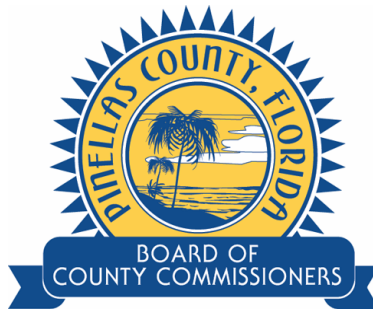


Pinellas County

*315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

11:00 AM

County Commission Conference Room, 5th Floor

Board of County Commissioners - Work Session

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

ROLL CALL - 11:20 A.M.

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

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; and Jenny Masinovsky, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk.

1. Strategic Planning Discussion

Chairman Welch opened the meeting and turned it over to Chairman-Elect Seel for discussion of the upcoming Strategic Planning session; whereupon, Commissioner Seel referred to a list of suggested priority items provided by the members and thanked them for their thoughtfulness. She indicated that she may pick only new items for discussion at the January session in the interest of time; and that the others will need to be workshopped separately, and Mr. Burton noted that he will brief the Commissioners prior to the session regarding items already in process.

In response to Commissioner Seel's request for input concerning the County's Strategic Plan, the members indicated that the current plan is straightforward and has been well-received by the public, thus they prefer to keep it, with possible modifications, and Mr. Burton agreed, noting that staff will develop action items based on the Board's vision. Later in the meeting, Commissioner Eggers asserted that the plan needs to have a focus on infrastructure.

Deviating from the Strategic Planning discussion, Commissioner Seel related that she attended a meeting regarding workforce needs with business and education leaders at the St. Petersburg College Seminole Campus, and suggested that the Board hold a workshop dedicated to educational considerations and economic development. Following discussion as to potential participants, workshop logistics, fragmentation between colleges and the business community, and the various impacts associated with sea level rise, she indicated that there will be two workshop sessions: one with St. Petersburg College and one with the University of South Florida (USF), Eckerd College, USF St. Petersburg, and Pinellas Technical College; that it may be suggested to the participants to have an advisory committee of experts and a council to integrate efforts and cut across institutions; and that St. Petersburg College President Tonjua Williams and the County Economic Development Department staff would be invited.

Thereupon, the Commissioners referred to their lists and discussed proposed priority items. including the following:

Chairman Welch

- Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) review
- Small Business Enterprise (SBE) program
- Bed Tax plan
- Penny IV planning
- County campus replacement planning

During discussion regarding moving forward with a County campus replacement and in response to query by Commissioner Long, Mr. Burton stressed the importance of ensuring connections among functions of various departments to be located in the future County building. He indicated that he needs time to review the options and craft a recommendation; and that he will be meeting with Clearwater City Manager Bill Horne next week about partnership opportunities; whereupon, the members made suggestions as to future possibilities and expressed concerns relating to the current downtown Clearwater campus, including security and update expenses, noting that a broader conversation regarding campus replacement should be held.

Commissioner Seel

- Culinary Institute and Master Plan at Pinewood Cultural Park
- County logo
- East/west expressway road
- Health Department millage
- Senior "elder" special district
- Volunteerism

Commissioner Seel related that the Culinary Institute has received a \$2.5 million grant from the Jacobson Foundation; that she will be meeting with Parks and Conservation Resources Director Paul Cozzie and Assistant County Administrator Paul Sacco regarding plans for Pinewood Cultural Park and using the Florida Gulf Coast Art Museum for a combined art and culinary arts program; and that the matter will be presented to the Board for approval; whereupon, the members proposed their ideas for changing the County logo.

Commissioner Seel discussed the need for an east-west expressway road, indicating that while north-south roads appear to be handling traffic fairly well, local residents have expressed complaints regarding east-west routes, and Commissioner Eggers provided input.

Responding to query by Commissioner Long, Commissioner Seel explained that the Health Department millage could be used to fund the County's indigent health program instead of using the General Fund.

Commissioner Eggers

- Opportunities for recreation in the unincorporated areas
- Form a Veterans Advisory Committee
- Develop criteria and priorities for vacant land acquisition
- Ensure the highest water quality and address reclaimed water availability issue in north county
- Form a task force to consider creation of a Materials Engineering Research Facility to process recycled products for sale in the open market
- Revisit the Young-Rainey STAR Center status as part of continuing economic development
- Review CRA policies and investigate new candidates, such as Palm Harbor downtown
- Discuss construction and maintenance of U.S. Highway 19 and U.S. Alternate Highway 19

In response to queries by Commissioner Long, Commissioner Eggers emphasized that at some point the Board should discuss the County's role in supporting recreational needs in the unincorporated area, noting that there is not a dedicated funding source; whereupon, he related that there is an opportunity to build a recreational facility in Palm Harbor for which funding is needed.

During brief discussion and responding to query by Commissioner Long, Commissioner Eggers suggested that a Veterans Advisory Committee be formed; and that Veterans Services Director Michael Hill select individuals to serve on the committee. Mr. Burton indicated that he will brief the members regarding the staff recommendation on the matter next week; and that staff will rank the list of priorities proposed today and return to the Board with recommendations, noting that the County's ability to fund the proposed items is limited.

Commissioner Gerard

- Opportunities to incentivize energy-efficient improvements
- Housing

Commissioner Justice

- Permitting 101
- Bed Tax
- Sunshine review
- Assistant County Administrator/staffing for unincorporated Pinellas County
- Entrepreneurship

Commissioner Justice opined that it would be beneficial for the Board to learn about the process of obtaining a building permit, noting that he has received complaints relating to the matter, and discussion ensued.

The members and Mr. Burton agreed that the permitting process needs improvement. Commissioner Eggers related that he requested an audit of the Building Department by the Inspector General, which should be completed, and Mr. Burton indicated that there should be an overarching process, rather than siloed departments trying to coordinate with each other; and that changing the process will take time; whereupon, Commissioner Justice discussed the need for a day-to-day high-level representative for the unincorporated area, and the members concurred.

Commissioner Justice briefly discussed his recommendation to empower staff of the Economic Development Department, the Airport, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau to be more entrepreneurial.

Commissioner Long

- Transportation funding
- Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition/Climate Resiliency (Fourth National Climate Assessment Report) Measures to integrate into the Strategic Plan
- Building Code/permitting-related issues
- Joint-use facility and future plans for 315 Court Street Building

Commissioner Long referred to handouts titled *Ready for 100* and *GATE-8: Resiliency* and discussed the possibility of utilizing a portion of the Tourist Development Tax for transportation needs, availability of regional transportation and routes for evacuation in case of a natural disaster, the need for a statewide regional resiliency plan, the economic impact of a major hurricane hitting the County, and an opportunity to host the next World Climate Accord in Tampa Bay, noting that the area was designated by the United Nations and the Federal Administration as the most vulnerable in the United States.

During brief discussion, the members considered the prospects of hosting the World Climate Accord, and Commissioner Eggers commended Commissioner Long on her unifying approach and hard work relating to resiliency.

Commissioner Peters

- Mental health and addiction treatment
- Infrastructure
- Resiliency

Commissioner Peters indicated that she is supportive of prioritizing infrastructure and climate resiliency initiatives and plans to tour County facilities to learn more about stormwater, sewer, and related services; whereupon, she indicated that her main priority is treatment of mental health and addiction issues. She provided background information regarding the Marchman Act and stressed the importance of having a facility where substance abuse patients could be taken for treatment, and of establishing a coordinated system of care for mental health and substance abuse patients, indicating that the return on investment would reduce the strain on the local jail system, first responders, law enforcement, the court system, and the patients' families.

During discussion and in response to queries by the members, Commissioner Peters indicated that Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri opposed implementation of the Marchman Act due to concerns relating to local leadership within the system; and that jail is not the appropriate place for substance abuse patients to be taken, noting that people with certain conditions are not accepted on the premises. She indicated that she intends to work with Sheriff Gualtieri toward a compromise solution, and the members expressed appreciation of Commissioner Peters' leadership on the matter.

Thereupon, Commissioner Seel informed the members that the Strategic Planning session will take place on January 29 at Brooker Creek Preserve; that she is discontinuing the reception for presenters and recipients of the presentations and awards prior to Board meetings; and that the "Citizens To Be Heard" item will remain in the same place on the BCC Meeting Agenda, and discussion ensued.

2. Commissioner Welch End-of-Year Comments

Chairman Welch related that his 2018 State of the County video is being finalized; and that it has been an incredible year in spite of its challenges; whereupon, he thanked the County Attorney and County Administrator offices, his fellow Commissioners and administrative staff, and Executive Assistant Darlina Herring for their collaboration, partnership, and hard work.

Chairman Welch noted that Commissioner Peters and Mr. Burton already contribute a lot to the organization and fit in well with the Commission's mission; and that BCC Office Specialist Dustin Guinta has brought value to the position.

ADJOURNMENT - 12:40 P.M.