

November 12, 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 6:09 P.M. on this date with the following members in attendance: Dick Holmes, Chairman; Beverley Billiris; John Doran; Sallie Parks; and C.R. Wedding.

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

Also present: Maureen "Moe" Freaney, City of Dunedin; Mark Woodard, Assistant County Administrator; Arlene Smitke, Board Reporter; and other interested individuals.

AGENDA

1. Welcome/Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – September 25 and October 29, 2003
3. Discussion and Determination of Task Force Recommendations
4. Final Report

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Holmes called the meeting to order at 6:09 P.M. and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 25 AND OCTOBER 29, 2003 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Doran moved, seconded by Mr. Wedding and carried, that the minutes of the September 25 and October 29, 2003 meetings be approved.

FINAL REPORT

Deviating from the agenda, Chairman Holmes referred to the November 7, 2003 memo from Assistant County Administrator Elithia V. Stanfield and noted that the attached documents provide the format for the final report to the Pinellas Assembly as approved by Commissioner Seel and Mayor DiDonato on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners and the Mayors' Council, respectively; and suggested that the Task Force

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review the format prior to proceeding with formulation of recommendations. Discussion ensued; whereupon, Ms. Freaney read a draft Issue Statement and statement of Task Force Objectives which she had prepared; and Mr. Woodard indicated that he is working on the Finding of Facts portion of the report. He reiterated a statement by Ms. Freaney that the report should be a stand-alone historical document, including as appendices all reports and handouts received by the Task Force, as well as the minutes of all meetings.

DISCUSSION AND DETERMINATION OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Freaney distributed a document entitled *Task Force Proposed Recommendations*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, which includes the recommendations submitted by individual Task Force members. Discussion ensued; whereupon, the members voted unanimously to approve each of the following recommendations of the MSTU Task Force.

- ◆ Upon motion by Mr. Wedding, seconded by Ms. Parks, and amended:

A Tax Equity Board shall be created. It should be charged to review, on a three-year basis, the cost/benefit ratio submitted by the County Budget Department and determine a fair distribution of the tax load for the services provided. Support for the Board's efforts would come from an ad-hoc staff, evolving from the technical committee utilized by the Task Force, made up of representatives from the budgetary departments of the cities and the County Budget Director. The Board's recommendations would be forwarded to the County Commission for endorsement and adoption during the normal budget cycle each year.

- ◆ Upon motion by Mr. Doran, seconded by Mr. Wedding:

Through cooperation of the County and the cities, staff management teams should be developed to review the following remaining equity issues and provide reports on the various areas to the County Commission and the Mayors' Council:

- a. *Water/Sewer Surcharge (25%) for unincorporated residents within municipal service areas.*
- b. *Fire District revenue allocation to cities.*

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- c. Pinellas County Library Cooperative revenue allocation to cities.*
- d. The one-half cent sales tax revenue allocation.*
- ◆ Upon motion by Ms. Parks, seconded by Mr. Wedding:
County staff should recommend and Board of County Commissioners should approve a more definitive Fund Balance policy for the MSTU.
- ◆ Upon motion by Ms. Billiris, seconded by Ms. Parks:
County staff and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office will review the MSTU allocation methodology with the city managers annually.

Chairman Holmes referred to a recommendation submitted by Co-Chairman Darnell that the various conclusions and recommendations be distributed via e-mail to all Task Force members and voted upon individually; and solicited the input of those present. Mr. Wedding acknowledged that a final draft of the recommendations should be distributed; but questioned the necessity of a formal vote. Following discussion, Chairman Holmes directed that each member's comments in reply to the e-mail distribution shall serve as his or her vote; and that all responses should be submitted by December 1, 2003; whereupon, Mr. Woodard and Ms. Freaney indicated that they will work together to complete the remainder of the work by December 1.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wedding moved that the meeting be adjourned; whereupon, Chairman Holmes noted that the final reports of the various Pinellas Assembly Task Forces will be presented at a meeting on January 9, 2004, which he encouraged the members to attend. Following discussion and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 P.M.