

Pinellas County

*333 Chestnut Street
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Minutes - Final

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

9:30 A.M.

Budget Information Session

Palm Room

Board of County Commissioners

Charlie Justice, Chairman

Janet C. Long, Vice-Chair

Dave Eggers

Rene Flowers

Pat Gerard

Kathleen Peters

Karen Williams Seel

ROLL CALL - 9:34 A.M.

Present: Charlie Justice, Chairman; Janet Long, Vice-Chair; Dave Eggers, René Flowers, Pat Gerard, Kathleen Peters, and Karen Williams Seel

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Amanda Coffey, Assistant County Attorney; and Sitara Coyle, Senior Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

1. Article V (Information Only)

Following introductory comments by Mr. Burton, Office of Management and Budget Director Chris Rose indicated that Article V is included in the meeting materials as an informational only item; whereupon, Mr. Burton indicated that during the presentations today, the items related to constitutional officers will allow for the Officer to open discussion on their budget, followed by the budget analyst.

In response to a query by Commissioner Long, Chris Rose clarified that there is an expenditure of \$36.4 million from the General Fund for court-related programs. Mr. Burton added that Article V outlines statutory obligations of the County towards the court, but that there are some programs that are discretionarily-funded by the BCC due to a present need.

2. State Attorney

State Attorney Bruce Bartlett indicated that the proposed expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023 is lower than that of 2022 and commented on several elements of the budget summary by program and fund.

In response to queries by Commissioners Flowers and Long, State Attorney Bartlett related that staffing is down by 5-10% due to the natural three-year rotation of attorneys in the State Attorney's Office; that most staff leave because they can get a more competitive salary elsewhere; that the state government has approved a cost of living pay increase of 5.38% and will be effective July 1, 2022; that there will be a \$5,000 salary increase for all licensed attorneys employed as of June 30, 2022; and that there is a large backlog of cases, but now that the court system is back up and running fully it is getting better.

Commissioner Peters arrived at 9:41 A.M.

3. Judiciary

Chief Judge Anthony Rondolino, Sixth Judicial Circuit, discussed the Department's purpose, budget summary, staffing, submitted decision package, revenues and expenditures, ongoing programs funded beyond statutory programs, and remodeling at the Pinellas County Criminal Justice Center. Mr. Burton provided insight regarding the budget targets that are set for constitutional officers and courts and indicated that the increase is primarily due to the decision package proposed.

In response to queries and comments by Commissioners Peters and Flowers, Chief Judge Rondolino provided an update on the Assisted Outpatient Treatment grant-funded program and Mental Health Court, relating that there is work being done to foster continuing treatment and follow-up; and that resources for individuals with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health issues are limited due to funding.

Mr. Burton indicated that the initiative of teen prevention programs is a collaboration with Human Services and primarily grant-funded; whereupon, discussion ensued regarding the functionality of problem-solving courts and its funding.

Responding to a query by Commissioner Long regarding court support expenditures, Budget and Financial Management Analyst Jim Abernathy, Office of Management and Budget, explained what optional county-funded without defined revenue streams are.

4. Public Defender

Public Defender Sara Mollo referred to a document titled *Public Defender* and discussed the Department's purpose, budget summary, decision packages, and funding streams. In response to queries by Commissioner Flowers, Mr. Burton indicated that the residential mental health facilities and various other programs had been funded through the Pinellas County Sheriff's budget and County Administration is working on reconciliation to reallocate the programs and funding to the proper department.

5. County Administration (including Employee Relations, MSTU)

Referring to a document titled *County Administration*, Management and Budget Manager Fredricka Collins, Office of Management and Budget, with input from Mr. Burton, provided an overview of the Topics for Discussion section and total budget summary, including explanations for increases in expenses.

Utilizing the aforementioned document, Mr. Burton highlighted Fiscal Year 2022 accomplishments, including publication of the first comprehensive Sustainability and Resiliency report and website, subscription to the Duke Energy Florida's Clean Energy Connection Program, development of community plans for unincorporated areas, and implementation of career paths and ladders program in nine departments.

6. Human Resources

Budget and Financial Management Analyst Jim Abernathy, Office of Management and Budget, referred to a document titled *Human Resources & Employee Health Benefits* and presented a total budget summary, including explanations for increases and decreases in revenues and expenditures, and a budget summary by program and fund.

Referring to the aforementioned document, Human Resources Director Kimberly Crum highlighted Fiscal Year 2022 accomplishments, including the upgrade of the Oracle/OPUS system regarding performance management, enhancement of the learning culture for employees via updating the Click2Learn Library, development of benefits that appeal to employees needs through the efforts of the Benefits Advisory Committee, and implementation of a new volunteer software system.

Responding to queries by the members, Ms. Crum, with input from Messrs. Burton and Abernathy, provided information on the following topics:

- Employee Referral Incentive Program
- Biometric Screening and Health Assessment
- Staffing, retention, and recruitment
- Employee Benefits

Meeting Recessed: 11:15 A.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 11:28 A.M.

7. Governmental Capital Improvement Program (including Penny for Pinellas) FY23

Referring to a PowerPoint Presentation titled *Capital Improvement Program Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 - FY28, June 22, 2022*, Budget and Financial Management Analyst Andrew Brown, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), discussed the Governmental Capital Improvement Program projects, Penny for Pinellas-funded projects, FY23 proposed budget, including planned expenditures and projected revenue of the capital fund and Penny, additional Capital Fund funding requests, and Penny-funded project requests.

In response to queries and comments by the members, Mr. Burton, with input from Mr. Brown and OMB Capital Budget Manager Jacqueline Trainer, provided insight and additional information regarding the various funding requests, including reasons for increases in expenditures and funding needed. Department of Safety and Emergency Services Director James Fogarty provided information regarding the Pinellas Suncoast construction of Fire Station 28 Mainland, including ARPA funding, response times, and paramedics salary increase.

8. Public Works

Budget and Financial Management Analyst Abigail Lloyd, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) referred to a document titled *Public Works Department* and provided an overview of the Topics for Discussion section; whereupon, Mr. Burton elaborated on the options for addressing the current backlog as it relates to resurfacing levels of service, including a potential increase in the designated millage towards the Transportation Trust Fund, and maintaining and raising the level of service for other transportation infrastructure, and discussion ensued.

Continuing, Ms. Lloyd, with input from Mr. Burton and Public Works Director Kelli Hammer Levy, presented the remaining points under the Topics for Discussion section, proposed changes and additions to user fees, and three proposed decision packages.

Responding to queries and comments by Commissioners Peters and Flowers, Ms. Levy, with input from Mr. Burton, provided insight regarding employee training and challenges with retention.

Meeting Recessed: 12:45 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 1:08 P.M.

Ms. Lloyd provided a total budget summary for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, including explanations for increases in expenses; whereupon, Ms. Levy highlighted FY 2022 accomplishments, including implementation of a proactive sidewalk maintenance program through funding from the BCC and American Rescue Plan Act, development of a project management manual in collaboration with OMB, creation of a project management hub that will be adopted throughout other departments within County government, and the addition of new performance measures for FY 2023.

Ms. Levy further highlighted the various capital improvement projects completed in FY 2022, including, but not limited to, roadway and drainage improvements, camera installations, resurfacing and restoring roadways, and pursuing initiatives regarding coastal systems and structures to address environmental and public health concerns.

In response to comments and queries by the members, Ms. Levy briefly discussed the regional stormwater plan for Lealman, advancements in traffic monitoring technology, and water quality throughout the county.

ADJOURNMENT - 1:36 P.M.