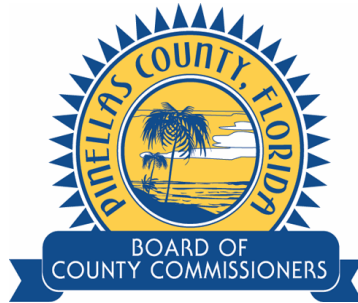


Pinellas County

315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756



Minutes - Final

Thursday, May 2, 2019

9:30 AM

Work Session/Agenda Briefing

Clerk's Conference Room, 4th Floor

Board of County Commissioners - Work 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; Kathleen Peters; and Kenneth T. Welch

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

1. Agenda Briefing

Mr. Burton opened the agenda briefing portion of the meeting and proceeded to review the agenda items to be addressed at the May 7, 2019, Commission meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the following items, and staff responded to queries by the members and provided input.

- Item No. 11 Airport Concessionaire Services
- Item No. 13 Tourist Development Tax Capital Project Funding Applications
- Item No. 15 Convention and Visitors Bureau Lease Amendment
- Item No. 26 Pinellas County Legislative Day/Tampa Bay Legislative Day

Attorney White referred to Agenda Item No. 18, a proposed litigation settlement, and stated that her policy will be to circulate a confidential memorandum among the members so as to avoid discussion during an open meeting.

2. Prioritizing Capital Projects

Jacqueline Trainer, Office of Management and Budget, and Assistant County Administrator Rahim Harji referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Prioritizing Capital Projects* and discussed the following:

- Project Portfolio Management
- How a Project Gets in the CIP Plan
- Program Level Prioritization
- County Level Prioritization
- Resource Allocation and Budget
- Timelines and Next Steps

Responding to query by Commissioner Eggers, Ms. Turner related that the County is striving for better coordination with the cities and the Department of Transportation with regard to prioritization and alignment of projects under the various jurisdictions.

In response to query and concern expressed by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Harji explained the County's current policy on maintaining canals along lakes, and related that it is being applied consistently.

Ms. Turner related that on June 6 she will present a full ten-year plan for the Penny IV funds, which become available in 2020, along with a list of specific project requests. Mr. Harji indicated that the list will be sent to the members in advance of the public meeting, and Commissioner Welch noted the importance of holding the discussion in a public forum so that citizens can observe the County's strategic approach to spending.

Commissioner Welch inquired as to the Departments' "Needs" Database, and Mr. Harji related that it consists of thousands of projects, and provided information pertaining to the use of SharePoint and Business Intelligence.

Responding to query by Commissioner Justice regarding the County's ability to quickly attempt to acquire a desired property when it becomes available, Ms. Turner explained that the County has an off-budget-cycle approval process, and Mr. Burton provided input.

In response to query by Chair Seel, Mr. Harji indicated that staff will send members the prioritization criteria for environmental and park land acquisition, including the points assigned to each criteria and the maximum points that can be assigned, and clarified that a higher ranking simply means that a parcel might be more valuable for one use versus another. Mr. Burton stated that he plans to hold one-on-one discussions with the Commissioners; whereupon, Chair Seel remarked that in addition to those meetings, the matter will also need to be discussed by the Commission as a whole, and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Long expressed concern regarding the number of proposed projects that pertain to transportation, and responding to her comments, Mr. Burton related that he has had three meetings with officials from Forward Pinellas and Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA); that he is gathering additional information; and that he expects to present the data along with options to the Board sometime in July.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the forecast PSTA funding shortfall and ways to address the issue. Chair Seel related that she recently had a discussion with St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman regarding the gas tax, the City's transportation needs, and the possibility of partnering to support the PSTA.

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The meeting was recessed at 11:10 A.M. and reconvened at 11:20 A.M.

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Discussion continued, and Commissioner Eggers indicated that the Commissioners sit on numerous Boards, each of which have their own important issues, and suggested a planning meeting to formulate their collective priorities.

Chair Seel suggested sending letters to the municipalities inquiring as to their transportation needs, and the members provided input regarding use of the gas tax, other funding sources, legislative funding requests, and the possibility of asking the Legislative Delegation to open up the PSTA Special Act to increase the millage rate and/or require participation by all Pinellas municipalities; whereupon, Commissioner Peters cautioned that doing so would could result in unknown consequences.

Miscellaneous Discussion

In response to query by Commissioner Justice, Mr. Burton provided an update on the selection process for the President and CEO of Visit St. Pete/Clearwater. He related that initial interviews have been conducted; that background checks are underway on a narrowed-down list of candidates; and that he expects to announce the finalists in the near future. He indicated that there will be an opportunity for the public and Commissioners to meet the final candidates and provide input; that the members will not be allowed to attend the final interviews; and that he will consider all comments and make the decision, and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Justice discussed citizen concerns over recent Hepatitis A cases in the county and the related media coverage; whereupon, Mr. Burton provided input, noting that Department of Health Director Dr. Ulyee Choe has provided a letter to the members addressing the issue.

Commissioner Peters requested that a workshop be held for an in-depth discussion of mental health and addiction issues impacting the county and state. Referring to the county's high suicide rate, she inquired where the issue ranks on the Board's list of priorities, noting that she has submitted a decision package regarding the matter. Chair Seel provided a brief overview of the budget decision package process, and Office of Management and Budget Director Bill Berger provided input. Discussion ensued, and several members expressed their support for a workshop on the subject including Chair Seel, who suggested inviting the School Board to attend.

Responding to comments by Commissioner Long, Mr. Harji confirmed that the County recently received awards for the sea level rise planning tool developed by Environmental Management Division Director Kelli Levy and for a series of videos related to transportation safety.

ADJOURNMENT - 12:08 P.M.