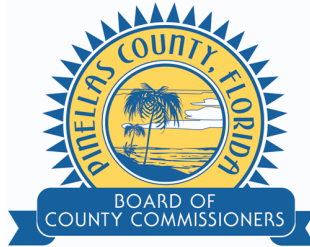


Pinellas County



Minutes - Final

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

11:00 A.M.

**Pinellas County Cooperative Extension
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo**

Board of County Commissioners

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

ROLL CALL - 11:04 A.M.

Present: 7 - Chair Pat Gerard, Vice-Chair Dave Eggers, 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; Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller; and Amelia Hanks, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

1. Consideration of State of Local Emergency for Tropical Storm Eta

Mr. Burton provided background information regarding the path and progress Tropical Storm Eta has made towards Pinellas County. He requested that the Board approve a State of Local Emergency in order to designate the Sheriff as Chief Law Enforcement Officer and give the County Administrator the authority to conduct evacuations and disaster-related debris removal, and to appropriate funds as necessary.

Director of Emergency Management Cathie Perkins presented information regarding the storm, indicating that it has been upgraded to a Category 1 hurricane; that the County partners have been preparing for the storm since the previous week; that tropical storm force winds will likely arrive at 3:00 P.M. today; and that stormwater management staff are monitoring the lakes and rivers. She related that two community centers will be open to those seeking shelter beginning at 12:00 P.M.; that Personal Protective Equipment will be provided and social distancing guidelines maintained; that Pinellas County schools are in the process of executing an early dismissal; that County parks and the Skyway Bridge have closed to public access; and that storm damage assessment will take place as soon as the conditions are safe.

In response to queries by Commissioners Eggers and Welch, Ms. Perkins related that the community center locations will be announced at noon in order to prevent citizens gathering outside prematurely; that the Citizens Information Center will be open throughout the night; and that there is not a mandatory evacuation order for mobile homes; whereupon, the members thanked Ms. Perkins, her staff, and the partners for their work throughout the year.

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri expressed concern regarding a potential loss of power, and urged everyone to exercise caution if they find it necessary to travel, noting that he does not anticipate road closures; that many people will be sheltering in place; and that personnel will be staged throughout the county to respond to calls if needed.

Mr. Burton related that Public Works, Utilities, and Planning and Building Development staff will be conducting damage assessment when the storm passes; and that County buildings will be closed on November 12.

Following discussion, the members agreed to postpone the November 12 Work Session and Agenda Briefing meeting to November 13 at 9:30 A.M.


A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Welch, that the proposed resolution declaring a State of Local Emergency be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Gerard, Vice-Chair Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner Seel, and Commissioner Welch

Resolution No. 20-155 adopted, declaring a State of Local Emergency as of 11:21 A.M. on November 11, 2020, as provided in Section 252.38(3)(a)5, Florida Statutes.

ADJOURNMENT - 11:21 A.M.

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By 
Deputy Clerk




Chair