

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DATE: November 20, 2012

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14.

Consent Agenda ☐

Regular Agenda ☒

Public Hearing ☐

County Administrator's Signature:

Subject:

Adoption of a Resolution establishing a \$500,000 Financial Commitment to Project B0050355875.

Department:

Economic Development

Staff Member Responsible:

Mike Meidel, Director

Recommended Action:

I RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOARD) ADOPT A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A \$500,000 FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO PROJECT B0050355875.

Summary Explanation/Background:

Florida Statute 125.045 authorizes counties to expend public funds to support economic development activities, including making grants for the expansion of businesses to the community. Project B0050355875 is a defense/homeland security company that has expressed an interest in expanding in Pinellas County. The project consists of \$5 million in construction and \$33.4 million in equipment. The economic impact of this capital investment is \$13.5 million. An estimated 451 employees are projected to be hired with annual pay scales above 145% of the average annual wage. The project will also retain 408 employees with annual pay scales above 145% of the average annual wage. The earnings will result in an economic impact of \$76.4 million and 1,276 new direct and indirect jobs. The economic impacts were calculated using the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis RIMS II Model for Pinellas County.

Fiscal Impact/Cost/Revenue Summary:

Project B0050355875 is requesting a \$500,000 commitment from Pinellas County to provide a portion of the local match needed for the company to secure a State of Florida Governor's Quick Action Closing Fund. WorkNet Pinellas will provide an additional \$500,000 local match. The total State of Florida Governor's Quick Action Closing Fund incentive for this project is \$4 million. Allocation from the Quick Action Closing Fund is extremely competitive; the higher the local match, the better a project scores. The commitment from Pinellas County will enhance Project B0050355875's standings in the process. The \$500,000 will be paid over a period of up to 15 years, with the budget established within the Department of Economic Development. No funds will be expended until such time that all related agreements are executed to the satisfaction of all parties.

Exhibits/Attachments Attached:

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT TO PROJECT NO. B0050355875 TO EXPAND A BUSINESS ENTERPRISE IN PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA SUBJECT TO FURTHER APPROVALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, because of increasing competition from other states and countries for the location and retention of private enterprises within Florida, counties are authorized, pursuant to §125.045, Florida Statutes, to expend public funds to support economic development activities, including, but not limited to, improving local infrastructure, issuing bonds to finance or refinance the cost of capital projects, leasing or conveying real property, and making grants to private enterprises for the expansion of businesses existing in the community, or the attraction of new businesses to the community; and

WHEREAS, Project No. B0050355875 has expressed an interest in expanding its facility in Pinellas County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has targeted entities such as Project No. B0050355875 for expansion in Florida to serve as continued catalysts for evolving economic development clusters in order to expand the state's economic base; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County recognizes that the expanded presence of Project No. B0050355875 would help to attract and retain the type of high-wage primary jobs envisioned by Pinellas County's "Pinellas by Design Plan", while helping to facilitate growth in the economic clusters already targeted by the County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to §288.1088, Florida Statutes, Project No. B0050355875 has been recommended to receive grant funds needed for expansion of operations of its Florida facilities in Pinellas County from the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, subject to additional approvals required to finalize the expansion in Pinellas County, it is necessary to identify and make available financial support from local partners to be eligible for the above referenced State of Florida grant ; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that granting economic development grant matching funds of up to \$500,000 constitutes a public purpose which will serve to employ Pinellas County citizens and ensure the County's economic vitality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, at a duly-assembled meeting held on the 20th day of November 2012, as follows:

Section 1. The County hereby approves in concept awarding an economic development grant for facility expansion costs for Project No. B0050355875 in Pinellas County in the sum of \$500,000 payable in installments over a period of up to 15 years as provided in the grant agreement referenced in Section 2 herein.

Section 2. This grant award committing County funds shall be conditioned upon: (i) final approval by the Board of County Commissioners of the terms and conditions of all related agreements to which it is a party, and (ii) Project No. B0050355875 securing such other approvals, grants, and/or affiliation agreements pursuant to Sec. 288.1088, Florida Statutes as may be necessary or required to expand in Pinellas County. Nothing herein will prevent other jurisdictions, agencies or the private sector from providing increased funding; however, in no event will this grant award from Pinellas County exceed \$500,000.

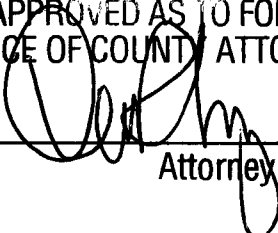
Commissioner _____ offered the foregoing resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon roll call, the vote was:

_____ Ayes

_____ Nays

_____ Absent and not voting:

APPROVED AS TO FORM
OFFICE OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

By  _____
Attorney