MSTU 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

Resolution No. 25-84 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Palm Harbor Community Services MSTU.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the tentative millage rate for the Palm Harbor Community Services MSTU 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

Resolution No. 25-85 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Palm Harbor Community Services MSTU.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Vice-Chair Eggers, that the tentative budget for the Palm Harbor Community Services MSTU 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

Resolution No. 25-86 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Feather Sound Community Services MSTU.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki seconded by Vice-Chair Eggers, that the tentative millage rate for the Feather Sound Community Services MSTU 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

Resolution No. 25-87 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Feather Sound Community Services MSTU.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the tentative budget for the Feather Sound Community Services MSTU 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

Resolution No. 25-88 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the East Lake Library Services MSTU.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative millage rate for the East Lake Library Services MSTU 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

Resolution No. 25-89 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the East Lake Library Services MSTU.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Vice-Chair Eggers, that the tentative budget for the East Lake Library Services MSTU 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

Resolution No. 25-90 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the East Lake Recreation Services MSTU.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the tentative millage rate for the East Lake Recreation Services MSTU 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

Resolution No. 25-91 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the East Lake Recreation Services MSTU.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative budget for the East Lake Recreation Services MSTU 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

Resolution No. 25-92 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Greater Seminole Recreation Area MSTU.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the tentative millage rate for the Greater Seminole Recreation Area MSTU 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

Resolution No. 25-93 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Greater Seminole Recreation Area MSTU.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative budget for the Greater Seminole Recreation Area MSTU 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

Resolution No. 25-94 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Belleair Bluffs Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the tentative millage rate for the Belleair Bluffs Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-95 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Belleair Bluffs Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the tentative budget for the Belleair Bluffs Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-96 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Clearwater Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the tentative millage rate for the Clearwater Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-97 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Clearwater Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the tentative budget for the Clearwater Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-98 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Dunedin Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative millage rate for the Dunedin Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-99 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Dunedin Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative budget for the Dunedin Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-100 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Gandy Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the tentative millage rate for the Gandy Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-101 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Gandy Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the tentative budget for the Gandy Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-102 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the High Point Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the tentative millage rate for the High Point Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-103 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the High Point Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the tentative budget for the High Point Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-104 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Largo Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the tentative millage rate for the Largo Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-105 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Largo Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative budget for the Largo Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-106 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Pinellas Park Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the tentative millage rate for the Pinellas Park Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-107 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Pinellas Park Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative budget for the Pinellas Park Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-108 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Safety Harbor Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Vice-Chair Eggers, that the tentative millage rate for the Safety Harbor Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-109 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Safety Harbor Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the tentative budget for the Safety Harbor Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-110 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Seminole Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative millage rate for the Seminole Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-111 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Seminole Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the tentative budget for the Seminole Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-112 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the South Pasadena Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the tentative millage rate for the South Pasadena Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-113 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the South Pasadena Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the tentative budget for the South Pasadena Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-114 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Tarpon Springs Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the tentative millage rate for the Tarpon Springs Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-115 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Tarpon Springs Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, that the tentative budget for the Tarpon Springs Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-116 adopted, approving the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Tierra Verde Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nowicki, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the tentative millage rate for the Tierra Verde Fire Protection District 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

Resolution No. 25-117 adopted, approving the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Tierra Verde Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Nowicki, that the tentative budget for the Tierra Verde Fire Protection District 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

Chair Scott closed the first public hearing on the tentative millage rates and budgets for Fiscal Year 2026.

Mr. Burton stated that, in accordance with Florida Statutes, the County will advertise the Budget Summary and Notice of Tax Increase in advance of the second public hearing, which is to be held on September 18 at 6:00 P.M.; and that the notices will be published in the Tampa Bay Times on September 14.

ADJOURNMENT - 10:21 P.M.

_____
Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By_____
Deputy Clerk