

Pinellas County

*333 Chestnut Street
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Minutes - Final

Friday, June 16, 2023

9:30 A.M.

Budget Information Session

Palm Room

Board of County Commissioners

*Janet C. Long, Chair
Kathleen Peters, Vice-Chair
Dave Eggers
René Flowers
Charlie Justice
Chris Latvala
Brian Scott*

ROLL CALL - 9:30 A.M.

Present: 6 - Chair Janet C. Long, Vice-Chair Kathleen Peters, Commissioner René Flowers, Commissioner Charlie Justice, Commissioner Chris Latvala, and Commissioner Brian Scott

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dave Eggers

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Don Crowell, Chief Assistant County Attorney; and Jenny Masinovsky, Sr. Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

1. Solid Waste (including Capital Improvement Programs)

Referring to a document titled *Solid Waste*, Budget and Financial Management Analyst Jon Waggoner, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), discussed the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) budget, the budget drivers, and related topics, noting an increase in expenses associated with a renegotiated Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility operating agreement, a 55% decrease in revenues by FY25 and beyond due to expiration of the Power Purchase Agreement with Duke Energy, planned draw down of reserves by FY29, growth of tipping fee revenue, and potential increase in revenue through sale of the electricity produced by the WTE facility on the open market.

Solid Waste Department Director Paul Sacco discussed the need for the Lealman Solid Waste Collection service fee increase, indicating that the Lealman Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) fund will otherwise deplete its reserves by mid FY24; and that it is proposed to either (1) increase the monthly fee from \$16 to \$20 or (2) transfer some moneys from the Department's reserves into the MSBU fund while increasing the service fee more gradually over three years, and paying back the reserves. Following discussion, the Board agreed on the second option; whereupon, Mr. Sacco responded to the members' queries regarding the service.

James Lewis, Budget and Financial Management Analyst, OMB, recapped the key trends related to the County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), including a significant increase in cost of materials, long lead times for certain materials, and shortage of contractors bidding on the County projects; whereupon, he discussed how the aforementioned challenges impact the Solid Waste Department and provided the CIP projects highlights.

Mr. Sacco discussed the Department's accomplishments, work plan, and performance measures, noting the attained American Public Works Association Accreditation, various efforts to increase savings, employee safety, and other matters; whereupon, he and Mr. Burton responded to queries by the members regarding the cost of recycling and recycling contamination, WTE metals recovery, incineration of electronics, importance of extending the life of the landfill, Materials Recovery Facility options, the agreement with Duke Energy, and related topics.

2. Parks and Conservation Resources

Referring to a document titled *Parks and Conservation Resources*, Budget and Financial Management Analyst Charlie Jenkins, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), discussed the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) budget, the budget drivers, decision packages, and related topics, noting various changes in personnel services, inflationary increases, Tree Bank Fund reserve growth, and other items.

Parks and Conservation Resources Director Paul Cozzie discussed the Department's accomplishments, performance measures, and work plan highlights, noting the attainment of Bee City/County designation, beta testing of the mobile parking technology, a proposed smoking ban on the County beaches, implementation of license plate recognition software for parking enforcement, and other endeavors.

In response to queries by the members, Mr. Cozzie provided details regarding the mobile parking technology, shortage of lifeguards, the purpose of the Tree Bank Fund, and other matters; whereupon, Attorney Crowell advised regarding the County providing lifeguards on its beaches, and OMB Director Chris Rose commented on waiving park and other fees.

3. Office of Resilience and Asset Management

Budget and Financial Management Analyst Shane Kunze, Office of Management and Budget, pointed out that the former Office of Asset Management has been merged with the Office of Resiliency and Sustainability and is now the Office of Resilience and Asset Management, and Mr. Burton commented on reorganization of certain County Administrator departments; whereupon, referring to a document, Mr. Kunze provided an overview of the Department's purpose, the proposed FY24 budget, the budget drivers, and related topics, noting that the budget is driven mainly by personnel services.

Office of Resilience and Asset Management Director Jeremy Waugh discussed the Department's accomplishments, work plan, and performance measures, noting various efforts pertaining to reduction of annual energy consumption, water conservation, Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan initiatives, flood mitigation, and asset inventory and risk analysis.

4. Utilities - Including Capital Improvement Programs

Referring to a document titled *Pinellas County Utilities*, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Chris Rose provided an overview of the proposed FY24 budget, the budget drivers, decision packages, proposed user fee changes, and other matters, noting a significant impact of the inflation, including higher costs for electricity, parts and labor, and almost double for chemicals. OMB Budget and Financial Management Analyst James Lewis referred to the aforementioned document and provided the Capital Improvement Plan highlights, including the budget, re-evaluation of some project timelines, and funding sources.

Interim Utilities Director Jeremy Waugh noted the importance of project delivery and keeping up with levels of service to the citizens; whereupon, he discussed the Department's accomplishments, work plan, and related matters.

In response to queries by the members, Mr. Waugh discussed the Department staffing shortages and needs, and Mr. Burton addressed challenges related to employee recruitment and retention throughout the County.

Meeting Recessed: 11:40 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 12:15 P.M.

5. County Administration (including Employee Relations and MSTU Outreach)

Referring to a document titled *County Administration*, Mr. Burton provided additional information regarding the reorganization within the County Administrator's Office; whereupon, he discussed the needs associated with workforce development and supervisory training.

Deviating from the agenda, Mr. Burton indicated that items pertaining to budgets of the Board of County Commissioners and the Office of Management and Budget, originally scheduled for other days, will be brought forth at this time.

Board of County Commissioners

Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose referred to a document titled *Board of County Commissioners* and discussed the proposed FY24 budget, the budget drivers, and other pertinent items; whereupon, he indicated that staff will be reaching out to the members regarding decision packages next week.

Chair Long presented funding requests from the Mayors' Council and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council for the Board's deliberation and possible consensus. Following discussion, the members decided to table the requests pending further information and consideration.

Office of Management and Budget

Referring to a document titled *Office of Management and Budget*, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Deputy Director Fredricka Collins provided an overview of the proposed FY24 budget request, the budget drivers, and a decision package and discussed the challenges pertaining to employee retention and managing technology and the plans to combat those.

OMB Director Chris Rose reviewed the FY23 accomplishments, noting a Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award received for the FY23 Budget, recovery of disaster reimbursement funds, and other successful endeavors.

Chair Long invited the newer Commission members to share their impressions of the Budget Information Sessions thus far, and Commissioners Latvala and Scott indicated that they are pleased with a very methodical approach to the budget and are looking forward to the remaining sessions; whereupon, Chair Long complimented staff on their efforts to control costs and balance budgets in spite of external influences.

ADJOURNMENT - 1:34 P.M.