

# **Pinellas County**

*315 Court Street, 5th Floor Assembly Room  
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



## **Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, April 11, 2017**

**9:30 AM**

**BCC Assembly Room**

## **Board of County Commissioners**

*Janet C. Long, Chairman  
Kenneth T. Welch, Vice-Chairman  
Dave Eggers  
Pat Gerard  
Charlie Justice  
John Morrone  
Karen Williams Seel*

**ROLL CALL - 9:33 A.M.**

**Present:** 5 - Chairman Janet C. Long, Vice-Chairman Kenneth T. Welch, Dave Eggers, Charlie Justice, and Karen Williams Seel

**Absent:** 2 - Pat Gerard, and John Morroni

**Others Present:** James L. Bennett, County Attorney; Mark S. Woodard, County Administrator; Claretha N. Harris, Chief Deputy Clerk; and Tony Fabrizio and Michael Schmidt, Board Reporters, Deputy Clerks.

**INVOCATION by Commissioner Charlie Justice****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. Gopher Tortoise Day Proclamation - Troop 60720 of the Beautiful Waters Girl Scout Service Unit.

Proclamation presented to Girl Scouts Ava, Ashley, and Gabriella who discussed how their troop is creating community awareness to help protect the gopher tortoise species.

2. Partner Presentation:  
Port Tampa Bay - Paul Anderson, President/CEO.

Mr. Anderson referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! Partner Presentation, Port Tampa Bay*, a copy of which has been made a part of the record, and discussed the port's mission and regional economic impact. He provided information regarding business growth, cargo diversity, future infrastructure, financial considerations, land holdings, safety and security readiness, road and rail connectivity, and generational and environmental projects; whereupon, he discussed the Channelside District Vision and the Vision 2030 Master Plan, indicating that Port Tampa Bay is *bullish on the future*; and that Pinellas County is a strategic partner in the continued growth and diversification of the port.

In response to comments and queries by the members, Mr. Anderson discussed how larger cranes at the port, anticipated free trade with Cuba, and expansion of the Panama Canal will benefit the port; whereupon, he provided information regarding the length and maintenance of the shipping channel and the height of the Skyway Bridge, and noted that even though the new generation of cruise ships is unable to sail under the bridge, smaller ships will provide for a stable cruise business over the next decade.

In response to queries by Commissioners Justice, Welch, and Seel, Mr. Anderson related that even though sea level rise is not an imminent threat to the port, it will be discussed during long-term planning efforts. He related that the port wants to greatly

expand its business; and that the larger cranes will allow it to service wide international ocean liners; whereupon, he presented financial and logistical information with regard to refrigerated produce coming from Latin America and being shipped by refrigerated rail cars throughout the United States, and Commissioner Long expressed her enthusiasm regarding the Port Tampa Bay rebranding.

3. Partner Presentation:

Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion Update - Pinellas County Sheriff Robert Gualtieri.

Sheriff Gualtieri related that the APAD program is countywide; that it provides law enforcement with an alternative to arresting individuals; that it allows those individuals to avoid a criminal arrest record for certain minor offenses; and that it eliminates subsequent issues that may arise as the result of an arrest. He indicated that the program diverts people from the criminal justice system; that it prevents unnecessary incarceration; that it provides equal access for all individuals through objective assessments; and that there is no cost to participate; whereupon, he reported that the program is supported by the Sheriff, Chief Judge, State Attorney, Public Defender, Clerk of Court, and all municipal police chiefs.

Thereupon, Sheriff Gualtieri referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion*, a copy of which has been made a part of the record, and discussed the following:

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Program Criteria
- Eligible Offenses
- Diversion Placement - Law Enforcement Officer
- Diversion Placement - Jail
- Diversion Placement - Notice to Appear
- Reporting to APAD
- Diversion Sanctions
- Successful Program Completion
- Diversion Violation
- Results

Sheriff Gualtieri related that he is pleased with the success of the APAD program; that he appreciates the \$300,000 in financial support provided by the Board; and that he will hold a stakeholder meeting during the summer so that the participants can engage in discussion, conduct an assessment, and make program revisions if necessary; whereupon, Commissioner Welch related that the program is well crafted and meets community needs and, in response to his queries, Sheriff Gualtieri related that even though he has received no feedback regarding transportation being an impediment to those who wish to access the program, he is willing to set up an office in St. Petersburg one or two days a week, if necessary.

During further discussion, Sheriff Gualtieri indicated that there is generally not a need to provide mental health and/or substance abuse services since the present program participants are first-time offenders; whereupon, in response to comments and queries

by Commissioner Eggers and Chairman Long, he discussed the consequences for those 67 individuals who did not appear for their initial screening.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

**All public hearing items have been properly advertised. Affidavits of Publication have been received and are on file in the Board Records Department.**

### BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

4. Petition of Ruben and Zoraida Sanchez to vacate a portion of a drainage easement on Lot 110, Unit 2, Allen's Ridge Subdivision (quasi-judicial hearing).

Resolution No. 17-13 adopted granting the petition. Authority granted for the Clerk to record the resolution. Letters of no objection received from all appropriate parties. Interested property owners were notified as to the date of the public hearing. Staff recommended the vacation be granted. No correspondence has been received.

In response to the Chairman's call for persons wishing to be heard, Ruben Sanchez, Palm Harbor, explained the basis for his request.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Welch, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Chairman Long, Vice-Chairman Welch, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Seel

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Gerard, and Commissioner Morroni

5. Ordinance amending the County Land Development Code by revising Section 170-266 relating to placement of vertical structures for the mounting of antennae, revising Section 170-267 relating to utility work definitions, and creating Section 170-277 relating to wireless communication facilities.

Ordinance No. 17-12 adopted. No correspondence has been received.

Following a brief introduction of the item by Mr. Woodard, Public Works Technical Services Staff Director Ivan J. Fernandez conducted a PowerPoint Presentation titled *Doing Things! Public Works*, a copy of which has been made a part of the record, and provided information regarding communication facilities in the right-of-way. He discussed existing County Code, the Telecommunications Act, and the six-month permitting moratorium enacted by the County set to expire on April 25; whereupon, he presented information regarding the objective of the modified ordinance, the items to be addressed, the modification and implementation process, and potential challenges by state legislative bills.

In response to queries by Commissioners Justice, Welch, and Seel, Managing Assistant County Attorney Christy D. Pemberton discussed state law, regulatory authority, ordinance standards, the preemption issue, the application process, the anticipated number of application submissions, and the placement/spacing of small cell infrastructure across the county; whereupon, Public Works Director Rahim Harji indicated that the cities are likely waiting for Pinellas County to adopt its ordinance prior to adopting their own municipal ordinances, and Mr. Woodard provided input.

In response to further queries by Commissioners Seel and Justice, Mr. Harji provided information relating to safety, aesthetics, camouflage, infrastructure, and flexibility, indicating that the ordinance is a good partnership effort between the County and the industry; whereupon, Attorney Pemberton discussed the rationale for enacting the ordinance and how the issue of right-of-way capacity will be addressed, and Messrs. Woodard and Harji provided input.

In response to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Harji provided information regarding light pole heights within residential neighborhoods and alongside arterial roads and, with input by Mr. Woodard, discussed utilizing existing poles versus erecting additional poles when locating small cell infrastructure; whereupon, he noted that the current moratorium will need to be rescinded in order to adopt the proposed ordinance; and that the word *is* needs to be removed from Section 170-277(D)4.

In response to the Chairman's call for persons wishing to be heard, Christopher Parra, St. Petersburg, spoke in support of the proposed ordinance and provided background information regarding himself and his company. Responding to queries by the members, Mr. Parra displayed photographs of small cell installations, discussed the rationale his firm uses in determining placement of infrastructure, provided statistical information with regard to co-location versus placement of new poles, and presented maps of proposed small cell locations in northern, central, and southern Pinellas County; whereupon, he requested that the members pass the ordinance.

Thereupon, Commissioner Welch moved, seconded by Commissioner Justice, that the ordinance be approved.

Commissioner Seel requested that the ordinance address the distance of small cell infrastructure from a driveway; that the distance be ten feet for safety reasons; and that camouflaging techniques also be used in residential areas, and Mr. Woodard related that staff has the latitude to address both issues when reviewing applications. Mr. Harji indicated that the ordinance language can be revised to read *residential or historic* and, in response to query by Commissioner Seel, Commissioner Welch accepted the amended language, and discussion ensued.

Attorney Bennett clarified the motion to include the striking of the word *is*, rescission of the moratorium upon approval of the ordinance, and inclusion of the language *residential or historic*, and Commissioner Welch agreed.

---

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Welch, seconded by Commissioner Justice, that the item be approved with the amendments as discussed. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Chairman Long, Vice-Chairman Welch, Commissioner Eggers, and Commissioner Justice

**Nay:** 1 - Commissioner Seel

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Gerard, and Commissioner Morroni

**6.** Ordinance amending County Code providing for locations, zoning, operating conditions, and number of medical marijuana dispensing facilities and treatment centers (first hearing).

Mr. Woodard provided historical background information regarding the item, relating that the members adopted a moratorium last year regarding the placement of facilities that will be dispensing medical marijuana; that staff has been working on a regulatory framework for evaluation of applications as they appear; and that a proposed ordinance is before the members today for consideration; whereupon, Planning Director Renea Vincent referred to a PowerPoint Presentation titled *Proposed Amendment to the Pinellas County Land Development Code*, a copy of which has been made a part of the record, and discussed various aspects of the proposed ordinance, including information regarding regulated facility types, zoning districts, and performance standards.

In response to queries by Commissioners Seel, Eggers, and Welch, Ms. Vincent related that the ordinance would allow seven manufacturing and seven freestanding retail facilities in the unincorporated area; that the state continues to develop legislation regarding the number of facilities allowed; that future facilities in the cities would add to the number of those in the unincorporated area; and that there are performance standards over which the County has control; whereupon, with input by Development Review Services Director Blake G. Lyon, she provided information regarding vertically integrated facilities, which can manufacture, process, and sell product, and discussed Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles, relating that from a crime prevention perspective, the facilities and grounds are being reviewed, not issues relating to cyber security.

In response to comments and queries by Commissioners Justice, Long, and Seel, Ms. Vincent discussed the standards that were used to fashion the ordinance, indicating that medical marijuana is being treated similar to alcohol in order to provide for better control, and Mr. Woodard reminded the members that the ordinance is a staff proposal based upon what other communities have done. Ms. Vincent indicated that Pinellas County ordinances are living documents and need to be reviewed and updated periodically; whereupon, she noted the date of the second public hearing and discussed why language regarding daycare centers was removed from the ordinance, and Commissioner Seel stated that she would prefer a 1000-foot separation distance between facilities and schools.

In response to queries by the members, Senior Assistant County Attorney David S. Sadowsky, with input by Attorney Bennett and Mr. Woodard, presented information regarding facility proliferation, legal ramifications, and provider certification. He stated that Pinellas County does not want to deny access to those who wish to enter into the market and, referring to a map, pointed out two existing facilities, discussed their operations, and provided information regarding separation requirements; whereupon, Ms. Vincent related that she will bring a GIS map to the second public hearing, which will provide a representation of a 1000-foot buffer.

In response to the Chairman's call for persons wishing to be heard, Jessica Spencer, St. Petersburg, and Todd Pressman, Palm Harbor, presented their comments and concerns.

### **CONSENT AGENDA (Items 7 Through 15)**

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Welch, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that the Consent Agenda Items be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Chairman Long, Vice-Chairman Welch, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Seel

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Gerard, and Commissioner Morroni

### CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

7. Minutes of the regular meeting held March 7, 2017.
8. Vouchers and bills paid from February 19 through March 4, 2017.

Period February 19 through February 25, 2017

Payroll - \$3,299,680.05

Accounts Payable - \$13,578,645.60

Period February 26 through March 4, 2017

Payroll - None

Accounts Payable - \$55,294,933.81

Reports received for filing:

9. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Report No. 2017-03 dated March 9, 2017 - Audit of Risk Management's Internal Controls Over DAVID Information.

10. Dock Fee Report for the month of February 2017.
11. City of Safety Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2016.

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

12. City of Clearwater Ordinances Nos. 8989-17 and 8992-17 adopted February 2, 2017, voluntarily annexing certain properties.
13. City of Seminole Ordinances Nos. 07-2017 through 09-2017 adopted February 28, 2017, voluntarily annexing certain properties.

#### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

##### Human Services

14. Resolution supplementing the FY 2017 General Fund Budget for unanticipated revenue to the Human Services Department and the Public Defender of the Sixth Judicial Circuit.  
Resolution No. 17-14 adopted appropriating earmarked receipts for a particular purpose (unanticipated grant revenue in the amount of \$266,670.00).

#### COUNTY ATTORNEY

15. Notice of new lawsuit and defense of the same by the County Attorney in the case of Julie H. Haagsma v. Pinellas County, et al. - Circuit Civil Case No. 14-004502-CI - allegations of negligence resulting in personal injuries.

**Meeting Recessed: 12:13 P.M.**

**Meeting Reconvened: 12:50 P.M.**

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None.

#### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Planning

16. Resolutions granting ad valorem tax exemptions for five historic properties located within the City of St. Petersburg.

Resolutions Nos. 17-15 through 17-19 adopted granting the exemptions, as follows:

17-15 436 12th Avenue Northeast, a contributing property to the North Shore Historic District.

17-16 750 3rd Street North, a Local Historic Landmark.

17-17 806 18th Avenue Northeast, a Local Historic Landmark and a contributing property to the North Shore Historic District.

17-18 600 Beach Drive Northeast, a Local Historic Landmark and a contributing property to the North Shore Historic District.

17-19 2601 3rd Avenue North, a contributing property to the Kenwood Historic District.

Exemptions are valid for a period of ten years beginning on January 1, 2017 and ending on December 31, 2026. Chairman authorized to sign the tax exemption covenants and the Clerk to attest.

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Welch, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Chairman Long, Vice-Chairman Welch, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Seel

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Gerard, and Commissioner Morroni

Real Estate Management

17. Resolution and lease agreement with Creative Pinellas Inc., for the property located at 12211 Walsingham Road, Largo.

Resolution No. 17-20 adopted and lease agreement approved authorizing the relocation of Creative Pinellas, Inc. to the former administration building of the Gulfcoast Museum of Art. Lease is for a term of one year, and is subject to one-year renewals thereafter.

At Commissioner Eggers' request, Creative Pinellas Executive Director Barbara St. Clair came forward and related that her team has exciting ideas for how to use the facility to promote the arts and establish an arts business incubator that will attract other occupants to the building.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Welch, Ms. St. Clair indicated that the 5,500-square-foot building is substantially larger than the organization's current space and includes offices and a conference room, and acknowledged that the County is providing utilities, telecommunications, and other services.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Welch, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Chairman Long, Vice-Chairman Welch, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Seel

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Gerard, and Commissioner Morroni

### Utilities

18. Utility Work by Highway Contractor Agreement, Three Party Escrow Agreement, and Resolution Utility Agreement for the Gateway Expressway Project.

Resolution Utility Agreement adopted and agreements approved with the Florida Department of Transportation and the State of Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Treasury (FDOT Financial Project No. 433880-1-52-01; Utilities PID No. 002627A). Utilities to be relocated at a fixed cost of \$4,118,793.20.

**A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Welch, seconded by Commissioner Eggers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Chairman Long, Vice-Chairman Welch, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Seel

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Gerard, and Commissioner Morroni

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

19. County Administrator miscellaneous: None.

### COUNTY ATTORNEY

20. Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Bryan Collins and Kathleen Collins v. Golf Terrace Investment Company, LP, et al., HUD Case No. 04-16-5015-8; PC Case No. 16-074 - alleged housing discrimination.

Authorization granted to litigate an additional charge through the existing agreement with Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc.

Attorney Bennett indicated that the item expands previously approved litigation to include allegations of retaliation and discriminatory conduct.

---

**A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Chairman Long, Vice-Chairman Welch, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Seel

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Gerard, and Commissioner Morroni

21. Proposed settlement in the case of Bright House Networks, LLC v. Pinellas County, et al. - Circuit Civil Case No. 10-005384-CI-07.

Settlement approved in accordance with the confidential memorandum from County Attorney James L. Bennett dated April 11, 2017.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Chairman Long, Vice-Chairman Welch, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Seel

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Gerard, and Commissioner Morroni

22. County Attorney miscellaneous: None.

#### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

23. County Administrator reports:
- Doing Things! TV
    - Beach Nourishment
    - Farm Share
  - Legislative Updates - State

##### **Doing Things! TV**

At Mr. Woodard's request, staff played the County's two latest *Doing Things!* YouTube videos.

*Beach Nourishment* highlighted the environmental stewardship the County practices in restoring eroded beaches, emphasizing the benefits of storm protection, sea life preservation, recreational use, and tourism appeal.

*Farm Share* focused on a farm-to-table event that took place recently at Clearwater's Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in which fresh produce donations from Florida farms were distributed to citizens in need. Chairman Long and Commissioner Justice were interviewed at the event and noted the importance of providing healthy food options to all citizens.

## Legislative Updates

Special Assistant to the Administrator Canaan McCaslin conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Legislative Update - State, April 11, 2017*, a copy of which has been made a part of the record, and provided updates as follows:

- Bills that update the beach nourishment ranking criteria are moving through the House and Senate. They focus on inlet sand management and require the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a three-year work plan.
- Legislators have agreed to proposed changes to the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board, including the addition of a representative from the County Consumer Protection division, and will be watching how the Board operates this year to determine whether additional reform is needed.
- A House bill that prohibits regulations by local governments on vacation rentals has passed two committees, and a related Senate bill that allows local regulations as long as they are applied universally was postponed in its second committee but may be heard at a future committee meeting.
- A bill providing statewide regulatory guidance for transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft has passed the full House, and a companion Senate bill has been placed on the floor calendar.
- Bills requiring local governments to hold sales tax referenda on the date of a general or primary election have been amended to include new take-effect dates that are after the 2017 Penny for Pinellas referendum and, therefore, will not impact that election. The bills also specify whether a majority or super majority is needed for passage.
- Flood insurance bills that extend a current law enabling companies selling private flood insurance to set their own rates without needing approval from state regulators are moving through their committees. They increase the interval for revisions to the flood loss projection models to every four years.
- Bills reforming the membership structure of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority have each passed one committee.
- Six bills that regulate medical marijuana essentially allow local ordinances for zoning and land use, leaving manufacturing regulations to the Department of Health or other state agencies. The Florida Association of Counties cannot predict the number of new medical marijuana patients because state regulators and legislators could revise the list of diseases eligible for treatment.

## CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

**24. Public comment.**

Alice Morris, St. Petersburg, re property at 6901 U.S. Highway 19 North, Pinellas Park  
Donald E. Morris, St. Petersburg, re property at 6901 U.S. Highway 19 North, Pinellas Park  
Joan Beck, Tarpon Springs, re kNine2Five Kennel (submitted documents)  
Ronald Beck, Tarpon Springs, re request Commission intervention  
Diane Solembrino, Tarpon Springs, re request Commission intervention  
Greg Pound, Largo, re Pinellas Business  
David Ballard Geddis, Jr. Palm Harbor, re taxation without representation

Chairman Long acknowledged the concerns of Mr. and Ms. Morris and expressed hope that the matter will be resolved when the BCC considers their Petition to Vacate at the May 9 meeting.

Assistant County Administrator John Bennett related that staff will investigate the complaints voiced by Mr. and Ms. Beck and Ms. Solembrino. Mr. Woodard indicated that there may be neighborhood code issues involved; and that staff will determine whether remedies are available.

**COUNTY COMMISSION****25. Appointment to the Housing Finance Authority (Board of County Commissioners).**

Dennis Long appointed following a ballot vote.

**26. Appointment to the Pinellas Community Foundation (Board of County Commissioners).**

Virginia Rowell appointed following a ballot vote.

While ballots were being distributed, Commissioner Seel related that Foundation Executive Director Doug Cooly recommended Ms. Rowell for reappointment in an email, a copy of which has been made a part of the record.

**27. County Commission Board Reports.**Commissioner Eggers

- Forward Pinellas: The next meeting is April 12. At a work session in late March, there was discussion about a strategic direction for the organization, transit use, transit-oriented land use, the vision map, performance measures and targets, and a strategic communications plan. An economic symposium will take place later this month, and a regional workshop will be held in May.
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA): Topics addressed this month included acceptance of an audit, discussion about the Memorandum of Understanding for the Clearwater Beach Transit Center, and the Executive Director's review, which was

mostly positive.

- Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area Leadership Group: The most recent meeting included discussion about the Premium Transit Study Report, regional express bus, a framework for regional transit planning, and legislative updates.

#### Commissioner Welch

- Florida Association of Counties (FAC): A Legislative Day meeting was held last month. Attacks continue on home rule, and this year, they trace to House Bill 17, which seeks to preempt local regulations. He opined that the homestead exemption increase would be a tax shift rather than cut, and lauded Senator Jack Latvala for his opening session talk, referring to him as the County's best hope in the Senate.
- Business Technology Services: At Commissioner Welch's request, Mr. Woodard provided an update on challenges with the Oracle Hyperion system, relating that the budgeting process is eight to nine weeks behind where it would normally be; that departments and agencies will have less time to prepare their budget submittals; and that when the proposed budget is delivered to the Board in early July, it will not be as comprehensive as in the past, and detail will have to be added through amendments.

#### Commissioner Seel

- American Manufacturing Skills Initiative (AMSkills): She has a meeting with program staff in Hernando County on April 18, and noted that the commissioners were copied on a progress report by Executive Director Tom Mudano.

#### Commissioner Justice

- Historic Preservation Board: John Peter Barie, the BCC's representative on the Board, will present to the Florida Trust on Historic Preservation at its annual conference in St. Petersburg on May 18.
- Gulf Consortium: A contract manager has been hired to provide support and administrative services, replacing FAC in that role, and the change is expected to have a positive fiscal impact. The next meeting is in May in the Panhandle.

#### Chairman Long

- Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board: She received an update from Interim Executive Director Gay Lancaster on policy and procedure changes.
- Washington D.C. visit: She met with numerous members of Congress, including Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio, and was encouraged by what she heard about items that are important to the Tampa Bay region, including flood insurance legislation. She received a request from Representative Betty Castor to do

everything possible to get Representative Charlie Crist appointed to the Appropriations Committee, noting the importance of having Florida represented on that committee.

- PSTA: An innovative new program incorporates Uber and Lyft with bus transit, and the Authority is trying to get the federal government to change its formula so that it receives credit for each of those rides.
- Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council: The Council met yesterday and continues to do good work contracting with local governments on planning and environmental issues.
- Tourist Development Council: She has a debriefing scheduled with Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater President and CEO David Downing and Chief Operating Officer Tim Ramsberger in advance of the April 19 meeting, at which the TDC will finalize its capital project funding recommendations to the County Commission.

**28.** County Commission miscellaneous:

- MSTU funding request - Palm Harbor Community Services Agency
- Construction Licensing Board - Appointment of South County Building Director

Commissioner Justice

- Attended the Keep Pinellas Beautiful breakfast with Commissioner Gerard, and organizers laid out plans for recruitment and other activities.
- Met with Meals on Wheels leaders on March 22 in Gulfport and spent a day with a route driver.
- Rode in the Oldsmar Days Parade, along with Commissioner Eggers.
- Attended the FAC meeting in Tallahassee and spent time in the Capitol.

Commissioner Eggers

- Echoed Commissioner Justice's praise of Meals on Wheels and related that he spent time with a route driver in the Greenwood area.
- Attended a final meeting on the Palm Harbor Master Plan and will meet with the Planning Department soon and then bring recommended changes forward.
- Toured the facilities of *Starting Right, Now* with founder Vicki Sokolik and praised her efforts to help homeless teenagers.

- Requested that the Board allocate \$94,500 from the Municipal Services Taxing Unit Grant Program to support the Palm Harbor Community Services Agency for requests by the East Lake Community Library, CSA Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation, East Lake Recreation, and the Palm Harbor Library. Mr. Woodard discussed the financial impact, noting that the allocation would leave the program with about \$174,000 available for allocations, and discussion ensued.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Seel, that the request be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Chairman Long, Vice-Chairman Welch, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Seel

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Gerard, and Commissioner Morroni

### Chairman Long

- Nominated Jim Ford to serve as the South County Building Director on the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The Commissioners approved the nomination, with no opposition heard and no vote.
- Related that she met with the Chairman of the Hillsborough County Commission last week and looks forward to sharing news about an exciting joint initiative at the next Board meeting.

### Commissioner Welch

- Noted that Meals on Wheels is a very important service and that it could be hurt by cuts proposed in President Trump's "skinny budget."
- Mentioned his involvement with the Baseball Forever campaign and the City of St. Petersburg's recent pitch to the Rays for a new stadium just east of Tropicana Field.
- Asked about the final determination on the Bus Rapid Transit route from downtown St. Petersburg to St. Pete Beach. Chairman Long related that an appropriation request is being considered in Tallahassee; and that the western terminus is currently in north St. Pete Beach, although officials are hopeful it can be extended south to the Don CeSar Hotel.
- Thanked Chairman Long for her leadership in looking beyond Pinellas County to include regional people and organizations in meetings. Chairman Long commented that she heard a lot of discussion about regional collaboration during her visit to Washington.

ADJOURNMENT - 2:29 P.M.

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman