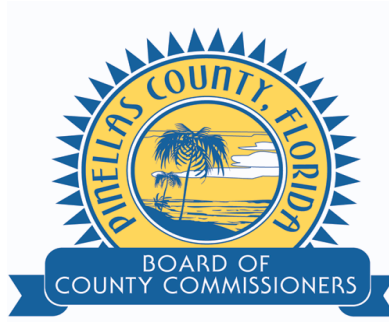


Pinellas County

*333 Chestnut Street
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Minutes - Final

Friday, June 24, 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 - 9:38 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, Managing Assistant County Attorney; and Sarah Rathke, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

Chairman Justice called the meeting to order; whereupon, Mr. Burton requested that Item Number 3 be moved to the last item on the agenda.

1. Supervisor of Elections

Supervisor of Elections Julie Marcus provided an overview of the proposed budget request, including that it reflects costs associated with the upcoming gubernatorial election, address list maintenance, maintaining software and equipment, voter education, and protecting the vote. She indicated that, in compiling the budget request, every effort was made to offset rising costs; and that the proposed budget is being submitted under the base target rate, with one decision package request.

Responding to comments and queries by the members, Supervisor Marcus provided information and clarifications regarding the following topics:

- Universal Primary elections
- Adequacy and integrity of current equipment
- New Voter Identification Card status and process
- Transparency
- Audit process and independent auditing system
- Address and eligibility lists maintenance process

2. Property Appraiser

Property Appraiser Mike Twitty provided a brief summary of the duties of his office, noting the responsibilities of delivering a fair and equitable tax roll, administering various exemptions, and maintaining tax parcel maps; whereupon, he indicated that the budget supports those duties; that 90% of the budget is related to personnel services; and that the Fiscal Year 2023 budget request reflects an increase of approximately 3.2% and is predominantly a function of a general increase in personnel services.

4. Sheriff

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation containing data related to the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget, Sheriff Bob Gualtieri discussed the budget target, net general fund request,

non-general fund revenue, and the requested funding increase related to salaries of the nurses providing inmate healthcare; whereupon, he provided information regarding staffing challenges and mitigation efforts and the expansion of the mental health unit.

In response to comments and queries by the members, Sheriff Gualtieri provided information regarding other law enforcement mental health units in the County, cost of medical care for incarcerated individuals, current status of COVID-19 amongst the jail population, the marine unit and John's Pass, and the newly-purchased helicopter.

5. Clerk of the Circuit Court

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Ken Burke expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Seel for her lifetime of service to the County.

Mr. Burke provided a brief overview of the Fiscal Year 2023 proposed budget, noting that it conforms with the budget target; and that the single decision package request is related to employee retention and competitive recruitment; that the Human Resources Department is preparing a market analysis of the Finance Division's positions and wages; and that a final proposed cost for the decision package will be forthcoming; whereupon, he provided a summary of various transactions resulting in significant savings to taxpayers.

Responding to a request by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Burke summarized aspects of the Clerk's Division of Inspector General, including availability of a citizen hotline and internal audits.

3. Board of County Commissioners

Office of Management and Budget Countywide Budget Division Director Cecilia McCorkell referred to a document containing Fiscal Year 2023 budget data and summarized information related to proposed total districts and personal services budgets, noting an approximate 4% increase in total district budgets, no change to the number of full-time employees, and three decision packages; which includes FEAST Food Pantry, sustainability and resiliency organizational framework, and Clearwater Transit Center and initial ferry investment; whereupon, Mr. Burton provided details and responded to comments and queries regarding the proposed decision packages, County reserve levels, and processes for developing future budgets.

Mr. Burton noted that the final proposed budget will be presented to the Board at its July 19 meeting; and that the Tenants Bill of Rights will be part of the agenda for the July 14 work session.

Chairman Justice expressed appreciation to staff for the work that has been done to facilitate the budget information sessions.

ADJOURNMENT - 11:48 A.M.