

Pinellas County

*333 Chestnut Street
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Minutes - Final

Friday, June 23, 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 - 9:31 A.M.

Present 6 - Chair Janet C. Long, Commissioner Dave Eggers, Commissioner René Flowers, Commissioner Charlie Justice, Commissioner Chris Latvala, and Commissioner Brian Scott

Absent 1 - Vice-Chair Kathleen Peters

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

Mr. Burton provided introductory comments, relating that this is the last budget information session; that he will present the proposed budget at the July 18 Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting; and that the formal public hearings for adoption of the budget will be held in September.

1. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation containing data related to the Department's proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget, Sheriff Bob Gualtieri discussed crime reduction in the County, the budget target, non-general fund revenue comparisons, and the requested funding increase related to contracted services, maintenance contracts, and inflationary impacts on operating expenses and personnel pay; whereupon, he provided information regarding vehicle replacement, as well as staffing, pay, and attrition related to deputy sheriffs.

In response to comments and queries by the members, Sheriff Gualtieri, with input from Mr. Burton, provided information and clarifications pertaining to various topics, including the following:

- Maintenance contracts
- Costs associated with the Pinellas County Jail
- Personnel expenses related to the Florida Retirement System
- Potential for one-time funding to address non-recurring costs
- New rapid DNA technology
- Vehicle purchase, replacement, and auction
- Recruitment to fill deputy vacancies
- Public relations and community outreach
- Permit-less gun carry

2. Supervisor of Elections

Supervisor of Elections (SOE) Julie Marcus discussed her Department's efforts to administer fair, accurate, and secure elections that Pinellas County voters can be confident in, and noted that the budget request reflects costs associated with the upcoming presidential election, voter education, law changes, cybersecurity, and staff trainings.

Responding to comments and queries by the members, Supervisor Marcus, with input from Mr. Burton, provided information and clarifications regarding the following topics:

- Separate tabulation and audit systems to ensure election accuracy
- Signature cure process
- Timeliness and accuracy of election results
- Early voting locations
- Mail ballot voting requests
- Renovations and space needs for SOE office
- Unfunded legislative mandates to the voter eligibility verification process
- Voter trends

Meeting Recessed: 11:58 A.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 12:07 P.M.

3. Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Ken Burke provided a brief overview of the Fiscal Year 2024 proposed budget and highlighted that the single decision package request is related to a position that would provide training and ensure maximum utilization of the Oracle Business Suite; whereupon, he provided comments regarding budgeting issues within the Recording Department and concerns about being competitive in the employee market.

In response to comments and queries by the members, Mr. Burke, with input from Mr. Burton, provided information pertaining to artificial intelligence, fraud aversion tactics, revaluation of pay classes and salary ranges by the Human Resources Department, the Clerk's call center, and passport application and renewal timelines. He related that representatives from the Clerk's Office will be presenting the Clerk's *Spending in the Sunshine* website at the upcoming Florida Government Finance Officers Association Conference in Orlando.

Following closing comments from Mr. Burton, the Commissioners briefly discussed a funding request from the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council for its Resiliency Leadership Summit; whereupon, there was a consensus for Commissioner Flowers to provide the members with different sponsorship levels to assist in making a decision regarding partially funding the event.

ADJOURNMENT - 12:56 P.M.