

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller  
Regular Public Meeting  
February 10, 2015

7. Approval of minutes:

Regular meeting held January 13, 2015.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015 – 9:31 A.M.  
ASSEMBLY ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR  
315 COURT STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA**

**Members Present:** John Morroni, Chairman; Charlie Justice, Vice-Chairman; Janet C. Long; Kenneth T. Welch; Dave Eggers; Pat Gerard; and Karen Williams Seel.

**Others Present:** James L. Bennett, County Attorney; Mark S. Woodard, County Administrator; Claretha N. Harris, Chief Deputy Clerk; and Jenny Masinovsky, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk.

**INVOCATION:** Reverend Laura Ice, Anona United Methodist Church, Largo.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Justice.

**PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS:**

Arc Tampa Bay Proclamation presented to Madison Hauenstein, Communications Coordinator, and Polly Stannard, Board Trustee, of The Arc Tampa Bay Foundation.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

**SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**All public hearing items have been properly advertised. Affidavits of Publication have been received and are on file in the Board Records Department.**

**SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS – COUNTYWIDE PLANNING AUTHORITY**

- # 1 Sitting as the Countywide Planning Authority, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 15-01 approving Case No. CW 14-25, the proposal by the City of St. Petersburg to amend the Countywide Future Land Use Plan from Residential Medium to Planned Redevelopment – Mixed Use, re 0.8 acre m.o.l., located on the southwest corner of 11th Avenue South and 4th Street South, approximately 120 feet west of the intersection (subthreshold amendment). Pinellas Planning Council recommended approval of the proposed amendment and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

Motion	-	Commissioner Gerard
Second	-	Commissioner Seel
Vote	-	7 – 0

January 13, 2015

- # 2     Sitting as the Countywide Planning Authority, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 15-02 approving Case No. CW 14-26, the proposal by the City of St. Petersburg to amend the Countywide Future Land Use Plan from Institutional to Residential Medium, re 2.1 acres m.o.l., located at 4600 Haines Road (regular amendment). Pinellas Planning Council recommended approval of the proposed amendment and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

Commissioner Welch commended the applicants for their work in helping homeless students, and Commissioner Seel concurred, noting that the program began in Hillsborough County; and that she is proud that it will be expanded to Pinellas County.

Motion	-	Commissioner Welch
Second	-	Commissioner Long
Vote	-	7 – 0

#### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, re reclaimed water.

Greg Pound, Largo, re justice for all.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS NOS. 3 THROUGH 12 – APPROVED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEMS NOS. 9a – c, WHICH WERE CONSIDERED UNDER ITEM NO. 13.**

Motion	-	Commissioner Gerard
Second	-	Commissioner Justice
Vote	-	7 – 0

- # 3     Minutes of regular meeting of December 2, 2014 approved.

- # 4     Reports received for filing:

- a.     Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2014-37 dated December 4, 2014 – Follow-Up Audit of Pinellas County's Compliance with the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA).
- b.     Palm Harbor Special Fire Control and Rescue District Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2013.
- c.     Dock Fee Report for the month of November 2014.

- # 5     Vouchers and bills paid – None.

# 6 Miscellaneous items received for filing:

City of Safety Harbor Ordinance No. 2014-19 adopted December 15, 2014 annexing certain property.

# 7a First Amendment to the State Legislative Consultant Services Agreement (Contract No. 134-0087-N) with Dean, Mead, Egerton, Bloodworth, Capouano, and Bozarth, P.A. approved, modifying and clarifying the agreement as set forth in the agenda memorandum dated January 13, 2015 (no additional funding required); Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

# 7b First Amendment to the Federal Legislative Consultant Services Agreement (Contract No. 134-0216-PB) with Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. approved, modifying and clarifying the agreement as set forth in the agenda memorandum dated January 13, 2015 and extending the term of the agreement for one additional 12-month period for an amount not to exceed \$95,000.00; Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

# 8 Award of bid to QRC, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2015 – Fiscal Year 2017 Potable Water and Reclaimed Water Repair Services (Bid No. 145-0038-CP) approved for an estimated total expenditure in the amount of \$2,561,917.00 on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications; all work is expected to be fully completed within 730 consecutive calendar days; contract provides for one additional 365-calendar-day term extension provided prices, terms, and conditions remain the same and approval is granted by the County Administrator; Chairman authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.

# 9a See Item No. 13.

# 9b See Item No. 13.

# 9c See Item No. 13.

#10 Resolution No. 15-1 adopted supplementing the Fiscal Year 2015 General Fund Budget to appropriate earmarked receipts for a particular purpose (Pinellas County Sheriff's Office grants and other revenues in the amount of \$633,330.00).

#11 Staff authorized to submit to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity its finding that the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan is compliant with Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes, and no amendments are necessary.

January 13, 2015

#12 Rescission of grant application with the Southwest Florida Water Management District for the Lake Seminole Sediment Removal Phase II project (PID No. 000157A/922025) approved (Fiscal Year 2016 Cooperative Funding Initiative in the amount of \$3,078,000.00).

#13 Items for discussion from Consent Agenda:

# 9a Authorization granted for the Chairman to sign and the Clerk to record the Specific Purpose Survey of Maintained Right-of-Way map of Haines Road from U.S. Highway 19 to I-275: 28th Street North Segment.

# 9b Authorization granted for the Chairman to sign and the Clerk to record the Specific Purpose Survey of Maintained Right-of-Way map of Haines Road from U.S. Highway 19 to I-275: 58th Avenue North Segment.

# 9c Authorization granted for the Chairman to sign and the Clerk to record the Specific Purpose Survey of Maintained Right-of-Way map of Haines Road from U.S. Highway 19 to I-275: Haines Road Segment.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Welch, Director of Engineering Kevin Becotte pointed out the locations of the right-of-ways on an aerial photograph and indicated that, by statute, because they have been maintained by the County for more than seven years, they can officially be designated as County right-of-ways; and that notices were sent to the surrounding property owners, and no response has been received.

Motion	-	Commissioner Welch
Second	-	Commissioner Justice
Vote	-	7 – 0

#14 Resolution No. 15-2 adopted approving Project B4100636427 as a qualified applicant pursuant to Section 288.106, Florida Statutes, and identifying sources of local county financial support as local participation in the Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Tax Refund Program (total local contribution amount, \$120,000.00, 50 percent of which will be paid by Pinellas County, not to exceed \$60,000.00, to be paid over a series of fiscal years as determined by the State).

Motion	-	Commissioner Long
Second	-	Commissioner Seel

January 13, 2015

In response to queries by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Woodard provided background information regarding the project, and reported that even though the prospective firm is considering moving its national headquarters to Pinellas County, it is also considering sites in Missouri and South Carolina; whereupon, he indicated that the economic impact of the project's capital investment is nearly \$186,000.00; that the company plans to hire 100 employees with annual pay scales at or above 115 percent of the State of Florida average wage; and that those earnings will result in an economic impact of \$7.6 million and a total of 125 direct and indirect new jobs.

In response to queries by Commissioner Justice, Pinellas County Economic Development Director Mike Meidel stated that the total expenditure for the QTI Tax Refund Program in the current year's budget is approximately \$146,000.00; whereupon, he related that no funds will be disbursed until the company meets its job creation and wage commitments, and discussed topics relating to incentives, timeframes, prioritization of projects, and the refunding process.

In response to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Meidel related that Economic Development does keep track of the local demand for "office uses" versus "industrial uses"; whereupon, he briefly discussed the *2014 Economic Innovation and Leadership Symposium*, relating that even though the symposium mainly focused on employment centers, the main focus of his office is to create high-wage jobs throughout the county.

During discussion and in response to queries by Commissioner Gerard, Mr. Meidel presented further information regarding the QTI budget, relating that last year's budget was \$143,000.00; that the dollar figure varies from year to year; and that there is considerable lead time from when a resolution is approved until the initial refund payment occurs; whereupon, Mr. Woodard stated that during an upcoming work session, Mr. Meidel will provide further information regarding his budget, and presented additional information regarding how incentives are distributed.

In response to queries by Commissioner Long, Mr. Woodard related that during the work sessions, departments throughout the County will present information regarding the duties performed in their respective areas, the programs offered and services provided, and the opportunities and challenges moving forward; that the sessions will provide the members an opportunity to offer input and give direction prior to the start of the budget process; and that the presentations will set the foundation for future strategic planning discussions in which the members will set priorities and goals for the next 12 to 18 months.

January 13, 2015

Thereupon, in response to queries by Chairman Morroni, Mr. Meidel agreed to provide the members a budget true-up report with regard to the QTI program prior to his department's presentation.

Vote - 7 – 0

- #15 First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between Pinellas, Pasco, and Hernando Counties for the Tampa Bay Advanced Manufacturing Industry Certification Training Centers (ICTC), amending the duties, responsibilities, and appointments of Advisory Council members, approved; Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

In response to queries by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Woodard related that the state has provided \$1.15 million in seed money to the ICTC program; and that Pinellas County has committed to providing \$400,000.00, which will be equally distributed to the program during Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017, less the \$18,000.00 in startup funding provided in 2014.

Motion - Commissioner Gerard

Second - Commissioner Long

Vote - 7 – 0

- #16 Authorization granted to advertise a public hearing to be held on February 10, 2015, for a proposed ordinance adding Section 170-238 to the Pinellas County Land Development Code prohibiting the abandonment, release, or vacation of public right-of-way or public easement to any publicly accessible waters, with limited exceptions, as outlined in the agenda memorandum dated January 13, 2015.

Motion - Commissioner Justice

Second - Commissioner Welch

Vote - 7 – 0

- #17 Resolution No. 15-3 adopted declaring a portion of County-owned property surplus and authorizing conveyance to the City of Clearwater at nominal cost, as authorized in Florida Statutes, Section 125.38 (2014) (property address: 0 Landmark Drive, Clearwater); Clerk authorized to record the resolution.

Motion - Commissioner Welch

Second - Commissioner Long

Vote - 7 – 0

January 13, 2015

- #18a Construction Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. for the 49th Street (County Road 611) Railroad Reconstruction Project (PID No. 001604A) in the amount of \$320,954.00 approved; Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

and

- #18b Construction Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. for the Hercules Avenue Railroad Reconstruction Project (PID No. 000413A) in the amount of \$455,031.00 approved; Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

At the request of Commissioner Seel, Mr. Woodard agreed to contact CSX regarding the placement of adequate signage at the two sites, and briefly discussed the reconstruction project.

Motion	-	Commissioner Long
Second	-	Commissioner Gerard
Vote	-	7 – 0

- #19 Amendment No. 2 to the Pinellas County Health Care Program Interlocal Agreement between Pinellas County and the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County providing for increased funding, reporting requirements, and performance measures, approved; Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

Mr. Woodard introduced the item, relating that it recognizes an additional \$500,000.00, approved by the Board in the current year budget, to expand dental services for adult dental care; whereupon, he introduced Lourdes Benedict, the new Executive Director of Human Services, and related that Department of Health (DOH) Director Dr. Claude M. Dharamraj is also in attendance.

Commissioner Seel referred to a memorandum by DOH Dental Services Manager Christina Vongsyprasom which discussed, in part, the patient navigation process for dental services; whereupon, she provided information regarding the recently-held Dental Roundtable, reporting that many participants had expressed an interest in having more navigation; that sufficient capacity exists within the dental community to provide services through free dental clinics; and that by utilizing present resources and directing patients to appropriate services, individuals will be better served and fewer dollars spent; and Mr. Woodard indicated that in order to ensure that public and private resources are best leveraged, a “coordination section” has been included in the amendment.



January 13, 2015

Chairman Morroni related that members of the community organization known as FAST, Faith and Action for Strength Together, had requested additional funding for adult dental services during the past year and had presented stories regarding local citizens who had experienced significant health problems due to a lack of professional dental care; whereupon, Commissioner Seel presented additional information regarding navigation efforts and the effective utilization of resources and thanked the members for financially supporting the School Based Sealant Program.

In response to queries by Commissioner Long, Dr. Dharamraj discussed how information will be disseminated regarding the availability and location of dental services, including the DOH website and centralized call center and 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares; whereupon, she presented information regarding the Community Dental Clinic, Homeless Emergency Project, Gulf Coast Dental Outreach Program, and similar topics; and Commissioner Welch expressed his support, noting that the proposal expands access for individuals below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Commissioner Welch reported that the County Commission and Legislative Delegation had met in joint session the previous day; and that many at the table had expressed concerns regarding Florida's mental health crisis. In response to his queries regarding the \$500,000.00 allocated for behavioral health services, Dr. Dharamraj related that those dollars essentially fund mental health services for patients of the Pinellas County Health Plan who are seen at medical homes throughout the County and also by the mobile medical unit; whereupon, she discussed the need for a comprehensive screening system to help K-12 students at risk for behavioral health issues, and provided information regarding a potential pilot program in which the Department of Health and Juvenile Welfare Board will work together to provide case management services at four school-based clinics.

Thereupon, in response to comments and queries by Commissioner Eggers, Dr. Dharamraj indicated that even though dental and mental health services are available to students during the summer break, the availability of mental health services is limited.

Motion	-	Commissioner Eggers
Second	-	Commissioner Welch
Vote	-	7 – 0

#20 Other Administrative Matters – None.

- #21 County Attorney authorized to initiate litigation to obtain a permanent injunction in the case of Pinellas County versus Sutherland Holdings II, LLC – Zoning and Permitting Violations.

Motion - Commissioner Long  
Second - Commissioner Gerard

In response to queries by Commissioner Welch, Attorney Bennett confirmed that all efforts short of an injunction have been exhausted to compel Sutherland Holdings II, LLC to bring the property into compliance with the Pinellas County Land Development Code.

Vote - 7 – 0

- #22 County Attorney Miscellaneous – None.

- #23 County Administrator Reports:

Water, Sewer, and Reclaimed Water Rates

Mr. Woodard introduced the item, relating that it starts the dialogue regarding Pinellas County water, sewer, and reclaimed water rates for next year, and briefly discussed the present four-year rate plan; whereupon, he indicated that Burton & Associates is the rate consultant for Pinellas County; that Senior Vice President Andrew Burnham will present a report detailing the first step of a two-phase plan to maintain financial stability and the credit rating for Utilities; and that the second phase of the plan should begin in the spring and will consider how to optimize operations and increase efficiencies.

Mr. Burnham conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Utility Rate Analysis – Water, Sewer, and Reclaimed Water Rates*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and provided background information, relating that in response to a utility revenue sufficiency and cost allocation analysis conducted in 2011, the Board approved a multi-year rate plan for Fiscal Years 2012 through 2015; and that in order to continue to provide for current and future requirements, the Utilities Department directed the analysis to evaluate a new plan of water, sewer, and reclaimed water rate adjustments for Fiscal Years 2016 through 2019; whereupon, he indicated that small rate adjustments over multiple years will avoid large “one-time” increases; that a well-planned rate schedule will ensure a healthy utility operation; and that financial health will provide bond market certainty.

Thereupon, Mr. Burnham discussed the following:

- Typical Retail Customer Account – Summary of Results.
- Water System – Results, Proposed Rate Plan, and Impact of Results.
- Sewer System – Results, Proposed Rate Plan, and Impact of Results.
- Reclaimed Water Rate Analysis.
- Reclaimed Water Impact of Results for Unfunded and Funded Systems.
- Future Rates.
- Financial Planning Recommendations.
- Pinellas County Next Steps.

Mr. Burnham presented an analysis of water and sewer rate revenue requirements for Fiscal Years 2016 through 2019, including information regarding retail and wholesale service rates. In response to queries by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Burnham discussed factors that would necessitate customer rate increases over the next four years, including paying for operating costs and infrastructure needs, as well as to offset the reduction in demand from wholesale customers; whereupon, he presented information regarding local governments that are either creating or expanding their own water supply facilities, and noted that Tampa Bay Water has no plans to increase its rates in the near future.

During discussion and in response to comments and queries by the members, Mr. Burnham provided a reclaimed water rate analysis and presented detailed information regarding “funded” versus “unfunded” systems and “metered” versus “unmetered” service, and suggested that because reclaimed water agreements between Pinellas County and local municipalities were established many years ago, the County may wish to renegotiate those agreements; whereupon, he related that work will continue toward recovering the costs of providing reclaimed water; that even though supplying reclaimed water helps the county rid itself of treated wastewater, it creates less of a demand for potable water, thereby reducing profits; and that proposed increases in reclaimed water rates and availability fees would allow the County to increase cost recovery to 40 percent within ten years, and Mr. Woodard provided input.

Mr. Burnham discussed future rates, and stated that the outlook is positive, in large part, due to recent rate adjustments; whereupon, he indicated that rate revenue increase requirements will be affected by the following factors: increases in the cost of purchased water from Tampa Bay Water, the timing and extent of future infrastructure renewal and replacement requirements, changes in demands and/or operating costs, and policies/programs adopted by the Board as a result of the Utility Business Case study.

January 13, 2015

Thereupon, Mr. Burnham recommended that the members adopt the proposed water, sewer, and reclaimed water rate adjustment plans through Fiscal Year 2019, continue to update the financial plan for water and sewer systems annually to account for changes in demand, regulatory requirements, infrastructure replacements, and similar variables, and modify the plan as appropriate.

Continuing the presentation, Linda Benoit, Office of Management and Budget, discussed next steps, indicating that:

- On February 24, staff will request permission to advertise a public hearing.
- Customers will receive legal notification regarding the proposed utility rate increases via bill inserts from February 25 through May 18.
- Public hearing to adopt the rate plan will take place on May 19.

Commissioner Eggers requested that two public hearings take place regarding adoption of the rate plan, and in response to a comment by Commissioner Seel pointing out that two public hearings would be scheduled to approve the annual budget, he indicated that by the time those budget hearings take place, almost everything has been decided; whereupon, he restated his preference that two separate hearings take place regarding the rate increase, and Commissioner Welch expressed his support.

During discussion and in response to queries by Commissioner Welch, Messrs. Woodard and Burnham stated that electronic and physical copies of the rate study have been provided to the members; whereupon, Chairman Morroni thanked Mr. Burnham for his informative presentation and expressed appreciation to those involved in keeping the rates low.

In response to queries by Mr. Woodard, Chairman Morroni replied that he is comfortable moving forward in light of today's presentation; and that staff should expect to advertise for two public hearings; whereupon, in response to queries by Commissioner Seel and Chairman Morroni, Mr. Woodard stated that he will check with the County Attorney's Office regarding the possibility of placing one advertisement for both public hearings to reduce advertising costs; and that the bill insert will also include the public hearing dates.

In response to queries by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Woodard presented further information regarding the proposed nominal cost increases to the rate payers, relating that even though Tampa Bay Water is not increasing the cost of the raw water it supplies to Pinellas County, factors that contribute to cost increases include water treatment and

January 13, 2015

distribution, general inflation, labor, and fuel, in addition to those other aspects discussed earlier in the meeting.

In response to comments and queries by Commissioner Eggers regarding how the recent decrease in fuel costs is impacting the County budget, Mr. Woodard discussed the various methods utilized by his office to project future trends, and related that subsequent to a process which includes input from Duke Energy, the Petroleum Manufacturers Association, the Office of Management and Budget, and local stakeholders, his office, as part of the financial forecast, will provide the members with information relating to future assumptions; whereupon, he related that the process was used in preparation for the previous year's budget, and agreed to meet with Commissioner Eggers and provide additional information with regard to current budget assumptions.

#24 County Commission Miscellaneous:

- a. Commissioner Long requested that Bill Bucolo be appointed to Parks and Conservation Resources Advisory Board. Commissioner Long moved, seconded by Commissioner Welch and carried, that the appointment be approved.

discussed recent St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Council meeting.

invited members to attend annual Tiger Bay banquet and awards event on March 21.

discussed St. Petersburg College Public Policy Institute Village Square event on January 29 re expanding gaming.

reminded members of Homeless Leadership Board Point-in-Time Count on January 29 and requested response from any members wishing to volunteer.

- b. Commissioner Eggers encouraged participation in Dunedin and Clearwater events in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

discussed upcoming Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority workshop.

January 13, 2015

- c. Commissioner Welch discussed implementing living wage policy for County employees and suggested incentivizing companies doing business with the County in terms of providing a living wage for their employees.  
  
extended condolences to family of Officer Charles Kondek of Tarpon Springs and praised work of the Sheriff's Department.
- d. Commissioner Justice praised Pathways Community Church volunteers working with Florida Dream Center by fixing up houses in high-poverty neighborhoods in Lealman. Commissioner Welch reminded members of upcoming "adopt-a-block" party to support the volunteer efforts.
- e. Commissioner Gerard concurred with Commissioner Welch re living wage issue and incentive programs, including apprenticeship programs for trades.  
  
invited members to attend Tiger Bay event on February 12 with Mr. Woodard as a guest speaker.  
  
discussed Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration in St. Petersburg.
- f. Commissioner Seel provided update re Creative Pinellas public hearings on arts funding.  
  
is conducting research re possible bike sharing program for beaches and Pinellas Trail.
- g. Chairman Morroni suggested joint meeting of the Board and Tourist Development Council on March 18.  
  
presented framed picture to Commissioner Seel, commemorating her service as 2014 Board Chair.  
  
thanked the members for confidence afforded him as Chairman this year.

January 13, 2015

#25 Meeting adjourned at 11:16 A.M.

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Chairman

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk