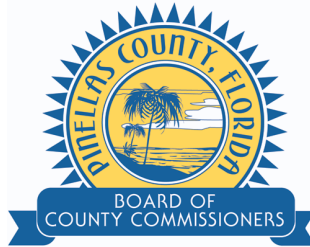


Pinellas County

*315 Court Street, 5th Floor Assembly Room
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



Minutes - Final

Thursday, August 4, 2016

9:30 AM

BCC Assembly Room

Board of County Commissioners **Work Session**

*Charlie Justice, Chairman
Janet C. Long, Vice-Chairman
Dave Eggers
Pat Gerard
John Morroni
Karen Williams Seel
Kenneth T. Welch*

ROLL CALL 9:34 A.M.

Members Present: Charlie Justice, Chairman; Janet C. Long, Vice-Chairman; Dave Eggers; Pat Gerard; Karen Williams Seel; and Kenneth T. Welch.

Members Absent: John Morroni.

Others Present: James L. Bennett, County Attorney; Jacob Stowers, Assistant County Administrator; and Jenny Masinovsky, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk.

Chairman Justice provided a brief overview of the meeting agenda; whereupon, following deliberation, the members agreed to conduct the British Petroleum (BP) funds discussion (Item 2) in the BCC Assembly Room, and Chairman Justice pointed out that there will be no voting today; and that the BP funds discussion is intended to find a consensus among the members regarding how to spend the funds.

1. Proposed fiscal year 2017 budget feedback.

Miscellaneous Items

In response to query by Commissioner Long regarding the Clerk of Courts' \$50,000 request for an investment management consulting firm, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Bill Berger indicated that the item was not included in the tentative \$10,896,630 Clerk's budget due to the County's overall limited budget and the inflexibility associated with investment funds. Commissioner Seel emphasized that there is no risk associated with the County's investments; and that existing resources, such as the County's relationship bank and the financial advisor, Public Resources Advisory Group, can be utilized by the Clerk; whereupon, Commissioner Long requested that the Clerk be provided an opportunity to speak to the Board regarding his request prior to the budget adoption, and Mr. Stowers and Chairman Justice provided input.

Noting the proposed changes in personnel, Commissioner Eggers requested that an overview be conducted at the next budget information session on August 18; whereupon, Mr. Berger indicated that in the meantime, information related to individual department budget analyses can be found on the County's website.

Commissioner Seel indicated that she plans to provide information about 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares staffing and funding at the August 18 budget information session.

Affordable Housing

Housing Finance Authority (HFA) Executive Director Kathryn Driver conducted a PowerPoint presentation and provided an overview of the HFA's role and an update on the Community Housing Trust Fund and Land Assembly Fund programs, which the HFA administers on the County's behalf. She indicated that funds requested by the HFA from the BP settlement would be used for affordable housing under the Community Housing Trust Fund and explained why, in spite of various funding sources, there is a gap in funding and a need for a subsidy, noting that without it, some multi-family units may be permanently lost.

Throughout the presentation, Ms. Driver responded to queries by the members and discussed the following:

- Garden Trail Apartments case study
- Lealman Heights occupancy update
- Funds balances / possible utilization
- Use of Penny for Pinellas funds in affordable housing
- Affordable housing inventory / Florida Housing website search tool

In response to queries by Commissioners Welch and Long, Ms. Driver indicated that the HFA bond financed transactions for affordable housing are at a hundred percent capacity; that there are waiting lists; and that while more funds are needed, the \$5 million from the BP settlement money would fill the funding gap; whereupon, the members expressed concerns regarding the growing demand and agreed to have a workshop to discuss a long-term plan for safe and affordable housing for various population groups, possibly involving private industry, as well as federal, state, and municipal partners, and to also discuss related matters, such as public transportation.

Later in the meeting in response to queries by Commissioner Welch, Planning Division Manager Bruce Bussey indicated that staff would welcome an opportunity to review new mechanisms for affordable housing, noting that the community housing plan has not been updated since 2006. Mr. Bussey indicated that he will provide information regarding inclusionary housing to the Board, and Commissioner Seel noted that she e-mailed a copy of the 2015 HFA report to the members and urged them to review materials regarding affordable housing in other communities.

2. Dunedin Causeway Bridges Project Development and Environment Study Update.

Traffic Division Manager Kenneth Jacobs introduced Megan McKinney and James Englert, consultants with AECOM Technical Services, Inc., the firm that conducted the

PD&E study; whereupon, he discussed the project timeline, and responding to queries by Commissioner Eggers and Chairman Justice, indicated that the item will be presented for the Board's vote at the August 23 BCC meeting, after which the consultants will finalize the study; and that another public meeting will take place around November.

Ms. McKinney and Mr. Englert conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the PD&E study and discussed the following:

- Location, background, and current condition of the Tide Relief and Main bridges
- PD&E study goals / key factors considered in evaluation of the proposed bridge alternatives
- Compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as a requirement for federal funding
- Low-level movable, mid-level movable, and high-level fixed bridge alternatives comparison in terms of vertical clearance, maximum grade, potential damage from storm waves and corrosion, and estimated cost
- Public Alternatives Workshop and public input results, showing the highest ranking for the mid-level movable alternative constructed in the Florida vernacular style
- Notable public comments with regard to recreation, safety, traffic, environment, and aesthetics / quality of life
- Recreational impacts of the bridge alternatives / ownership of recreational areas
- Construction costs and comparison of life cycle cost analysis / total costs comparison and potential funding sources for design and construction
- Considerations for the trail component / comparable area bridges
- Stakeholder coordination

Ms. McKinney indicated that upon considering the public input and evaluating the most appropriate fit for the area, the consultant team recommends the mid-level movable bridge. During discussion and in response to queries by the members, Ms. McKinney and Mr. Englert provided clarification regarding the results of the study, including the public input, recreational impact, turn arounds, project costs, and life cycle cost analysis. Ms. McKinney indicated that since it is the only bridge to a state park and a recreational use component is present, the possibility of receiving federal funding for the project is high; and that in the best case scenario it would cover 80 percent of the cost. James

Phillips, P.E., Hardesty & Hanover, LLC, provided input, indicating that an 80/20 split, with 20 percent coming from the County, is typical as compared to similar projects in the area; that bridge funding is considered in its own category and would not take away from other federally sponsored projects in the County; and that federal funding for the Main bridge is more likely, as it is eligible based on “sufficiency rating” criteria.

Ms. McKinney and Mr. Englert presented an animated 3-D fly-over video of the bridge alternatives, and in response to queries by the members, provided information regarding the temporary bridge, turn arounds, access points, and impact on views from surrounding residences.

Upon the Chairman’s call for citizens wishing to be heard, City of Dunedin Mayor Julie Ward Bujalski, speaking on behalf of the City Commission and residents, noted that the Board’s decision regarding the bridge can be critical to the quality of life for Dunedin, Ozona, Palm Harbor, and Clearwater residents and affect over a million people who visit the Honeymoon Island State Park each year; whereupon, she urged the members to support the mid-level movable bridge and discussed its advantages over the high-level fixed bridge, indicating that the mid-level would be proportionate to and compatible with the surrounding environment, whereas the high-level may be intimidating in height and not fully accessible by all ages and abilities, resulting in lost usage of the Pinellas Trail Spur, located on the causeway and utilized daily by an average of 250 bikers and walkers, many of whom are senior citizens.

In response to queries by the members, Mayor Bujalski indicated that the Dunedin City Commission voted 4 to 1 in support of the mid-level bridge, with Commissioner John Tornga supporting the high-level alternative out of concerns related to a movable bridge and safety; whereupon, she provided information regarding boats travelling under the bridge.

Responding to queries by the members, Messrs. Phillips and Englert addressed the rising sea level with regard to the causeway and the bridge, indicating that the mid-level height would be accommodating; and that the causeway itself was not a part of the current study; whereupon, Mr. Stowers indicated that staff is planning a sea level rise vulnerability study that would include the causeway. Mr. Jacobs indicated that as the owner of the bridge, the County has historically operated and maintained it; and that staff, while being split in opinions between the high-level and the mid-level alternatives with considerable interest given to the high-level for the reduction in maintenance, recommends the mid-level based on the need to be compatible with the PD&E study.

Thereupon, the members and staff discussed costs of the mid-level versus the high-level bridges and the likelihood of receiving federal funding and its utilization;

whereupon, Commissioner Seel suggested discussing the prospects of receiving federal funding with the legislative delegation, and, in response to queries by Commissioner Welch, Ms. McKinney indicated that public support is one of the main factors considered under NEPA, noting that cost is not supposed to be a consideration; and that in the past, the federal government has preferred funding high-level bridges based on navigational clearances and cost.

Meeting Recessed: 11:51 A.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 12:38 P.M.

Chairman Justice announced that the Tampa City Council unanimously approved the High Speed Ferry Pilot Program without any changes; whereupon, he extended condolences to the family and colleagues of WQYK radio station host Dave McKay, noting that he was an important part of the community.

3. BP funds discussion.

Chairman Justice presented a brief summary regarding the economic impact settlement of \$7.1 million from the BP Deepwater Horizon spill last August, noting that the Board administered two surveys to solicit community input and came up with guiding principles for using the funds; and that today the projects proposed by each of the Commissioners will be narrowed down to those that the Board collectively agrees meet priorities and adhere to the following guiding principles:

- Projects should be aligned with the BCC's Doing Things Strategic Plan and should be planned or funded by December 31, 2017.
- BP funds will be used for one-time expenditures that have a substantial and visible community impact.
- Projects should support Pinellas County's economic and environmental sustainability goals and/or create a sense of place.
- Unincorporated area projects throughout the county will be given priority.
- Use of County funding for projects within a city will require city participation.

The members provided background information regarding various proposed projects and held an extensive discussion, considering them in light of the guiding principles and other potential funding sources. OMB Manager Cecilia McCorkell noted that the amounts designated for the selected projects today will be validated by staff before the Board takes action at a future meeting; whereupon, she mediated the discussion while

Mr. Stowers and staff provided input and kept a running total of funds.

In response to the Chairman's call for persons wishing to be heard, City of Dunedin Mayor Julie Ward Bujalski provided information regarding how the Hammock Park project qualifies under the aforementioned guiding principles, and indicated that the City of Dunedin, as well as various local business partners, will be contributing funds toward it; whereupon, she requested that \$500,000 from the BP settlement fund be slated for the project.

During discussion and in response to queries by the members, Mayor Bujalski provided information about other possible funding sources, indicating that they are insignificant; that the funds awarded to the city through the BP settlement were already spent on a parking garage; that the city's impact fee fund is currently empty; and that it would take the city five years to come up with \$800,000. She indicated that the total price of the project is \$1.4 million; and that the city voted unanimously to purchase the property without having an existing funding source because of its significance to the community; whereupon, noting the importance of the project, as well as previous provision of funds toward other Dunedin parks, the members designated a tentative amount of \$250,000 to Hammock Park, the same as was provided to the City of Safety Harbor for a similar project.

Thereupon, the members selected the following projects in the total tentative amount of \$6,158,000:

- Seminole Junior Warhawks Athletic Association (SJWAA) Youth Sports Complex (Design)
- Electric Bus Charging Station / Infrastructure
- East Lake Library - Cypress Oaks School Parking Lot
- Historic Lincoln Cemetery Memorial Rehab
- St. Petersburg - Tampa Ferry Pilot
- Affordable Housing - Housing Trust Fund
- Pedestrian Bicycle Bridge at Phillippe Park
- Foster Care Transition Housing Program (see next list)
- Metro Wellness Center
- Hammock Park
- City of Gulfport Mooring Field
- Indian Shores - Tiki Gardens
- Fecon Mulching Mower
- Sidewalk Improvements (supplementing the Public Works Fiscal Year 17 Budget)
- Veterans Park - Crest Lake
- Kenneth City Stormwater Water Quality

- Water Rescue
- Arts
- Dr. MLK Building Restoration
- Wounded Warriors Abilities
- Historic Palm Harbor
- Largo Nature Trail / Park
- Veteran Services Communications (supplementing the Veterans Affairs Fiscal Year 17 Budget)
- Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce Capital Improvement Project
- Community Project - At Risk Youth

The following projects/amounts were set aside to be researched for further information:

- Tierra Verde - Dredge
- \$25,000 portion of the \$100,000 designated to Foster Care Transition Housing Program (see preceding list)
- Sewer System Lining / Stormwater Capacity Upgrades
- Clearwater Ferry
- Land Purchase - Ozone and other county areas "flooding list"
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Mammal Stranding Program
- Palm Harbor Land Preparation

Chairman Justice directed staff to make inquiries and provide further information regarding the projects set aside for research, clarifying that the total tentative amount of \$6,158,000 did not include those. He noted that the selected projects covered some serious needs, as well as long-awaited requests throughout the county; whereupon, Commissioner Welch commended staff on a process inclusive of community input.

Thereupon, Commissioner Eggers requested that Municipal Services Taxing Unit funds be used for the Palm Harbor Community Services Agency and the Neighborhood Restoration projects, and following discussion, Chairman Justice indicated that the item will be brought back to the Board for discussion and action at another meeting.

ADJOURNMENT - 4:16 P.M.