

Clearwater, Florida, September 3, 2003

The Pinellas Assembly Task Forces met in the Harborview Center, Cleveland Street, Clearwater, Florida, on this date at 6:35 P.M., with Karen Williams Seel, Board of County Commissioners Chairman and Frank DiDonato, City of Tarpon Springs Mayor and Mayors' Council President, presiding. A copy of the attendance roster has been filed and made a part of the record. Minutes prepared by MaryAnn Penhale, Board Reporter.

#### AGENDA

- I. Welcome: Karen Williams Seel, Chair  
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners  
  
Frank DiDonato, President  
Mayors' Council  
Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs
- II. Purpose
- III. Task Force Reports
  - A. Annexation Policy/Guidelines
  - B. City/MSTU Division of Costs and Revenues
  - C. Fire/Emergency Services Structures and Finance
  - D. Health Care Services
  - E. Law Enforcement Structures and Finance
  - F. Recreation Structures and Finance
  - G. Transportation Integration
- IV. Next Steps – Presentation of Task Forces Final Report
  - A. Process
  - B. Proposed Dates
  - C. Location
  - D. Facilitator
- V. Adjournment

#### WELCOME

County Commissioner Seel and Mayor DiDonato jointly called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. and welcomed the attendees.

September 3, 2003

PURPOSE

County Commissioner Seel indicated that the purpose of the meeting is for the seven task force Chairs to present their mid-point reports; whereupon, she thanked the task forces members, city and County staffs, and all those involved for their joint cooperative efforts. Thereupon, Mayor DiDonato reiterated an expression of thanks to the members and noted the significance of the Pinellas Assembly and its role in determining the future of Pinellas County.

ANNEXATION POLICY/GUIDELINES TASK FORCE REPORT

Task Force member Roger Sellew distributed copies of an interim report by the Annexation Policy/Guideline Task Force, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and reviewed the following:

- task force objective
- approach
- issues from Pinellas Assembly
- status
- work plan

The following issues were discussed by Mr. Sellew during a brief question and answer period:

- appropriateness of annexation for all unincorporated areas of Pinellas County
- effective cost allocations of services provided
- boundary lines
- mandatory annexation of enclaves

September 3, 2003

CITY/MSTU DIVISION OF COSTS AND REVENUES TASK FORCE REPORT

Chair Dick Holmes reviewed a summary memorandum dated September 3, 2003, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record; and indicated that the Task Force's primary goal is to understand the allocation methodologies within the Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) and apply a reasonableness standard; whereupon, he reviewed the process followed by the task force to date in attempting to identify key issues, including several informative presentations; and noted the significance of items such as the Sheriff's cost and the concept of base level of service. He also sought input and interaction with the other task forces in matters involving the MSTU and submitted a proposed roadmap for the group's future meetings.

Responding to query by City of Largo Mayor Robert Jackson, Mr. Holmes indicated that legal costs will be discussed in the future.

FIRE/EMERGENCY SERVICES STRUCTURES AND FINANCE TASK FORCE REPORT

Chair Ed Hooper outlined the meetings held to date and reviewed the following:

- funding
- potential for savings
- improved service
- feasibility of consolidation

He distributed draft recommendations stated in concept, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, as follows:

- Countywide Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating of 3 as an achievable goal
- possible implementation of a fire fee for nonresidential, nongovernment tax-exempt properties
- joint purchase of materials and equipment, workers' compensation and other forms of insurance

September 3, 2003

Responding to queries from the attendees, Mr. Hooper discussed the components of tax-exempt properties, joint purchasing through State contracts, Hazmat funding, standardization of fire equipment, closest unit dispatching, regional consolidation, salary levels and turnover rates.

### HEALTH CARE SERVICES TASK FORCE REPORT

Chair Ronnie Duncan summarized the accomplishments of the task force to date and discussed the following:

- definition of health care services
- responsibility for provision of health care
- communication issues
- repetitive services
- educational challenges
- archaic health care legislation
- funding aspects
- cost effectiveness

Mr. Duncan indicated that the task force is considering for recommendation to the Pinellas Assembly:

- creation of a framework of health care for the community known as “Healthy Pinellas”
- “Healthy Pinellas Day” utilizing the Pinellas Trail to provide flu shots, blood pressure and sugar screenings and education to the community
- understanding of existing resources in the private and public sectors and service providers

September 3, 2003

- enhancement of 2-1-1
- zero based planning for health care

Responding to queries by City of Clearwater Mayor Brian Aungst and City of Seminole Mayor Dottie Reeder, Mr. Duncan indicated that homeless issues and methods of keeping health care dollars in Pinellas County have been discussed by the members.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT STRUCTURES AND FINANCE TASK FORCE REPORT

Chair Terry England stated that at this time, the task force has not yet established firm opinions or consensus regarding the issues considered and is continuing to move forward in a workshop mode; whereupon, he discussed:

- report by police chiefs regarding possible law enforcement improvements
- response by Sheriff's Department to the above report
- studies re integration of selected County and municipal law enforcement operations
- Pinellas Police Standards Council workshop re issues and associated costs
- consolidation of law enforcement services Countywide
- standardization of budgets and contracts for law enforcement services
- technology related issues
- police authority across municipal boundaries re enclaves and annexations
- centralized records and notifications
- school issues and programs

September 3, 2003

- levels of service and associated budget

#### RECREATION STRUCTURES AND FINANCE TASK FORCE REPORT

Co-Chair Carlen Petersen presented a brief update of meetings held and progress to date; whereupon, she discussed:

- intergovernmental cooperation between County and municipalities
- standardization of use agreements for schools and the County
- increased need for therapeutic recreational programs
- necessity for County involvement in active recreation
- need for recreational fields
- use of sponsorship signage on land to create an additional revenue stream
- possible megacomplex of recreational facilities at Toytown site
- issues re unincorporated residents and fee structures

Responding to queries by City of Pinellas Park Mayor William Mischler and Mayors Aungst and Jackson, Ms. Petersen discussed facilities for disabled children, a reimbursement program for unincorporated residents, and prohibitions under the current County Charter regarding the use of parks.

#### TRANSPORTATION INTEGRATION TASK FORCE REPORT

Frank Murphy summarized the following issues discussed by the Transportation Integration Task Force at its meetings:

- alternative transportation
- revenue
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) long-range plans

September 3, 2003

- U.S. Highway 19
- land use documentation
  
- Tampa Bay partnership transportation
  
- high speed railway
  
- quality of life issues
  
- availability of federal funding
  
- gas tax issue

#### NEXT STEPS

Following input by the members, Commissioner Seel indicated that the proposed time line for presentation of final reports could be extended to January; whereupon, she stated that e-mail notification will be sent regarding scheduled dates. She requested suggestions regarding a suitable location for the final meeting and following discussion, noted consensus that she and Mayor DiDonato would serve as facilitators; that presentations would be scheduled for one half-day session in January; that another half-day session would be scheduled during February for a final vote; and that one vote each will be permitted for the County Commission and the Mayors' Council. During discussion, City of St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker suggested that a written report regarding the issues be submitted prior to the January meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.