

September 11, 2003

The Pinellas Assembly City and County Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) Task Force met in the Largo City Hall Community Room, 201 Highland Avenue, Largo, Florida, at 6:10 P.M. on this date with the following members in attendance: Dick Holmes, Chairman; Carlton Ward, Co-Chairman; Beverly Billiris; Wayne Darnell; John Doran; Bill Heller; and Sallie Parks.

Absent: C. R. Wedding.

Panel members: Lester Aradi, City of Largo Chief of Police; James F. Coats, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy; James Ernst, Town of Kenneth City Chief of Police; Chuck Harmon, City of St. Petersburg Chief of Police; George Harmansky, Town of Belleair Chief of Police; Sid Klein, City of Clearwater Chief of Police; Bob Kochem, Captain, City of Tarpon Springs Police Department; David Romine, City of St. Pete Beach Chief of Police; Doreen Thomas, City of Pinellas Park Chief of Police; and Robert Vincent, Town of Gulfport Interim Chief of Police.

Also present: Maureen (Moe) Freaney, City of Dunedin; Mark S. Woodard, Pinellas County Government; other interested individuals; and Carol J. Jones, Board Reporter.

AGENDA

1. Welcome/Call to Order
2. Approval of August 27, 2003 Minutes
3. Summary and Report on September 3 Assembly Meeting
4. Police Chiefs' Panel Presentation/Discussion

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Holmes called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M., and noting the absence of the August 27, 2003 minutes, indicated that approval of same will be deferred until the next meeting; whereupon, at the Chairman's request, the panel and Task Force members introduced themselves.

September 11, 2003

SUMMARY AND REPORT ON SEPTEMBER 3 ASSEMBLY MEETING

Chairman Holmes presented an overview of the September 3 Pinellas Assembly Task Force Chairmen's meeting and reported that no response had been received with regard to his offer of interaction and input with the other Task Forces; whereupon, at the Chairman's request, Ms. Freaney summarized the presentations by the other Task Forces and indicated that the Mayors' Council had determined that Commissioner Seel and Mayor DiDonato would continue coordinating the Assembly; and that a final presentation by the Task Forces will be scheduled for the second week in January. She noted that City of St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker had requested that a written summary of the Task Forces' findings be furnished to the mayors prior to the actual presentations.

POLICE CHIEFS' PANEL PRESENTATION

Following Chairman Holmes' reference to the question "What is the law enforcement value to the cities of having a Sheriff in Pinellas County? which he posed to the panel members in his August 29 invitation to all city police chiefs, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, discussion ensued with regard to:

- Functional consolidation: i.e., radio communications, forensic services
- Final Report of Pinellas Police Standards Council Retreat
- Ancillary Services Tax
- Municipal police authority in unincorporated areas
- Choice Program's financial impact on police departments
- Countywide prisoner transport system
- Community policing concept
- Sheriff's contracts and costing
- Government Services' Group, Inc. (GSG) consultant report
- Annexation's impact on law enforcement services
- Positive need for Sheriff's functional services countywide

September 11, 2003

In response to query by Chief Klein, Mr. Woodard presented an explanation of the three tax levies involved with ad valorem taxes, as such:

- MSTU – imposed exclusively on unincorporated area
- Countywide – paid by all residents of Pinellas County
- Municipal – imposed by each individual city

Following additional discussion with regard to the cost allocation process for the Sheriff's services and input by Mr. Woodard, Chairman Holmes expressed the Task Force's appreciation to the panel members; and indicated that the Technical Committee will be addressing the GSG consultant report at the September 25 meeting; and that it will take place in the City of Largo Training Center at 6:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Holmes adjourned the meeting at 8:10 P.M.