

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

1. Approval of minutes:

Regular meeting held August 4, 2015.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2015 – 9:30 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 (late arrival); 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 Laura M. Todd, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk.

**INVOCATION:** Greg Stemm from the Religious Society of Friends, Gulfport.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Justice.

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Deviating from the agenda, Chairman Morroni indicated that Item No. 16 would be addressed at this time, and no objections were noted.

\* \* \* \*

- #16 Resolution No. 15-71 adopted amending and supplementing Resolution No. 93-292, as amended, authorizing the issuance of its not to exceed \$14,800,000.00 Sewer Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2016, to refund certain indebtedness and to pay costs related thereto; pledging the pledged funds of the sewer system of the County for the payment of such bond; pledging to secure payment of the principal of and interest on such note certain pledged funds including the net revenues of such sewer system, all moneys on deposit in and investments held for the credit of certain funds and the earnings on such investments on parity with certain other outstanding bonds; providing for an amendment to Section 4.05(C) of Resolution No. 93-292 upon certain conditions; approving proposal from DNT Asset Trust; approving the form of and authorizing the execution and delivery of an escrow deposit agreement; appointing a registrar, paying agent, and escrow holder; approving the form of and authorizing the execution and delivery of a forward delivery agreement; making certain covenants and agreements in connection therewith; and providing an effective date.

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Marianne Edmonds, Senior Managing Director, Public Resources Advisory Group, the County's financial advisor, provided a brief overview of the item and related that the refunding will result in a present-value savings of \$1.062 million over the life of the bond issue with an annual savings of \$121,000.00.

Motion	-	Commissioner Long
Second	-	Commissioner Gerard
Vote	-	6 – 0

At the request of Attorney Bennett, the Commissioners signed a *Certificate As To Public Meeting* indicating compliance with the Florida Sunshine Law.

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At this time, 9:35 A.M., the meeting was recessed and reconvened at 9:50 A.M. with all members present, except Commissioner Welch.

Deviating from the agenda, Chairman Morroni indicated that Item No. 4 would be addressed at this time, and no objections were noted.

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- # 4      Petition of Christopher Muller and Laura Muller to vacate a portion of 9th Street, lying between Ohio Avenue and Illinois Avenue, the 20-foot alley lying between Lots 7, 8, 9, and 10, Block 135 and a portion of the 20-foot alley lying between Lots 1 and 12, Block 134, Town of Sutherland, temporarily deferred (Legislative Hearing). Letters of no objection have been received from all appropriate parties. Interested property owners were notified as to the date of the public hearing. Staff recommended the vacation be granted. Four letters in support of and five letters and a petition with 37 signatures in opposition to the petition have been received.

Mr. Woodard indicated that counsel for the Petitioners has requested a continuance; that the continuance is at the Board's discretion; and that if granted, the item may come back before the Board at a future date; whereupon, Chairman Morroni related that, at the proper time today, he would recognize the citizens who filled out cards to speak on the item.

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Thereupon, Commissioner Eggers moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the item be temporarily deferred.

Vote - 6 – 0

Later in the meeting, no one appeared in response to the Chairman's call for persons wishing to be heard.

#### **PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS:**

Law Day Poster Presentations.

Purple Heart Recipient Proclamation.

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) Regional Transportation Master Plan Update Presentation by Ray Chiaramonte, Executive Director of TBARTA.

Mr. Chiaramonte referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *2015 TBARTA Master Plan Update, August 4, 2015*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and indicated that TBARTA is required to update the Master Plan every two years; and that within two months of the update, he is required to visit the seven counties in the region. He related that there are five Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), three seaports, and 46 cities in the region, noting that half of the cities are in Pinellas County.

Mr. Chiaramonte discussed TBARTA's funded and unfunded priorities and provided project descriptions, noting that projects are selected annually based on factors such as project advancement, funding, and modal connections. He provided examples of important projects that have been funded in Pinellas County, including the Gateway Expressway and the Howard Frankland Bridge, noting that projects in Hillsborough County include the Tampa Bay Express and the Westshore Intermodal Center. He indicated that future priorities in Pinellas County are the Beach Express and the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit.

Mr. Chiaramonte discussed cost feasible projects for regional transit, roadways, freight, and trails, noting that it is important to keep freight traffic moving in the region so as not to lose time due to congestion, which is largely the case today. He related that trails are important for recreation, noting that the Chairman's Coordinating Committee has been working on a plan for the trails.

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Mr. Chiaramonte discussed commuter services, including the Vanpool program, Carpool Ride Matching, School Commute program, and the Emergency Ride Home, noting that the latter program is paid for through a grant. He indicated that transit operators from the seven counties are on a Transit Management Committee and in the process of starting a regional fare payment system similar to the way the statewide SunPass works, but for use when riding transit in different counties.

Concluding his presentation, Mr. Chiaramonte referred to a chart showing TBARTA's funding for Fiscal Year 2016, noting that the budget is \$3 million a year, with the federal government providing 60 percent of the funding and the state government providing 40 percent; whereupon, Commissioner Justice thanked him for his hard work toward stabilizing the region going forward, and Mr. Chiaramonte provided a copy of the Transportation Monitoring and Oversight Report by the Florida Transportation Commission.

#### **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.**

#### **COUNTYWIDE PLANNING AUTHORITY**

\* \* \* \*

At this time, 10:41 A.M., Commissioner Welch entered the meeting.

\* \* \* \*

- # 1     Sitting as the Countywide Planning Authority (CPA), the Board adopted Ordinance No. 15-30 amending Pinellas County Ordinance No. 89-4, as amended, the Countywide Comprehensive Plan adoption ordinance, to repeal and replace said plan, provide for a new plan title and format, and provide for adoption of new plan components consisting of plan strategies, rules, and map series. Pinellas Planning Council (PPC) recommended approval of the proposed repeal and replacement and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received.

Planning Council Executive Director Whit Blanton thanked PPC staff for their hard work with the stakeholder agencies and local governments in shaping the new Countywide Plan; whereupon, Chairman Morroni introduced PPC Planning Division Manager Michael C. Crawford and thanked staff for their hard work in establishing an agreement with all 24 municipalities in the county.

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Mr. Crawford referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Countywide Plan Update, August 4, 2015*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, provided a brief overview of the proposed new Plan, and indicated that the Plan offers a partnership with local governments that allows more flexibility, future-orientation and redevelopment readiness, and multimodal transportation and land use integration, noting that the new Plan was five years in the making. He discussed the major concepts of the new Plan, and related that the land use categories have been reduced from 36 to 16, which allows flexibility for local governments to make local land use plan maps within the broader categories without requiring approval through the Countywide process. He discussed the three-tier amendment process, noting that Tier I would be reviewed at the staff level, Tier II would be a limited review by the PPC and CPA for Activity Centers and Multimodal Corridors, and Tier III would be a full review of Activity Centers or Multimodal Corridors in areas that have not been designated as such.

Mr. Blanton indicated that the new Plan is a foundation that can be built upon in terms of transportation policies, noting that transportation is a big driver of economic development as it provides access to the region. He related that he is committed to reviewing the Countywide Plan after a period of 18 months and updating the Plan as necessary. He briefly discussed optional refinements, including a category name change from Residential Low to Residential Low Medium with an increase of density from 7.5 to 10.0 units per acre, which would keep those land use changes at the Tier I threshold; and an increase in subthreshold acreage allowances from one acre to five acres for standard categories and ten acres for Employment, Industrial, Activity Center, Multimodal Corridor, and Target Employment Center categories; whereupon, he recommended the Board adopt the new Countywide Plan with the attached minor revisions and optional refinements.

In response to query by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Blanton, with input by Mr. Crawford, related that the 16 transit stops on the map are placeholders for future transit, noting that the specific locations can be moved.

Responding to the Chairman's call for persons wishing to be heard, Gina Clayton, City of Clearwater Planning and Development, and Rick McCauley, City of St. Petersburg Planning and Economic Development, indicated their support for the new Countywide Plan. In response to query by David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, Mr. Crawford related that there are no changes to the submerged lands definition in the County rules today; and that staff is requesting that the Board readopt the rules.

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At this time, 10:46 A.M., Commissioner Long left the meeting.

\* \* \* \*

Chairman Morroni requested that Mr. Geddis meet with Mr. Crawford after the meeting if he had further questions; whereupon, he closed the public hearing.

Motion	-	Commissioner Seel
Second	-	Commissioner Gerard
Vote	-	6 – 0

Following the vote, Commissioner Welch clarified that the motion includes the revisions contained in Attachment 5 in the agenda package.

## **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

- # 2 Ordinance No. 15-31 adopted amending Section 118-31(a) of the Pinellas County Code, levying the sixth percent Tourist Development Tax. The Tourist Development Council (TDC) recommended approval of the proposal and staff concurred. Two emails in opposition to the proposed ordinance have been received.

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At this time, 10:41 A.M., Commissioner Long returned to the meeting.

\* \* \* \*

Chairman Morroni recognized members of the TDC in attendance; whereupon, Convention and Visitors Bureau Director David Downing related that pursuant to the request of the Board, a document was presented outlining the uses of the fourth and sixth cents; and that Research Data Services has studied the historical data and concluded that the sixth percent is unlikely to decrease the County's tourism level and the collection of the tourist tax.

In response to the Chairman's call for persons wishing to be heard, the following individuals expressed their support:

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Mayor Rick Kriseman, St. Petersburg

*Supports funds being held in Reserves until a need is identified.*

Robin Sollie, St. Pete Beach

*Supports a 60/40 percent marketing/capital funding split.*

Brain Aungst, Clearwater

*Provided letter of support on July 21, 2015.*

Phil Henderson, Belleair Beach

*Supports a cap of 40 percent on capital funding.*

Dannette Lynch, Largo

Tim Bogott, St. Petersburg

Russ Kimball, Clearwater

In response to the Chairman's call for persons wishing to be heard, the following individuals expressed their opposition:

Norm Lupo, Clearwater

Anthony Satterfield, St. Pete Beach

*Supports a 60/40 percent marketing/capital funding split.*

Bill Priakos, Indian Shores

*Supports a 60/40 percent marketing/capital funding split.*

In response to queries by Chairman Morroni, Mr. Downing indicated that the average rate for a hotel room has increased by 28 percent over the last five years to an average of \$128.00 per night, and the Chairman pointed out that by raising the tax from five to six percent, the hotel rate increases by \$1.28; whereupon, in response to query by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Downing agreed to provide the memorandums by Dr. Walter Klages from 2005 and July 28, 2015 regarding his research.

Mr. Downing discussed other High Tourism Impact counties such as Miami-Dade and Orange Counties, noting that Dr. Klages has concluded that raising the tax to six percent has not affected those destinations; whereupon, in response to queries by Commissioner Eggers and Chairman Morroni, he indicated that Tourist Development Tax revenue is 12.85 percent ahead of budget, grossing \$27.3 million for the first eight months of the fiscal year; that each calendar year the \$30 million threshold is reached buys the county another calendar year to implement the sixth cent, noting that once it is implemented it would be ongoing; and that the \$7 million which could have been collected in 2014 cannot be retrieved.

Responding to query by Commissioner Justice as to what kind of sports stadiums or sports arenas are defined as nonprofessional, Mr. Downing, with input by Managing Assistant County Attorney Michael A. Zas, indicated that a sports recreation facility built and operated by Pinellas County and used for amateur sports would qualify for the sixth



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percent; and that the fourth and fifth percent may be used specifically for Major League Baseball and the National Football League, noting that because of their professional designations, those leagues would not qualify for the sixth percent; and that spring training facilities would qualify for the fourth and fifth percent.

In response to the Chairman's request for comments, Commissioner Welch discussed the importance of protecting marketing and advertising dollars and expressed his support for allocating the sixth percent and placing the funds in Reserves until such time as the plan for marketing and capital funding has been determined, and in response to his query concerning the timing of plan, Chairman Morroni indicated that the Tourist Development Plan will be finalized by the end of the year.

Commissioner Eggers related that he believes the Board is placing the "cart before the horse," noting that additional dialogue about what would be done with the funds needs to occur; and that he will not be supporting the sixth percent today, and Commissioner Morroni commented that it was his understanding that the Board sought to have the sixth percent approved, and then have further discussion as to how the money would be spent.

Commissioner Long indicated that she will be supporting the sixth percent initiative today and commented that the Board has the ability to change the funding in case of an emergency or an extreme circumstance if additional funding is needed, and concurred with Chairman Morroni and Commissioner Welch that the Board is not in a position to allocate the funds at this time due to the lack of information. She stated that with the addition of 2,000 new hotel rooms, the County has an opportunity to place "heads in beds"; that there is a need for a solid transit plan to move tourists about the community; and that the Board is charged with the leadership, creativity, and vision of the future for the county, noting that the Board should have a thoughtful and intellectual discussion about how the funds to be held in Reserves will be allocated.

Attorney Zas addressed the concerns of Commissioner Long regarding use of one of the pennies for tourism transportation, noting that if a proposal pertained to a specific tourist transit solution, staff could look into whether it would be an appropriate expenditure, noting that the concept could be explored; whereupon, he provided an example of shuttle facilities at the Orange County Convention Center, and Chairman Morroni suggested that transportation be part of the Tourist Development Plan discussion.

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During discussion and in response to queries by Commissioner Seel, Attorney Zas clarified that only transportation-related facilities at convention centers could be paid for by the tourist tax, which excludes rail; that it is his understanding that Orlando and Miami utilize shuttle buses to and from their convention centers, which are funded by Tourist Development Tax dollars; and that he cannot confirm if tourist tax dollars pay for operation of the shuttles, but agreed to provide clarification for later discussion. Commissioner Seel indicated that she concurs with Mr. Satterfield's editorial in today's paper, stating that if debt service is incurred, flexibility is no longer an option; that flexibility is needed to continue to market the region; that she agrees with the "cart before the horse" comment by Commissioner Eggers; and that she cannot support implementing the sixth percent at this time; whereupon, she noted that, as of September 30, the County will no longer be paying the annual debt service on Tropicana Field, and the spring training facility in Dunedin will be paid as of February 15, 2016, which will free up \$298,000.00 for marketing or Reserves.

Commissioner Gerard indicated that she supports the implementation of the sixth percent and is in favor of the money being placed in Reserves, and queried whether the employers that benefit from the Tourist Development Tax dollars pass on any benefits to their employees.

Commissioner Justice stated that he would support following the recommendations of the tourist professionals, the Board, the hoteliers, and professionals he heard this morning; that setting the money aside would give the Board an opportunity to make decisions about where to spend the funds; and that it would be appropriate for the Board to conduct a healthy and robust discussion on the use of the funds over a long period of time.

Chairman Morroni indicated that the sixth percent was not brought forward last year due to other tax issues on the ballot; that it is important not to forego another \$7 million; and that when the Tourist Development Plan comes before the Board, it will have the unanimous approval of the TDC; whereupon, he thanked the Board and the TDC members for their comments.

Motion	-	Commissioner Gerard
Second	-	Commissioner Long

Commissioner Welch clarified that the proceeds will remain in Reserves until appropriated by the Board.

Vote	-	5 – 2 (Commissioners Seel and Eggers dissenting)
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At this time, 11:41 A.M., the meeting was recessed and reconvened at 11:50 A.M. with all members present, except Commissioner Seel.

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- # 3 Resolution No. 15-72 adopted granting the petition of Edward R. and Joyce A. Sharp Trust, West Family Trust under the will of Gurth A. West, and U-Haul Company of Florida to vacate a portion of the East Rena Drive right-of-way in Palm Breeze Estates Subdivision subject to certain conditions and with the County retaining a drainage and utility easement (Legislative Hearing). Authority granted for the Clerk to record the resolution. Letters of no objection received from all appropriate parties. Interested property owners were notified as to the date of the public hearing. Staff recommended the vacation be granted. Three letters in support of and one email in opposition to the petition have been received.

Referring to aerial photographs, a sketch, and a zoning and land use map, Director of Real Estate Management Andrew Pupke pointed out the location of the subject property, described the surrounding land uses, and reviewed the proposed conditions for approval.

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At this time, 11:55 A.M., Commissioner Seel entered the meeting.

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Mr. Pupke stated that the Board heard and denied the applicant's original petition on June 2, 2015, at which time it suggested that the applicant meet with the neighborhood property owners to try to resolve the issues and asked the affected property owners to cooperate. He related that when this public hearing was advertised, the petitioners were attempting to resolve the outstanding issues; and that the petitioners will present the outcome later in the meeting. In response to queries by Commissioner Welch, he confirmed that he could not identify anything that has changed since the Board denied the application in June; whereupon, the Commissioner commented that it appears the application was filed prematurely.

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Responding to query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Pupke pointed out the area that has been annexed into the City of Largo and the right-of-way relative to the petition. He discussed the school bus stop, and indicated that the cul-de-sac would be large enough for a school bus to turn around; whereupon, Mr. Woodard stated that a letter has been received from the School Safety Officer indicating that the Board's approval of the request would not cause the school bus stop to be moved.

Robert Pergolizzi, Gulf Coast Consulting, indicated that he represents the applicant and introduced the project team. Referring to an aerial photograph, he pointed out the property to be developed, noting that East Rena Drive runs through the middle of the parcel. He stated that in March of 2015, the Board, sitting as the Countywide Planning Authority, approved a land use amendment to Commercial General for the properties at the northwest corner of Ulmerton and 66th Street for redevelopment; and that a key component of the redevelopment is the vacation of East Rena Drive, a distance of approximately 440 feet.

Mr. Pergolizzi indicated that since the Board denied the application in June, County staff has approved a design for a cul-de-sac at the eastern end of North Rena Drive; that a bond guaranteeing construction of the cul-de-sac has been provided; and that East Rena Drive would remain open to traffic until the cul-de-sac is built and accepted by the County; whereupon, he discussed a traffic count report showing 45 vehicles per day on East Rena Drive and 401 per day on West Rena Drive.

Mr. Pergolizzi related that several outreach discussions have taken place with the affected property owners; and that U-Haul has offered to provide them access to 66th Street through its property.

Mr. Pergolizzi and Sean Cashen, Engineer, Gulf Coast Consulting, reviewed the drainage problems and indicated that the redevelopment would help alleviate the flooding in the area. In response to query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Cashen stated that as part of the redevelopment, every storm event up to a 100-year event would be fully captured and retained on site, with no discharge off site to either of the Rena Drives.

Mr. Pergolizzi indicated that the bus stop on the corner of West Rena and North Rena Drive would remain, as the cul-de-sac would allow for a school bus turnaround; and, later in the meeting, stated that his clients would build and extend the sidewalk on West Rena up to the bus stop on the corner.

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In response to the Chairman's call for persons wishing to be heard, the following individuals appeared in support of the application:

Ed Sharp, Belleair

*Indicated that he is the applicant and owner of most of the property, and has met with all of the people who opposed the property at the June public hearing.*

Teresa Brydon, Economic Development Manager, City of Largo

David Owen, Treasure Island

*Indicated that he is one of the developers.*

Larry Hilkert, Clearwater

*Indicated that he owns three properties on West Rena Drive.*

In response to query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Hilkert stated that approximately six children live in his apartment units who walk to the school bus; that he has no safety concerns relating to the redevelopment; and that he does not feel a sidewalk is necessary.

Responding to the Chairman's call for persons wishing to be heard in opposition to the application, the following people appeared, located their property on the map, and expressed their concerns:

Arthur Winkvist, Largo

Joe Kuligowski, Largo

Patrick Healey, Orbit, Largo

Mark Comerford, Largo

*Showed photographs of flood in July.*

The concerns expressed by the opponents included:

- the inequity of approving a vacation to benefit the applicant at the expense of the neighborhood
- closing a public road that has been in use for 59 years
- the type of traffic count and its accuracy
- flooding issues
- reduced property values
- access to the neighborhood

In response to queries by Commissioners Seel and Welch, Mr. Winkvist related that he shares a fence with U-Haul; that U-Haul would only give him verbal authority to drive across its property; and that when he asked for an easement, he was refused.

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In rebuttal and in response to queries by the members, Mr. Pergolizzi reiterated that the redevelopment would help alleviate the flooding problem; and acknowledged that tubes placed across the road were used for the traffic count, and a more detailed traffic study will be required before permits can be obtained.

During discussion and in response to the concerns of Commissioner Gerard, Mr. Owen stated that the President of U-Haul indicated that the cul-de-sac curbing would be flat so as to allow vehicles, including their own, to cross the property; and that the legal counsel for U-Haul explained that the company does not give private access easements; whereupon, in response to query by Commissioner Justice, Mr. Pergolizzi indicated that the redevelopment includes a Burger King, an AutoZone, and a gas station and store to be named later.

Thereupon, Chairman Morroni closed the public hearing, and discussion ensued wherein the members explained why they support or oppose the vacation. In response to query by Commissioner Eggers regarding adding a condition that U-Haul put in writing its verbal agreement to allow the neighbors to pass through its property, Attorney Bennett, with input by Mr. Woodard, advised that while the Board probably could not force the settlement of a private access issue, it would be a basis for denying the request.

Motion	-	Commissioner Long
Second	-	Commissioner Justice
Vote	-	4 – 3 (Commissioners Seel, Gerard, and Welch dissenting)

## **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Lenore Faulkner, Madeira Beach, re middle school excellence.

David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, re reclaimed water variance works as a transfer of development right.

Greg Pound, Largo, re justice for all.

Rondale McDowell, St. Petersburg, re justice for all movement lead by Rondale McDowell and Leonard E. Tunsil.

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At this time, 1:13 P.M., the meeting was recessed and reconvened at 1:51 P.M. with all members present, except Commissioner Eggers.

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**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS NOS. 1 THROUGH 14 – APPROVED.**

Motion	-	Commissioner Welch
Second	-	Commissioner Gerard
Vote	-	6 – 0

# 5 Minutes of special public meeting held July 13, 2015 approved.

# 6 Reports received for filing:

- a. Dock Fee Report for the month of June 2015.
- b. Quarterly Report of Routine Dock and Dredge/Fill Permits issued from April 1 to June 30, 2015.

# 7 Vouchers and Bills Paid:

Period June 14 through June 20, 2015

Payroll

ACH – \$3,323,043.73

Checks – \$45,579.64

Third Party ACH – \$13,848.17

Third Party Check – \$2,734.88

Accounts Payable

Checks – \$7,320,928.33

ACH Transfers – \$2,316,976.73

Wire Transfers – \$2,728,629.57

Period June 21 through June 27, 2015

Payroll – None

Accounts Payable

Checks – \$9,713,530.83

ACH Transfers – \$5,007,572.74

Wire Transfers – \$626,169.77

# 8 Miscellaneous items received for filing – None.

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- # 9a Resolution No. 15-73 adopted supplementing the Fiscal Year 2015 Fleet Management Fund Budget to appropriate earmarked receipts for a particular purpose (unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$623,000.00).
- # 9b Resolution No. 15-74 adopted supplementing the Fiscal Year 2015 General Fund Budget to appropriate earmarked receipts for a particular purpose (unanticipated revenue to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$542,080.00).
- #10 Resolution No. 15-75 adopted approving the County Incentive Grant Program Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the County Road 694 (Park Boulevard) at Park Street/Starkey Road Intersection Improvement Project from 84th Lane North to 82nd Avenue North (FDOT Financial Project No. 437138 1 54 01; County PID No. 001039A) (Grant amount, \$2,270,709.00; County cost, \$8,943,291.00); Chairman authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.
- #11 Quarterly Report of Claim Settlements for April 1 through June 30, 2015 for claims requiring the mutual consent of the County Attorney and Risk Management in the settlement range of \$25,001.00 to \$50,000.00 received for filing – no claims paid.
- #12 Notice of new lawsuits and defense of the same by the County Attorney approved in the cases of:
  - a. Linda Holbrook versus Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners – Circuit Civil Case No. 15-003952-CI-21 – Allegations of Negligence Resulting in Personal Injury.
  - b. Robert Malo, Sr. versus Board of County Commissioners, Pinellas County – Circuit Civil Case No. 15-004059-CI-7 – Allegations of Negligence Resulting in Personal Injury.
  - c. James E. Parks versus Fleet Management Pinellas County, a Florida Governmental Entity – Circuit Civil Case No. 15-003435-CI-15 – Allegations of Negligence Resulting in Personal Injury.
- #13 Sitting as the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority, the Board approved the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to St. Joseph's Hospital, Inc. for advanced life support ambulance service for interhospital transport of neonatal and critical care pediatric patients in accordance with Chapter 54, Pinellas County Code.



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#14 Sitting as the governing body of the Lealman Solid Waste Collection and Disposal District, the Board adopted the non-ad valorem assessment roll for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2015; Chairman authorized to certify the roll to the Tax Collector prior to September 15, 2015.

#15 Items pulled for discussion from Consent Agenda – None.

#16 Addressed earlier in the meeting after the Pledge of Allegiance.

#17 Fiscal Year 2015 Board Budget Amendment No. 6 approved realigning appropriations in the amount of \$600,000.00 from the General Government Non-Program cost center to the Sheriff center within the General Fund.

Motion	-	Commissioner Justice
Second	-	Commissioner Gerard
Vote	-	6 – 0

#18 Fiscal Year 2016 Elite Event Funding Recommendations from the Tourist Development Council approved to fund the following Fiscal Year 2016 Elite Events for a total cost of \$1,425,000.00: The Outback Bowl/Clearwater Beach Day, Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, The St. Petersburg Bowl, Valspar PGA Championship, Old Salt Baddest BBQ on the Bone and Fishing Slam, Clearwater Jazz Holiday, Bright House Clearwater National Super Boat Championship, East-West Shrine Game, Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival, Ribfest, Sea Blues Festival, and John's Pass Seafood Festival.

Motion	-	Commissioner Long
Second	-	Commissioner Welch

Chairman Morroni provided information regarding a recent Tourist Development Council workshop and expressed enthusiasm about future community events.

Vote	-	6 – 0
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#19 Change Order No. 1 (Final) to the contract with Cone and Graham, Inc., for Park Street Bridge Replacement (Contract No. 123-0016-CP; PID Nos. 000180A/2162 and 0000125A) approved, increasing the contract amount by \$298,997.48 for a revised total contract amount of \$1,393,633.01 and authorizing a time extension of 90 consecutive calendar days; Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

Motion	-	Commissioner Welch
Second	-	Commissioner Long
Vote	-	6 – 0

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- #20 Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for reimbursement of costs attributed to maintaining traffic control signals and devices on state roads within the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County approved; agreement provides for a 20-year term (estimated reimbursement amount through June 30, 2016, \$414,200.00); Chairman authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.

Motion	-	Commissioner Gerard
Second	-	Commissioner Welch
Vote	-	6 – 0

- #21 Resolution No. 15-76 adopted declaring two County-owned properties surplus and authorizing conveyance to the City of Largo at nominal cost, as authorized in Florida Statutes, Section 125.38 (2015) (property address: Lots 1 and 2 and Water Lots 1a and 2a, Belleair Cove Subdivision); Clerk authorized to attest and record the County Deed; Clerk authorized to record the resolution.

Motion	-	Commissioner Justice
Second	-	Commissioner Long
Vote	-	6 – 0

- #22 Other administrative matters – None.

- #23 Settlement authorized in the case of Brian Elliston and Jeri Elliston, his wife versus Pinellas County – Circuit Civil Case No. 14-005177-CI-13 – in accordance with the confidential memorandum from County Attorney James L. Bennett dated August 4, 2015.

Motion	-	Commissioner Welch
Second	-	Commissioner Gerard
Vote	-	6 – 0

- #24 County Attorney miscellaneous:

Attorney Bennett reported that Managing Assistant County Attorney Michael A. Zas and Senior Assistant County Attorney Carole Sanzeri have received their City, County, and Local Government Law Certification from The Florida Bar; and that half of the attorneys in his department are now Board Certified; whereupon, he related that Chief Assistant County Attorney Jewel White has been named to Florida Trend's 2015 Legal Elite list.

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Commissioner Eggers returned to the meeting at 1:56 P.M.

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- #25 Sitting as the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority, the Board approved the reappointments of Dr. Stephen Feilinger and Dr. Dominique Thuriere as Emergency Physician Representative and Hospital Administrator Representative, respectively, to the EMS Medical Control Board.

Madeira Beach Mayor and EMS Advisory Council Chairman Travis Palladeno discussed how the exchange of information between local hospitals and EMS has further improved the system for county residents, and commended staff for their outstanding work.

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

- #26 Sitting as the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority, the Board approved a revision to the EMS Medical Control Board Bylaws.

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

- #27 Sitting as the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority, the Board approved revisions to the EMS Rules and Regulations, as outlined in the agenda memorandum dated August 4, 2015, which has been filed and made a part of the record.

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

- #28 County Administrator reports:

Dunedin Causeway Bridges Project Development and Environment Update

Mr. Woodard reported that today's presentation relates to the Dunedin Causeway Bridges Project Development and Environment study regarding bridge replacement alternatives; that those alternatives were presented to the Dunedin City Council and Dunedin Ad Hoc Advisory Committee; and that project consultant Ann Venables, URS Corporation, will update the members regarding the replacement alternatives and provide a summary of input received from local residents during the public engagement process; whereupon, Ms. Venables conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Dunedin Causeway Bridges Project Development and Environment Study, Preliminary Screening of Alternatives – August 4, 2015 Pinellas County Commission Meeting*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and discussed the following topics:

- Meeting Purpose; Project Limits
- Project Need – Condition of Bridges
- Bridge Conditions:
  - Functionally Obsolete
  - Structural Deficiencies
  - Navigation Clearances
- Goal of Project Development and Environment Study
- Overview of National Environmental Policy Act
- Alternatives To Be Evaluated
- Replacement Alternatives:
  - Main Bridge
  - Tide Relief Bridge
- Community Involvement To Date
- Community Input from Kick-Off Open House
- Existing Bridge Typical Section
- Acceptable Bridge Typical Sections
- Proposed Bridge Typical Section for Preliminary Screening
- Rehabilitation Alternatives; Screening Factors Considered
- Tide Relief Bridge – Proposed Profile
- Profile Options – Main Bridge
- Preliminary Screening Matrix
- Recommended For Detailed Analysis
- Next Steps

Throughout the presentation, Ms. Venables, with input by Jim Phillips, Hardesty and Hanover, John Kenty, H.W. Lochner, Inc., and Ivan Fernandez and David Talhouk, Engineering and Technical Support, responded to queries by the members.

Which of the replacement alternatives for the main bridge is the most popular with the public? (*Morrone*)

- The high-level fixed bridge has received considerable opposition from the community versus the low-level or mid-level movable bridges.

Why is the community opposed to the high-level fixed bridge? (*Welch*)

- Residents wish to preserve the character and charm of the causeway, retain the current recreational uses and access, and avoid steeper road grades similar to the Clearwater Memorial Bridge.

Has shifting the alignment of the main bridge to the south been eliminated? *(Eggers)*

- The preliminary screening process and public input have indicated that there is sufficient reason to recommend the elimination of that alignment option.

Does the duration of construction affect the cost of building the bridge? *(Eggers)*

- The length of time it takes to build the bridge is much less of a factor than the additional \$10 million it would cost to build and remove a temporary bridge.

Will there be an operations and maintenance comparison of the various alternatives? *(Seel)*

- Yes. More information will be provided as the process continues, including more detailed analysis and lifecycle cost estimates.

How would the high-level fixed bridge affect recreational access? *(Seel)*

- While a detailed analysis has yet to be completed, the high-level alternative may open up some areas under the bridge for recreation; more detailed plans regarding access will be provided at the next workshop.

*Commissioner Seel suggested that as part of the education process, the public should be made aware that the high-level fixed bridge could provide better access for recreation.*

- The mid-level movable bridge also offers sufficient clearance for vehicular traffic.

Are the members being asked to concur with the bridge replacement alternatives as presented on Slide No. 35? *(Welch)*

- Yes.

What will be the lifespan of the bridges? How will sea level rise be addressed? *(Welch)*

- The anticipated lifespan of the bridges is 75 years. The affects of sea level rise will be included as part of the Project Development and Environment study.

As the south alignment is no longer being considered, was there considerable pushback from the various committees? *(Eggers)*

- Local community members and the Dunedin City Commission consider the south side alignment to be the least desirable option. In order to preserve the recreational opportunities on the south side, the Mayor of Dunedin requested that the existing alignment be moved as far north as possible without impacting the existing utilities.

Will the option of aligning the bridge slightly to the north be presented as an alternative? *(Eggers)*

- No. The recommendation is to consider building along the existing alignment and install a temporary movable bridge for the duration of the construction.

Are the Dunedin City Commission, the Ad Hoc Committee, and the local community okay with spending an additional \$10 million to retain the existing alignment? *(Morroni)*

- Yes. All parties clearly understand that the \$10 million are additional funds.

What is the business case for spending the additional \$10 million? *(Welch)*

- Preserving the existing footprint of the bridge allows the present recreational values to be maintained. If the bridge is shifted and those values are lost, as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, the Federal Highway Administration would require mitigation for the loss of value, which would be an actual dollar cost.
- Another business case for the existing alignment is that impacts to the wetlands, especially sea grasses, are expensive to mitigate. It could also accelerate the permitting process since permitting agencies look at how environmental impacts have been reduced as well as other issues.

Is there documentation available regarding whether the \$10 million expenditure is a good investment? *(Welch)*

- As far as the recreational values are concerned, this is a quantitative assessment. Dollar values have yet to be assigned. NEPA requires that the local community be engaged in order to create some kind of balance. The desire of the community is to preserve the recreational values and is aligned with NEPA principles.

Mr. Woodard requested that as part of the detailed analysis, an option be included that minimally impacts the recreation areas and utility lines but utilizes a different alignment; and that business case information, including total costs and other factors, be a part of that study; whereupon, Mr. Fernandez indicated that because the entire process is at a preliminary stage, it will be some time before such an analysis can be conducted, and Mr. Woodard confirmed that the members wish to receive a thorough review of various options, impacts, and financials.

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Commissioner Eggers expressed concern that the agenda item only indicates that an update is being presented; and that no community members are in the audience to hear any direction that may be provided by the members; whereupon, Mr. Talhouk, with input by Ms. Venables, indicated that the local community has been very involved throughout the process; and that he will inform the stakeholders of any actions taken regarding the item.

In response to queries by Commissioners Gerard and Seel, Ms. Venables related that even though many of the residents may not be in favor of a high-level fixed bridge, the Federal Highway Administration requires the option to remain in the study for more analysis before it can be eliminated; whereupon, Mr. Woodard stated that he will provide the members with electronic copies of the PowerPoint presentation.

During discussion, Mr. Woodard related that it is important for those in the City of Dunedin to realize that the NEPA process is one where all stakeholders are engaged; and that Pinellas County is a stakeholder because it will be providing project funding; whereupon, in response to queries by Commissioner Gerard, he indicated that past practice would suggest that Dunedin would not contribute funding to the project, and Commissioner Eggers related that because the causeway and the bridges are part of the unincorporated area, Dunedin is not expecting to be an equity participant.

Following brief discussion, Chairman Morroni confirmed that the members are in support of allowing the consultant to proceed with the analysis and move forward with the additional requests.

#29 County Administrator reports:

Pinellas County Care Fund

Mr. Woodard presented background information regarding the item; whereupon, Human Services Director Lourdes Benedict conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Pinellas County Care Fund, Emergency Help for Basic Needs*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and provided an overview of the program.

Ms. Benedict reported that the Pinellas County Care Fund was launched in May 2015; that it is designed to assist county residents who need help paying utility bills; that it offers an opportunity for local citizens to get involved and help their neighbors; and that various departments comprised the Development Team. She related that Pinellas County has partnered with 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares for screening and disbursement of funds; and

that her office meets with the organization on a weekly basis; whereupon, she explained that the Care Fund helps support the Adult Emergency Financial Assistance Program, and discussed program funding, calls received, and residents served.

Ms. Benedict presented information regarding how donations can be made to the Care Fund, relating that individuals and businesses can contribute online at [pinellascounty.org](http://pinellascounty.org) or mail a check to Pinellas County Human Services, and discussed the online payment processing fee; whereupon, Commissioner Gerard suggested that utility billing statements be modified to allow customers the option of donating when paying their bill by check or electronic funds transfer, and Chairman Morroni and Mr. Woodard provided input.

- #30 Appointment of James Holton and reappointment of Tom Kennedy, Cristina Coffin, and Chris Steinocher, each for a two-year term ending July 2017, to the Pinellas County Economic Development Council approved.

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

- #31 The Board approved and authorized transmittal of a letter to the Florida Deputy Secretary for County Health Systems concurring with the selection of Dr. Ulyee Choe as Director of the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County.

Health Department Director Dr. Claude M. Dharamraj introduced Dr. Choe as her successor, and in response to queries by Chairman Morroni, related that Dr. Choe will begin his employment on September 1; that her official last day is November 30; and that they will spend at least one month working together prior to her retirement; whereupon, the members extended a warm welcome to Dr. Choe.

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

Following the vote, Dr. Choe related that he looks forward to working with the Board and serving the residents of Pinellas County; whereupon, he reported that a successor has been chosen to take over his present duties at the Polk County and Hardee County Health Departments.



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#32 County Commission Miscellaneous:

- a. Commissioner Eggers thanked Mr. Woodard and staff for assistance in East Lake after flooding event.  
  
requested clarification on communicating with the Charter Review Commission, and Chairman Morroni, Commissioners Long and Welch, and Attorney Bennett provided input.
- b. Commissioner Welch thanked Mr. Woodard and staff for active communication during flooding event.
- c. Chairman Morroni discussed areas impacted by flooding event and thanked County staff for their hard work.
- d. Commissioner Justice reminded citizens that tonight is National Night Out at Target Stores in St. Petersburg Gateway Mall and Pinellas Park.  
  
congratulated St. Petersburg College on opening the Douglas L. Jamerson, Jr. Midtown Center.
- e. Commissioner Gerard echoed comment by Commissioner Justice re St. Petersburg College and thanked Public Works for help during flooding event.

#33 Meeting adjourned at 3:03 P.M.

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Chairman

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

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