

Pinellas County

*315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



Minutes - Final

Thursday, May 9, 2019

9:30 A.M.

BCC Assembly Room

Board of County Commissioners **Budget Information Session**

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

Roll Call - 9:32 A.M.

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

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; and Jerry Gottlick, Board Reporter

Budget summary documents pertaining to each item and copies of all PowerPoint presentations have been made part of the record.

1. Feather Sound Community Services District - Anne Pollack

District Treasurer Anne Pollack conducted a PowerPoint presentation providing a brief overview of the organization and its responsibilities. She discussed the Fiscal Year 2020 budget request in the amount of \$280,000, indicating that the funds would be sourced from County Reserves to cover ongoing maintenance expenses and installation of a dog park.

Responding to query by Commissioner Welch, Ms. Pollack confirmed that the ending balance for the District's reserves is projected to decline to \$4,000 in anticipation of completing some of the larger projects that are either underway or planned, after which the organization will increase its reserves over the next few years, focusing on smaller projects; whereupon, Budget and Finance Management Analyst Lori Sullivan noted that there is also approximately \$90,000 held in reserve with the County for the District's use.

2. Property Appraiser - Mike Twitty

Property Appraiser Mike Twitty referred to a PowerPoint presentation and provided his Fiscal Year 2020 budget request in the amount \$14,063,137, indicating that it is \$33,093 under target. He gave an overview of the Property Appraiser departments and their functions, noting various statistics, and discussed the following:

- New Website Under Development
- 3D Condo Modeling Project
- Erosion Control Line Project
- Combating Rising Flood Insurance Premiums
- Elevation Certificate Project
- Parcel Level Link to FEMA Map Comparison Tool

During discussion and responding to queries by Commissioner Long, Mr. Twitty provided further information regarding the 3D Condo Modeling Project depicted in the presentation, noting that the models can be integrated with sea level rise projections in the future.

In response to queries by Commissioners Long and Welch pertaining to the National Flood Insurance Program, Mr. Twitty indicated that a new premium structure will be effective in October 2020; that there will be some type of *glide path* to transition from the existing rates; that the FEMA flood maps are being updated; and that changes in base flood elevation are due to more accurate modeling tools.

3. District Six Medical Examiner - Dr. Jon R. Thogmartin

Medical Examiner Jon Thogmartin referred to a PowerPoint presentation and provided an overview of the District Six Medical Examiner Office and Forensic Laboratory and the services they provide, noting that he serves both Pinellas and Pasco Counties; and that Pasco contracts on a fee-for-service basis; whereupon, he discussed lab accreditation, employee certification, and grant funding.

Dr. Thogmartin presented statistical information pertaining to the Medical Examiner and Forensic Laboratory workloads, discussed the organization of the office pursuant to State Statute, and referring to charts, provided a comparison of Medical Examiner costs to those in other Florida districts.

Referring to the Fiscal Year 2020 budget, Dr. Thogmartin requested a contract increase in the amount of \$82,000, or 1.4 percent, and discussed an additional decision package request in the amount of \$331,000 for replacement of the obsolete Oracle Medical Examiner database program. In response to query by Commissioner Welch, Office of Technology and Innovation Director Brian Zumwalt provided additional information, indicating that it will take approximately one year to implement the new system.

During discussion and responding to query by Commissioner Eggers, Dr. Thogmartin related that Pinellas County receives 20 percent of the fees paid by Pasco County; and that he would be willing to reconsider the split if the Commissioners desired. In response to query by Chair Seel, he reviewed his total budget amount, including grant revenue and fees charged for services, and she suggested examining the 20-80 split to ensure that Pinellas County taxpayers are not funding services provided to Pasco County, and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Long inquired as to suicide rates in the county, and following discussion, Dr. Thogmartin agreed to provide statistical information including ages and causes of death.

4. Florida Department of Health, Pinellas County - Dr. Ulyee Choe

Health Department Director Ulyee Choe referred to a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the Department's mission and governing statute. He related that top priorities include ensuring access to care, behavioral health, and examining built environment and social determinants of health; whereupon, he provided updates concerning the following focus areas and responded to queries by the members.

- School Health Nurses
- Hepatitis A
- Dental Sealants
- Pinellas County Opioid Task Force
- Mental Health
- Health in All Policies

Dr. Choe provided a breakdown of the Department's financial resources for the current year totaling \$55,416,550, and related that the County's core contract amounts to \$6,789,500, noting the programs that it supports. Referring to the 2020 budget, he indicated that the proposed ad valorem tax rate of 0.0835 mill will produce estimated funding of \$6.2 million, to be allocated to primary care services, school health nurses, and Health Fund Reserves; whereupon, he reviewed performance measures and target outcomes.

During discussion, Dr. Choe provided additional information pertaining to Hepatitis A transmission methods, symptoms, risk factors, and vaccinations; emergency shelters for persons with special needs; and mobile home park inspections.

5. Pinellas Planning Council (Forward Pinellas) – Rodney Chatman and Whit Blanton

Planning Division Manager Rodney Chatman related that Mr. Blanton could not be present due to a prior commitment. He referred to a PowerPoint presentation and provided background information regarding Forward Pinellas, its mission, and its strategic business plan, indicating that the plan identifies seven goals developed around the theme of *Adapt, Build, and Connect*; whereupon, he described signature projects and how they align with those three themes.

During discussion and responding to queries by the members, Mr. Chatman provided additional information pertaining to the use of data analytics and the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project.

Mr. Chatman presented highlights of the Forward Pinellas Fiscal Year 2020 Work Plan, relating that staff will continue to work on current projects and initiatives, and will provide technical assistance services to several local government partners.

Indicating that Forward Pinellas is the result of a merger of the Pinellas Planning Council and the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Mr. Chatman referred to a chart and reviewed revenue sources that support its operations, including property tax revenue, service fees, and state and federal grants; whereupon, he displayed a graph depicting the Planning Council's millage rate and capacity since Fiscal Year 2009, noting that the rate has been under ten percent of the cap throughout the period, and Commissioner Eggers provided input.

6. Office of Human Rights - Paul Valenti

Human Rights Director Paul Valenti introduced Jeffery Lorick, announcing that he was recently promoted to the position of Compliance Manager; whereupon, he commented on the interrelationship between the work of the Office of Human Rights and other County departments.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Valenti described his department's three core programs, as follows:

- Investigation of External Complaints of Discrimination
- Civil Rights Compliance
- Wage Theft/Recovery

Mr. Valenti presented his Fiscal Year 2020 budget request in the amount of \$1,237,420, indicating that it meets the target set by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and discussed various components of the Operating Expense allocation. He noted that staffing has remained at ten full-time positions, despite increased levels of activity; and that spending has consistently been less than the appropriated amount.

Mr. Valenti provided an update regarding department projects conducted in-house and highlighted community outreach efforts; whereupon, he discussed plans for the Director and Compliance Manager to become certified as Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinators and the benefits of membership in the national association.

During discussion and responding to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Valenti provided information regarding employment-related age discrimination and community outreach efforts to ensure that the public knows their rights. He related that Mr. Lorick conducts Implicit Bias training for employers and various other groups.

In response to query by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Valenti updated the members on the alignment of Wage Theft ordinances with the City of St. Petersburg with the goal of providing a uniform countywide program, relating that revised language is currently being reviewed by the County Attorney's Office, and Commissioner Welch commended him on the success of the program.

7. Human Resources - Holly Schoenherr

Human Resources Director Holly Schoenherr distributed the Human Resources 2018 Annual Report, which has been made part of the record; whereupon, she presented her Fiscal Year 2020 budget request in the amount of \$4,440,410, indicating that it is \$52,000 below the OMB target; and that 91 percent of the total is attributable to personnel expenses, with operating expenses making up the additional nine percent.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Schoenherr provided a brief overview of the Unified Personnel System and the ten Appointing Authorities that it serves. She discussed

the Human Resources Department's vision, mission, and values, and highlighted its four strategic focus areas, noting goals and associated programs and activities.

During discussion and responding to queries by the members, Ms. Schoenherr provided additional information regarding the tuition reimbursement program and volunteer appreciation events.

Ms. Schoenherr provided background information and a status update with regard to the Classification and Compensation Study, noting that Phase I is nearly complete; and that Phase II will focus on exempt positions and is in progress; whereupon, she reviewed the department's 2019 strategic goals.

In response to query by Commissioner Eggers, Ms. Schoenherr stated that she will be meeting with Appointing Authorities next week to begin preliminary discussions on the topic of merit pay. Discussion ensued, and Mr. Burton provided input.

Referring to the Classification and Compensation Study, Commissioner Welch noted employee concerns, and Ms. Schoenherr discussed the appeal process, noting that the deadline has not passed. Mr. Burton acknowledged areas of concern, including communication and delays, and indicated that the County is now in a position to move forward.

Meeting Recessed: 12:08 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 12:42 P.M.

8. East Lake Recreation Services District - Mark Sanders

Recreation Services Director Mark Sanders provided demographic information pertaining to the District and estimated that between 200,000 and 300,000 people visit the facilities each year. He related that the largest project last year was the installation of LED lighting for four baseball fields, and that the next big project for the coming year is to address the lighting issue on the soccer fields, which is expected to cost approximately \$325,000.

Mr. Sanders related that volunteers worked approximately 23,000 hours last year, and estimated that the actual cost of paying them would be over \$540,000.

In response to query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Sanders provided an update with regard to the need for additional parking space at the facility, noting that a boundary survey has been conducted in preparation for the pre-application meeting with the County; whereupon, he discussed options for access from the lot to the fields.

Mr. Sanders responded to query by Commissioner Peters, explaining that funding is primarily based on the ad valorem tax and not on income from fees or sponsorships, and explained the contractual arrangements made with groups that use the facilities.

9. East Lake Library Services District — Lois Eannel

Library Director Lois Eannel provided Board members with the *East Lake Community Library's Strategic Plan 2019-2022* and a summer program guide, both of which have been made part of the record.

Ms. Eannel related that the biggest accomplishment last year was the completion of the construction project in December 2018 and provided details of the project, indicating that the total project cost was approximately \$1.4 million, with \$1 million from the state, \$200,000 from British Petroleum settlement funds, and the balance from Library capital reserves.

Ms. Eannel discussed library activities throughout the current year, and provided information regarding program and service enhancements, traffic volume, circulation statistics, the number of patrons visiting the facility, and the completion of additional parking areas; whereupon, she discussed plans for the upcoming year, as well as the long-range plan.

Later in the meeting in response to query by Commissioner Welch, Ms. Eannel discussed the decision to provide Sunday hours following a three-month trial period, noting that the library will be open Sunday afternoons during the school year; and that the cost will be offset by opening an hour later during the week.

10. Palm Harbor Community Services District — Gene Coppola and Erica Lynford

Palm Harbor Community Services Agency (PHCSA) Director Erica Lynford related that Library Director Gene Coppola could not attend today's presentation; whereupon, she provided an update on the numerous programs and activities offered by the Agency, highlighting the first annual Christmas Tree Lighting event held last year. Noting that her staff consists of only 11 full-time employees, she stressed the importance of volunteers and part-time staff, including high-school students and retirees, indicating that programs are held seven days a week; and that no program was ever cut during the recession.

Relating that PHCSA took over management of Harbor Hall and White Chapel at the request of the County in 2012, with no increase in ad valorem revenue, Ms. Lynford reported that the Agency has increased services and revenue; whereupon, she discussed some of the activities that are held there. In response to query by Chair Seel, she related that revenue is about \$100,000, which is enough for the two buildings to pay for themselves; and that cross-booking capability has also increased rentals at The Centre.

Ms. Lynford discussed the success of the Agency's summer camp program, and responding to query by Commissioner Long, related that the indoor and outdoor camps serve 200 to 300 children per week for ten weeks.

Ms. Lynford thanked the members for supporting the Agency's request for Municipal Services Taxing Unit funding, and in response to query by Commissioner Welch, indicated that her biggest issue is the need for additional space; and that if the Agency receives Penny for Pinellas funding, it would opt to demolish The Centre's secondary building and construct a new one.

11. Pinellas Public Library Cooperative - Cheryl Morales

Cooperative Executive Director Cheryl Morales related that the organization is celebrating 30 years of service to the community; that the Interlocal Agreement was revised last year; and that policy revisions are currently underway. Referring to a PowerPoint presentation containing various charts and graphs, she discussed circulation trends, the number of borrowers by library, program attendance, the summer reading program, and partnerships with outside organizations such as museums and the Florida Orchestra; whereupon, she provided information and statistics regarding programs provided through the Deaf Literacy Center and the Talking Book Library, and Commissioner Eggers provided input.

Ms. Morales announced that the library system has recently launched an updated mobile application; and that in accordance with the new Interlocal Agreement, the first countywide Library Staff Development Day will be held on Columbus Day this year.

Commissioner Justice inquired whether Ms. Morales is aware of any geographical gaps in county libraries, and discussion ensued; whereupon, Chair Seel requested that Ms. Morales examine where library gaps might exist and report back to the Board, noting that the topic of building additional libraries merits further discussion.

Miscellaneous Discussion

Responding to query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Burton provided a brief update on the hiring of a Community Manager for north county, and indicated that he would report back to the members regarding the status of leases for facilities in north county and the Palm Harbor Master Plan.

ADJOURNMENT - 1:39 P.M.