

Clearwater, Florida, March 22, 2005

A meeting of the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission (CRC) (as created by Chapter 80-950, Laws of Florida) was held in the Swisher Building, Second Floor Conference Room, 509 East Avenue South, Clearwater at 5:08 P.M. on this date with the following members in attendance:

Alan Bomstein, Chairman
Susan Latvala, County Commissioner
Karen Burns
Robert C. Decker
Louis Kwall
Roger Wilson

Late Arrivals:

Ricardo Davis, Vice-Chairman
Roy Harrell

Absent:

Jim Sebesta, State Senator
James F. Coats, Sheriff
John Bryan, City of St. Petersburg Councilmember
Katie Cole
George Jirotko

Also Present:

Susan H. Churuti, County Attorney
James L. Bennett, Chief Assistant County Attorney
Dennis Long, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Assistant County Administrator D. Gay Lancaster
Chris Staubus, Assistant Director, Utilities
Kurt Spitzer, KS&A
Other interested individuals
MaryAnn Penhale, Board Reporter

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes

March 22, 2005

3. Presentations
 - Construction Licensing Board
 - License Board for Children's Centers and Family Day Care Homes
 - EMS Authority
4. Continued Discussion of Local Boards, Authorities and Districts
5. MGT Scope of Services
6. Discussion of Schedule, Locations and Issues
7. Other Business
8. Adjournment

WELCOME

Chairman Bomstein noted the absence of a quorum at the present time; and stated that approval of the minutes will be addressed later in the meeting; whereupon, he called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Spitzer confirmed that Senator Sebesta, Sheriff Coats, Councilmember Bryan, Ms. Cole, and Mr. Jirotko will not be attending; and Chairman Bomstein related that Messrs. Davis and Harrell are expected.

PINELLAS COUNTY CONSTRUCTION LICENSING BOARD (PCCLB) PRESENTATION

Deviating from the agenda, Chairman Bomstein indicated that the PCCLB presentation will be addressed next.

Rodney S. Fischer, Executive Director, PCCLB, indicated that it was created by a Special Act of the Legislature in 1973 as an independent special district; that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approves the entity's budget based on an interlocal agreement; and that any contractors in Pinellas County doing work in the county must either be registered or licensed with the PCCLB. Responding to queries by the Chairman, he discussed:

- the state of Florida's two-tier licensing system
- the specialty contractor classifications licensed by Pinellas County but not by the state

March 22, 2005

- the testing process and competency exams required to obtain a license
- the PCCLB's amendatory authority over the building code
- the establishment of the Coastal Construction Code

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At this time, 5:19 P.M., Mr. Harrell entered the meeting.

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Mr. Fischer indicated that the PCCLB has disciplinary authority over contractors working in the county who violate the building code or licensing laws; that he will leave a board packet with the Chairman for the members' perusal; and that the PCCLB has the ability to write citations against unlicensed individuals. In response to query by Chairman Bomstein, Mr. Fischer stated that several cities have indicated that if the PCCLB were to be incorporated under the county, their cooperation and involvement with the entity would erode very quickly; and that every city in the county has the same building code with the exception of the Coastal Construction Code with the beach communities.

In response to queries by Mr. Kwall, Mr. Fischer discussed:

- amendatory authority over the building code established by the State Legislature
- funding sources
- budget of approximately \$600,000
- payment for services provided by the county
- representation on the PCCLB

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At this time, 5:41 P.M., Mr. Davis entered the meeting.

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Responding to queries by Mr. Wilson, Mr. Fischer discussed the PCCLB's ability to respond to consumer complaints in a timelier manner than the state and to file administrative complaints against state licensed contractors.

March 22, 2005

MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2005 – APPROVED AS AMENDED;
MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF FEBRUARY 28 AND MARCH 7, 2005 – APPROVED

Noting the presence of a quorum, Chairman Bomstein presented the minutes of the meetings of February 7 and 28 and March 7, 2005. Mr. Harrell moved, seconded by Commissioner Latvala, that the minutes be approved; whereupon, Mr. Davis requested that the minutes of February 7 be amended to indicate his absence; and upon call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

LICENSE BOARD FOR CHILDREN'S CENTERS AND FAMILY DAY CARE
HOMES PRESENTATION

Linda Tamanini, Chairman, presented an overview of the License Board for Children's Centers and Family Day Care Homes, including historical background information regarding the board's creation by a Special Act in 1951, revised standards adopted in 1957, and the Special Act of 1961 which is currently operative, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record.

Ms. Tamanini related that the seven-member board includes representatives from the Health Department, School District, Department of Children and Families (DCF), BCC, Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB), and Professional Early Childhood Association; that there are eight advisory members representing family child care homes, children's centers and school age programs; that the board is the sole agency in Pinellas County that licenses child care; and that there are 827 licensed family child care homes and 407 children's centers with a total capacity of 43,298 slots available for licensed care in the community; whereupon, she discussed staffing, the food program, the standards set forth in Chapter 61-2681, and three drafts of new regulations scheduled for public hearing on April 29, copies of which have been filed and made a part of the record. She noted that operators of a children's center are required to abide by all regulations of the state and Pinellas County; and added that the board's regulations for exempting providers of child care before and after school from licensure are higher than those of the state, as are many of the regulations in Pinellas County to protect children.

Ms. Tamanini related that funding for the board is provided by:

- JWB – slightly more than \$1,000,000
- DCF – approximately \$250,000
- license application and renewal fees – approximately \$120,000

March 22, 2005

She referred to a meeting with the Executive Director of the JWB and expressed concerns as to whether the board would continue to receive the same amount of funding if it were to become part of the county system.

Responding to queries by Ms. Burns, Ms. Tamanini indicated that the aforementioned three sources of funding represent the complete budget; and that licensing of foster homes and medical foster homes is within the purview of DCF.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) AUTHORITY PRESENTATION

Chuck Kearns, Executive Director, Emergency Medical Services and Fire Administration, conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *2005 Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration, EMS Dependent District Operations prepared for Charter Review Commission*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and presented an overview of:

- performance-based contracts
- high performance, all paramedic ambulances
- centralized 9-1-1 center
- private ambulance company d/b/a Sunstar
- cost control methods
- key components of EMS system
- EMS administration and coordination
- one of the best out of hospital cardiac arrest survival rates in the world
- funding sources
- historical EMS millage rates from 1981 through next year

Chief Assistant County Administrator D. Gay Lancaster referenced discussion with County Administrator Stephen M. Spratt and related that with respect to consolidation of fire and EMS, there are some opportunities for economies that exist subject to very close review and cost containment; that if fire and EMS services were consolidated under the charter, they would together exceed the millage cap for the county; that consolidating fire service into the county would have a 3.3 mill impact which would force the county millage close to or beyond its cap; that the recommendation by the Pinellas Assembly for

March 22, 2005

consolidation of fire service into three distinct districts operating as a separate authority not under the BCC would have more practical application; that it would be difficult to force that type of consolidation given the political overlay; that current provision of fire and EMS service is excellent; that there has not been criticism of the services provided countywide; and that from a practical standpoint, it would be very difficult to accomplish consolidation.

Responding to queries by Chairman Bomstein, Mr. Kearns explained procedures regarding the dispatch of first responder units and Sunstar vehicles; and indicated that the millage is used to fund first responder units at the fire departments; whereupon, Ms. Lancaster provided input regarding the formula utilized in the decision-making process for funding requests.

In answer to questions by the members, Mr. Kearns indicated that every fire station has a first responder unit except for the airport fire rescue; that there are 63 fire stations in the county; and that the number of ambulances on the road at different times of the day are based on historical demand patterns; whereupon, he described procedures related to the medical helicopter.

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At this time, 6:24 P.M., Commissioner Latvala left the meeting.

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CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF LOCAL BOARDS, AUTHORITIES AND DISTRICTS

County Attorney Susan H. Churuti referred to a document titled *Special Act Analysis of Special Districts Initially Identified as Possibly Dependent*, and distributed two documents titled *Pinellas County Charter Review Commission, Charter Amendment #1 – Mosquito Control Program* and *Charter Amendment #2 - Water and Navigation Control Programs*, copies of which have been filed and made a part of the record.

Attorney Churuti reviewed the criteria for analysis of the PCCLB, the License Board for Children's Centers and Family Day Care Homes, EMS Authority, Mosquito Control Board, Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority and Unified Personnel Board and summarized the status of each as follows:

March 22, 2005

- PCCLB – probably independent
- License Board for Children’s Centers and Family Day Care Homes – could be either dependent or independent
- EMS Authority – dependent
- Mosquito Control Board – dependent
- Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority – dependent
- Unified Personnel Board – established by state law; governs constitutional officers in addition to BCC; cannot be converted to an ordinance without losing its authority over constitutional officers

Attorney Churuti reviewed the draft charter amendments for the Mosquito Control Program and the Water and Navigation Control Authority; whereupon, Mr. Kwall moved that the CRC move forward with the two potential charter amendments; seconded by Mr. Wilson, with the understanding that the matter is subject to additional discussion at the final ratification. Following discussion and additional input by Attorney Churuti as to the possible benefits resulting from the proposed charter amendments, upon call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Bomstein sought input from the members as to whether the County Attorney’s Office should address the PCCLB, the License Board for Children’s Centers and Family Day Care Centers or EMS. Mr. Harrell queried as to any documented possible savings that would result from changing the present structure; whereupon, Attorney Churuti indicated that the issue of savings would be addressed through the MGT study. Discussion ensued; and Chairman Bomstein noted that the members are free to revisit any of the aforesaid items in the future.

MGT OF AMERICA, INC. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Mr. Spitzer indicated that estimated cost figures have been obtained from MGT of America, Inc. in the amount of \$77,000 for fire, police, and building/zoning services, and close to \$70,000 for water/sewer and libraries.

Responding to query by Mr. Harrell, Stephen F. Humphrey, Jr., Senior Partner, MGT of America, Inc., discussed the original 1992 study; whereupon, Ken Cramer, Executive Director, Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association, expressed concerns regarding the data gathering process utilized for the previous study; and Chairman Bomstein requested that Mr. Humphrey speak specifically with Mr. Cramer to satisfy his concerns if the CRC approves moving forward with the MGT study.

March 22, 2005

Chairman Bomstein expressed concerns related to the issues of cost and time constraints, and inquired as to any possible savings and shortened time frame if the police element were eliminated from the study. Discussion ensued regarding the cost and need for the study, provision of knowledge to be obtained, whether any item should be pulled, what changes would occur if services were consolidated, and the elements to be included in the study.

Thereupon, Mr. Kwall moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, that the CRC enter into a contract with MGT of America, Inc. for \$77,000, with authorization for the Chairman to enter into the contract without waiting for the next meeting. Attorney Churuti stated that the Chairman might not have the authority to enter into the contract; that it might have to be presented to the BCC; and that she would look into the matter. During discussion, Mr. Harrell suggested that the proposed scope of work should be sent to the cities with a request for their input; and Mr. Spitzer related that he would be able to contact the cities via e-mail. Following additional discussion, Chairman Bomstein restated the motion to proceed with a contract with MGT of America, Inc. for \$77,000 to include the fire, police and building issues, to engage input from the cities regarding the scope of the project as it moves forward; whereupon, Mr. Kwall stated that he accepts the aforesaid amendment; and to authorize the Chairman to execute the contract if appropriate, or if not, to have the county submit the contract to the BCC for approval as soon as possible. Upon call for the vote, the motion carried 6 to 1, with Mr. Decker casting the dissenting vote.

Mr. Harrell moved, seconded by Mr. Kwall for the purpose of discussion, that the scope of services be expanded to include water/sewer and library for an additional \$70,940, bringing the total cost of the project to \$147,940. During discussion and in response to queries by the members, Mr. Humphrey explained the broader scope of the project related to the cost; stated that he believes the time line requirements can be met; and referenced similar studies by the company for various counties and cities. Following additional discussion and upon call for the vote, the motion carried 4 to 3, with Chairman Bomstein and Messrs. Decker and Kwall casting the dissenting votes.

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At this time, 7:21 P.M., Mr. Kwall left the meeting.

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DISCUSSION OF SCHEDULE, LOCATIONS, AND ISSUES

Chairman Bomstein reviewed a document titled *Pinellas County Charter Review Commission Draft Timeline*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the

March 22, 2005

record, indicated that the next meeting is scheduled for April 18 at the Young-Rainey STAR Center; and that approximately every third meeting will be scheduled at an alternative location.

Ms. Burns related that she is in favor of having the meetings at a location where they could be televised on the public cable channel.

Discussion ensued regarding alternative locations for future meetings; and Chairman Bomstein stated that the possibility of a site in the Carillon area would be investigated.

Chairman Bomstein sought input from the members regarding the scheduled topics; whereupon, Ms. Burns requested adding topics to the schedule regarding making the Supervisor of Elections nonpartisan and the Canvassing Board nonpartisan or multipartisan. Attorney Churuti provided input regarding the membership of the Canvassing Board and the constitutional status of the Supervisor of Elections; and following discussion, indicated that she would look into the aforementioned issues; whereupon, Chairman Bomstein stated that the topics will be scheduled for a future meeting.

Mr. Harrell requested that water/sewer and library be added to the schedule, as well as a separate discussion of a strategic planning organization referenced in his earlier memo to the members; Mr. Wilson indicated that he had requested discussion on planning; and Chairman Bomstein stated that information from the Pinellas Assembly could be provided for each of the items.

OTHER BUSINESS - NONE

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 P.M.