

August 13, 2003

The Pinellas Assembly City and County Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) Task Force met in the Largo City Hall Training Center, 201 Highland Avenue, Largo, Florida, at 6:10 P.M. on this date with the following members in attendance: Dick Holmes, Chairman; Beverly Billiris; Wayne Darnell; John Doran; Sallie Parks; and C. R. Wedding.

Absent: Carlton Ward, Co-Chairman, and Bill Heller.

Also present: Mark Woodard, Pinellas County Government; Tina Wilson, City of Clearwater; Everett Rice, Pinellas County Sheriff; Camille P. Tharpe and Marguerite T. McCauley, Government Services Group, Inc.; Barbara Harb, Board Reporter; and other interested individuals.

AGENDA

1. Welcome/Call to Order
2. Approval of June 25, 2003 and July 23, 2003 Minutes
3. Simplified Presentation of the Recommended Sheriff's Office MSTU Allocation Methodology - Government Services Group
4. Responses to City Technical Team Questions - Government Services Group
5. Alternative Allocation Method Presentation - Andy Houston, City of St. Petersburg
6. Rebuttal of Alternative Allocation Method - Government Services Group
7. Discussion by Task Force of Consultant Report
8. Next Steps

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Holmes called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M. and indicated he had no opening remarks.

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APPROVAL OF JUNE 25 AND JULY 23, 2003 MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Wedding, seconded by Mr. Darnell and carried, the minutes of the June 25 and July 23, 2003 meetings were approved.

SIMPLIFIED PRESENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDED SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MSTU ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY

Ms. Tharpe and Ms. McCauley, Government Services Group, Inc. (GSG), conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) Allocation Formula and Related Studies*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, which included information regarding:

- ✓ Countywide and base level services provided by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO)
- ✓ Calculation for base level of service and methodology
- ✓ Funding formula allocations
- ✓ Workload allocation methodology
- ✓ Funding Formula Allocations
- ✓ Municipal law enforcement contracts methodology
- ✓ Summary of Findings
 - PCSO should continue to refine base level of service factors, given changing County conditions
 - PCSO should continue to capture and collect workload data to validate or improve the assumptions utilized in the MSTU/General Fund split

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At this time, 6:21 P.M., Mr. Ward entered the meeting.

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Ms. Tharpe referred to the request of the Task Force to exclude judicial and corrections expenses from the base level of service calculations, and noted that mathematically the funding levels remain the same.

RESPONSES TO CITY TECHNICAL TEAM QUESTIONS

Ms. Tharpe provided a document, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, responding to the City Technical Team questions; whereupon, Mr. Woodard reminded the Task Force members that the cities have formed an advisory committee to address the MSTU issue; that the committee has been meeting separate and apart from the work of the Task Force; that the committee brought forward a series of questions related to the GSG study at the last meeting of the Task Force; and that the Task Force requested that GSG provide a detailed response to each of the questions.

ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATION METHOD PRESENTATION/REBUTTAL OF ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATION METHOD

Andy Houston, City of St. Petersburg, conducted a presentation, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, that covered the following points:

- ✓ Goal of the study
- ✓ Percentage of related costs being paid by the unincorporated areas
- ✓ Impact of proposed methodology
- ✓ Revised approach - including allocated costs
- ✓ Impact of different allocation approaches
- ✓ Specific concerns
- ✓ Allocation of administrative oversight costs
- ✓ Conclusions/Recommendations

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Sheriff Rice indicated that he is willing to have GSG analyze the recommendations presented by Mr. Houston; that the entire County benefits from the resources that he has assigned primarily to the unincorporated areas; and that the residents of the unincorporated areas pay countywide and MSTU taxes. He cited examples of incidents for which the Sheriff's Office was called upon to assist municipal police departments, and suggested that the Task Force receive input from the city police chiefs as to the benefits derived from the Sheriff's Office.

Discussion ensued relative to the allocation of costs; and during questioning of the consultants with input by Mark Hough, PCSO, Mr. Ward noted that everyone agrees that the Sheriff provides a valuable service to the cities; and that the issue is that the cities feel they are paying more than the unincorporated areas for those services.

DISCUSSION BY TASK FORCE OF CONSULTANT REPORT

Ms. Tharpe and Ms. McCauley responded to questions from the members regarding the calculations for the base level of service and cost allocation methodology. Following further discussion and input by Mr. Woodard, Mr. Hough, and Kim Adams, City of Largo, Ms. Tharpe noted that currently the Sheriff has no way to capture the information necessary to include workload allocation in the base level of service; and that some agencies include costs in their budgets that others do not.

NEXT STEPS

Chairman Holmes suggested that Mr. Adams give a presentation similar to Mr. Houston's, outlining his points; and that the Sheriff's planner make a presentation relative to budget breakouts; whereupon Ms. Wilson suggested that the municipal advisory committee group, which includes Mr. Adams, make a presentation; and the Task Force members concurred. Chairman Holmes further suggested that the Task Force set the agenda for the September meeting at its next meeting.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Wilson distributed a copy of a memorandum from Maureen "Moe" Freaney, City of Dunedin, to Mayor John Doglione, which has been filed and made a part of the record, which gave a brief update on the status of the MSTU Task Force.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Holmes adjourned the meeting at 8:20 P.M.