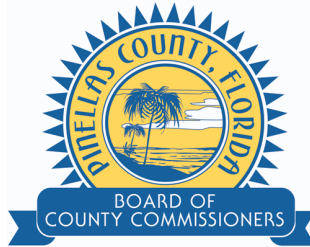


# **Pinellas County**

*315 Court Street  
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



## **Minutes - Final**

**Thursday, August 1, 2019**

**9:30 A.M.**

**BIS/Agenda Briefing**

**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 - 9:31 A.M.**

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

Absent: Kathleen Peters

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

**1. Establish maximum millage rates for certification to the Property Appraiser**

Office of Management and Budget Director Bill Berger related that the purpose of today's session is to establish the maximum millage rates to be certified to the Property Appraiser; and that while the rates may be decreased after certification, they may not be increased; whereupon, he referred to a PowerPoint presentation and discussed potential changes to the proposed budget related to the following, noting that the members are welcome to provide additional feedback.

- Medical Examiner (\$99,000)
- Cross Bay Ferry (\$149,000)
- Health Department - Adult Medicaid Dental Program (~\$226,000 funding gap)
- Justice CCMS Enhancements

Mr. Berger related that sufficient reserves are available in the General Fund, Transportation Trust Fund, and Health Department Fund to cover the first three items; and that approval of the requests would not require an increase in millage.

Discussion ensued, and Assistant County Administrator Lourdes Benedict provided information regarding the dental program funding gap, dental services provided by the Community Health Centers, and previous County funding levels; whereupon, Messrs. Berger and Burton related that discussions are ongoing with the Health Department, and no decision is necessary at this time.

Mr. Berger discussed a decision package request submitted by the Justice System User Policy Board, noting that staff is not recommending funding of the \$222,000 request based on a determination that the cash is not required at this time, clarifying that it is not a recommendation not to support moving forward with the enhancements.

Commissioner Eggers inquired as to the possibility of using Tourist Development Tax (TDT) funds for the Cross Bay Ferry, and during discussion, Mr. Berger indicated that staff is continuing to analyze available data as to the project's tie to tourism. Later in the meeting, Chair Seel reminded the members that TDT funds can only be used for capital expenditures, and indicated that she would request additional information from St.

Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman for his presentation on August 6, and Mr. Berger noted that a zip code analysis has been requested.

At the request of Commissioner Justice, Ms. Benedict indicated that she would provide a breakdown of funding for the meals for seniors program.

Commissioner Welch announced that the County has been awarded grant funding for the Tampa Bay Innovation Center incubator project, requiring a County commitment of up to \$4.5 million. Responding to his query, Mr. Berger discussed additional funding sources and noted that a decision has not been made as to which source or combination of sources will be used, and Commissioner Justice requested a full presentation on the project.

Commissioner Long related concerns regarding her travel itinerary for the coming year and its effect on the travel budget, and discussion ensued pertaining to expenditures associated with Commissioners' involvement with various associations and boards; whereupon, Mr. Berger, with input by Mr. Burton, gave an overview of the budget process and stated that Cecilia McCorkell of the Office of Management and Budget is available to meet individually or collectively to provide assistance and training.

Returning to the presentation, Mr. Berger reviewed proposed millage rates, noting that no increases are proposed for the Countywide or Municipal Services Taxing Unit funds. He related that millage reductions are proposed for seven fire districts due to excess reserves, with additional reductions possible; and that the other districts will remain unchanged, and discussion ensued.

Mr. Berger reiterated a request for approval of the maximum millage rates, as proposed, and responding to queries by Commissioner Eggers, related that increases in property value provide extra revenue to maintain service levels despite inflation and to support decision packages. In response to concerns expressed by Commissioner Welch, he confirmed that certain documents are not posted on the budget website due to Americans with Disabilities Act compliance issues, noting that all information is posted internally and will be provided to citizens upon request.

Chair Seel displayed a document titled *Property Tax Rates and Revenue*, noting for the public that the millage rates shown for Fiscal Year 2020 will be voted on today, and brief discussion ensued with input by Attorney White.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Vice-Chair Gerard, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Welch

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Peters

Thereupon, Mr. Berger reviewed the budget timeline, noting that the tentative and final millage rates and budgets will be adopted by the Board on September 12 and 24, respectively, following public hearings.

2. Agenda Briefing

Mr. Burton reviewed the August 6 agenda items and provided background information; whereupon, he responded to queries and comments by the members pertaining to the following items, and Chair Seel provided input.

- Item No. 11 Sale or donation of County-owned equipment, materials, and vehicles
- Item No. 18 Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board, Inc. diversion program and bridge housing
- Item No. 19 *Health in All Policies* approach to County decision making

Chair Seel congratulated Economic Development Director Mike Meidel and his team on receiving the \$7.5 million federal grant for the Tampa Bay Innovation Center incubator, noting that the County match will be a topic for future discussion.

Commissioner Eggers asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Gladys Douglas, a Dunedin philanthropist and community activist, and offered condolences to her family.

**ADJOURNMENT - 10:44 A.M.**