

August 27, 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 6:15 P.M. on this date with the following members in attendance: Dick Holmes, Chairman; Carlton Ward, Co-Chairman; Beverly Billiris; Bill Heller; Sallie Parks; and C. R. Wedding.

Absent: Wayne Darnell and John Doran.

Also present: Maureen (Moe) Freaney, City of Dunedin; Mark S. Woodard, Pinellas County Government; Everett S. Rice, Pinellas County Sheriff; other interested individuals; and MaryAnn Penhale, Board Reporter.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Holmes called the meeting to order at 6:15 P.M. and noted the presence of a quorum; whereupon, he referred to an e-mail sent to the members, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and indicated that it outlines a proposed road map for future meetings.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF KEY POINTS IN ANALYSIS THUS FAR

At the direction of Chairman Holmes, Ms. Freaney sought input from the members regarding the following:

- Determination of all pieces of the puzzle re the County, the cities and the MSTU
- Plan for format of upcoming meetings
- Identification of information needs

Ms. Freaney indicated that a presentation from the City MSTU Technical Committee has been scheduled for a future meeting in September; whereupon, Chairman Holmes related that a meeting of the Pinellas Assembly Task Forces will be held on September 3, 2003, at which time all Chairs of the individual task forces will present brief status reports.

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Thereupon, Chairman Holmes sought input and direction from the members. Items discussed included:

- Information needed from other committees
- Other issues to be considered
- Base level of service
- No services identified as 100 percent paid for by the MSTU
- Rejection by voters in Seminole annexation referendum
- Focus of the MSTU Task Force
- Proposed panel discussion with police chiefs
- Importance of presentation by City MSTU Technical Committee
- Review of other services funded by the MSTU

Mr. Woodard referred to his presentation regarding the MSTU budget at the first meeting of the Task Force; whereupon, he distributed copies of a sample matrix, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and related that he could present details regarding County/unincorporated revenues at an upcoming meeting.

Thereupon, Mr. Wedding moved, seconded by Ms. Billiris, that the Task Force follow the proposed road map as outlined in the Chairman's e-mail, together with the modification that law enforcement personnel be invited to participate in the next meeting in September. During discussion, Ms. Freaney suggested that the presentation by the City MSTU Technical Committee on the Consultant's Report be temporarily deferred to the second meeting in September; and Chairman Holmes suggested that the matrix and review of services also be addressed at that time; and no objections were noted.

During discussion which ensued regarding the proposed meeting with the police chiefs, the following points were noted:

- Law enforcement representative acceptable if police chief unable to attend
- Explanation of value added to police departments by Sheriff's Office

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- Examples of Sheriff's Office assistance/support to police departments
- Panel discussion rather than debate format

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Following discussion, Chairman Holmes confirmed the following dates for the upcoming meetings:

- Thursday, September 11, 2003 – 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
- Thursday, September 25, 2003 – 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
- Wednesday, October 8, 2003
- Wednesday, October 22, 2003

Chairman Holmes noted that the date for the November meeting will not be scheduled at the present time; whereupon, Ms. Freaney confirmed that the next meeting will encompass the panel discussion with the police chiefs; and that the City MSTU Technical Committee presentation and review of the matrix will be scheduled for the following meeting on September 25.

In response to the Chairman's call for persons wishing to be heard, Sheriff Rice referred to discussion during the meeting of August 13, 2003 and distributed a document regarding services provided by the Sheriff's Office, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record. He provided historical background information regarding implementation of the MSTU to ensure that the public in the unincorporated areas received a municipal level of police service from the County through the Sheriff; indicated that a representative from his office would be able to attend the scheduled meeting with the police chiefs on September 11, 2003; discussed the Government Services Group, Inc. report regarding the MSTU allocation; and cited two recent incidents exemplifying services provided to municipalities by the Sheriff's Office. He also distributed documents regarding per capita calculations, copies of which have been filed and made a part of the record.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Responding to query by Ms. Parks, Chairman Holmes confirmed that the Pinellas Assembly Task Forces meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3, 2003 from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. at the Harborview Center in Clearwater.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Holmes adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M.