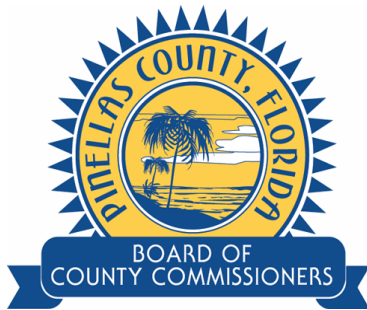


Pinellas County

*315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



Minutes - Final

Thursday, January 9, 2020

9:00 A.M.

Work Session/Agenda Briefing

Clerk's Conference Room, 4th Floor

Board of County Commissioners - Work Session

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

ROLL CALL - 9:05 A.M.

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

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; and Chris Bartlett, Senior Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

1. Agenda Briefing

Mr. Burton and Attorney White provided a review of the agenda items to be addressed at the January 14, 2020 Commission meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the following items, and staff responded to queries by the members and provided input:

Item No. 5	Pinellas County Code amendments regarding wage theft and recovery
Item No. 29	Notice of new lawsuit - quiet title action
Items No. 33/34	Housing Finance Authority budget resolutions
Item No. 36	Contract for sale and purchase - Baypointe Golf Course
Item No. 40	Contract increase and term extension for network services
Item No. 41	Issuance of multifamily housing revenue bonds

Following the briefing, Mr. Burton provided information on additional items not on the agenda and discussion ensued:

1. A parcel of land adjacent to the City of Dunedin is available for purchase, which may lead to public support of its acquisition by the County. Staff is reviewing options.
2. A letter sent to the City of Tarpon Springs objecting to the annexation of North Lakes Estates will also be sent to the State, which has requested comment.
3. Recent issues experienced by the City of Safety Harbor and other municipalities regarding the cost and use of solid waste recycling, and a need to reconvene the Solid Waste Technical Management Committee.

Thereupon, Mr. Burton conducted a review of topics scheduled for future work sessions.

2. County Commission Board Reports and Miscellaneous Items

Commissioner Long

- Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition Leadership Summit
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Commissioner Eggers

- Tampa Bay Water Board, Forward Pinellas, Transportation Management Area Leadership Group, Community Veterans Engagement Board, Transportation Safety Committee

Commissioner Welch

- 2020 Census Complete Count Committee

Commissioner Seel

- Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority
- Safety concerns expressed by City of Belleair Bluffs Mayor Chris Arbutine regarding coyotes
- Tampa Bay Economic Development Council and continuing the regional partnership
- Florida Botanical Gardens - Celebrating 20 Years (submitted document)

Chair Gerard

- Interviews for the County Commission Executive Assistant position
- Tourist Development Council vacancy, and the City of St. Petersburg appointment of Mayor Rick Kriseman to the Council
- Replacement of the media and public information computer

3. BCC Travel

Mr. Burton provided background information regarding BCC members' travel and noted that projected expenses are over \$60,000; and that approximately \$32,000 has been set aside for travel as part of non-discretionary funding in the budget. He indicated that he is seeking a discussion regarding the Board's travel policy, as there are funds available for increased travel if warranted.

Discussion ensued regarding how travel has been handled in the past and the current increase in travel requirements for members who represent the County on various boards and committees to help address local and regional concerns. Additionally, the members considered the following:

- Should the Commission require one travel budget to be shared by all seven districts, or should each district be assigned a separate budget?
- Should the Commission allow members to spend County funds to cover expenses of their assistants when traveling together?
- Should the Commission allow County funds to be spent when a member is traveling to conferences that are not directly related to the member's responsibilities?

Referring to comments by Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Welch suggested that each district should receive an equal amount of funds for travel; and that each Commissioner should be responsible for making appropriate travel decisions that serve their district and the county. He further suggested that a new and separate budget be established for the Commission as a whole, which would allow Board members to attend local community events. He related that the members sometimes attend events through qualified arrangements with the Sheriff's Office, but often cannot attend many other events.

Discussion ensued regarding Commissioner Welch's suggestions, and Mr. Burton and Office of Management and Budget Director Bill Berger provided input; whereupon, Chair Gerard stated that a \$10,000 budget for attending local community events will be established, and the travel budget and use of its funds will not change for the current fiscal year; and that the Board will consider making changes related to travel as part of the budget process for the next fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT - 11:18 A.M.