

Pinellas County

*315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

9:30 AM

BCC Assembly Room

Board of County Commissioners

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

ROLL CALL - 9:36 A.M.

Present: 7 - Chairman Kenneth T. Welch, Vice-Chairman Karen Williams Seel, Dave Eggers, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Janet C. Long, and John Morroni

Others Present: Jewel White, County Attorney; Mark S. Woodard, County Administrator; Clarethia N. Harris, Chief Deputy Clerk; and Lynn M. Abbott, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION by Reverend Dawn Haeger, Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, Clearwater.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. African American History Month Proclamation:
- Terri Lipsey-Scott, Executive Director, Dr. Carter G. Woodson Museum, St. Petersburg
Chairman Welch called Ms. Lipsey-Scott and Museum board members Dana Battle and Carole Motley forward and read a proclamation citing contributions of African Americans over the past century, noting that 2018 marks the 103rd anniversary of the founding of Black History Month by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, and recognizing the month of February as African American History Month.

Ms. Lipsey-Scott expressed gratitude to the Board for the proclamation, and Chairman Welch thanked her and the members of her board for their great work and leadership.

Mr. Woodard introduced Shahra Anderson, Regional Director for United States Senator Bill Nelson, and on behalf of Senator Nelson, Ms. Anderson presented a certificate of recognition to Chairman Welch, noting his steadfast work, dedication, and commitment to Pinellas County; whereupon, Chairman Welch expressed thanks and recognized the contributions of the Commission, County Administrator, County Attorney, staff, and community partners.

2. Doing Things! Employee Recognition:
- Hazel Lane, Human Services

Chairman Welch and Mr. Woodard recognized Human Services Case Manager Hazel Lane and related that she is a 15-year employee who helps homeless families find stable homes through the Family Housing Assistance Program; that she ensures that families with the greatest need get access to vital services; and that she works with various programs to help people stay off the streets and live as productive and contributing members of society; whereupon, a video was shown highlighting the services she provides.

Chairman Welch recognized Armanda Lampley for her work with homeless families, noting that she recently retired from Human Services.

3. Partner Presentation:

- Micki Thompson, President/CEO, 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares, Inc.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! Partner Presentation 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares, Inc.*, which has been made a part of the record, Ms. Thompson discussed the nonprofit organization's mission, budget, and funding sources, relating that the agency functions as a 24-hour crisis intervention service. She provided statistical information regarding the satisfaction rate and calls handled by the suicide prevention and sexual assault hotlines, noting that staff additions, changes to the phone system, and improvements to the texting application and online search service have contributed to significant reductions in wait times for various program call queues.

Responding to queries by the members, Ms. Thompson presented information and statistics pertaining to Hurricane Irma-related text and call volume, call center activities, volunteers, and community partners who help to provide various types of disaster relief and financial assistance. She discussed the Rapid Rehousing program, its partners, and the coordinated entry process, noting that 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares is the fiscal administrator, and discussion ensued.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**4. Resolution supplementing the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget for unanticipated fund balances in the Surface Water Utility, Capital Projects, Airport Revenue and Operating, Solid Waste Renewal and Replacement, Water Renewal and Replacement, and Sewer Renewal and Replacement Funds.**

Resolution No. 18-04 adopted appropriating unanticipated fund balances for multiple capital improvement projects. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

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

Aye: 6 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Morroni

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Long

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Countywide Planning Authority

5. Case No. CW 17-15 - City of Tarpon Springs
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Residential Low Medium to Employment and Preservation, regarding 9.3 acres more or less, located at the northwest corner of Rainville Road and North Pinellas Avenue (regular amendment).

Ordinance No. 18-09 adopted approving Case No. CW 17-15. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of an alternative compromise amendment to the original application, and the City accepted the recommendation; and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

A motion was made by Commissioner Morroni, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

6. Case No. CW 18-01 - Pinellas County
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Residential Medium to Employment, regarding 0.8 acre more or less, located near the North East corner of Florida Avenue and 9th Street, Palm Harbor (regular amendment).

Ordinance No. 18-10 adopted approving Case No. CW 18-01. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of the proposal, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

Chairman Welch indicated that three comment cards were received in support of the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Morroni, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

7. Case No. CW 18-02 - Pinellas County
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Residential Low Medium to Retail & Services, regarding 0.6 acre more or less, located near the South West corner of 54th Avenue and Haines Road, Lealman (subthreshold amendment).

Ordinance No. 18-11 adopted approving Case No. CW 18-02. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of the proposal, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

Chairman Welch indicted that one comment card was received in support of the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Morroni, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

- 8. Case No. CW 18-03 - City of St. Petersburg
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Industrial and Target Employment Center to Multimodal Corridor and Target Employment Center, regarding 0.6 acre more or less, located at 2700 5th Avenue South (regular amendment).

Ordinance No. 18-12 adopted approving Case No. CW 18-03. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of the proposal, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

A motion was made by Commissioner Morroni, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

- 9. Official acceptance of the Countywide Plan Map adjustment submitted by the City of St. Petersburg.

Map adjustment received and accepted, as recommended by Forward Pinellas in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 10 through 15

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the Consent Agenda items be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

- 10. Minutes of the regular meeting held January 9, 2018.
- 11. Vouchers and bills paid from December 24, 2017 through January 13, 2018.

Period: December 24, 2017 through December 30, 2017
Payroll - \$3,380,258.71
Accounts Payable - \$20,832,667.77

Period: December 31, 2017 through January 6, 2018

Payroll - None

Accounts Payable - \$71,127,227.45

Period: January 7, 2018 through January 13, 2018

Payroll - \$3,408,243.75

Accounts Payable - \$28,679,637.82

Reports received for filing:

12. Division of Inspector General, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, 2018 Annual Audit Plan.
13. Juvenile Welfare Board Quarterly Financial Statements for the period ending December 31, 2017.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Public Works

14. Amendment No. 1 to cooperative agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers for the rehabilitation of the shore protection project at Sand Key in Clearwater.

Amendment approved providing an additional \$10,436,651.00 to restore Sand Key to pre-storm conditions as a result of Hurricanes Hermine in 2016 and Irma in 2017; total federal funding in the amount of \$23,233,651.00 to be provided to the United States Department of the Army; no County match is required. Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Tax Collector

15. Award of quote to Gulf Coast Review, Inc., d/b/a Business Observer, for advertisement of delinquent real estate tax lists.

Contract No. 178-0092-Q in the amount of \$37,100.00 awarded on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible quote received meeting specifications (estimated annual expenditure not to exceed \$18,550.00); contract term is two years.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA - None.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Economic Development

16. Resolution approving B7111450363 as a qualified applicant for the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program.

Resolution No. 18-5 adopted approving Project B7111450363 as a qualified applicant pursuant to Section 288.106, Florida Statutes, and identifying sources of local county financial support (total local contribution amount, \$12,000.00, 50 percent of which will be paid by Pinellas County, to be paid over a series of fiscal years as determined by the State).

Mr. Woodard related that the project seeks to relocate the headquarters of a technology-centric enterprise to the City of St. Petersburg, creating 10 jobs with annual pay scales of at least 150 percent of the average annual wage for the State of Florida; and that the company is also considering sites in California, Georgia, and Illinois.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

Human Services

17. First Amendment to the contract with the State of Florida Department of Health for the operation of the Pinellas County Health Department.

Amendment approved increasing the contract amount by \$1,487,850.00 to provide for school nurses. Revised Fiscal Year 2018 amount not to exceed \$5,658,670.00.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

Public Works

18. Traffic calming plan requiring the installation of a multi-way stop condition on Wexford Leas Boulevard at Kent Lane located between U.S. Highway Alternate 19 and County Road 1.

Plan approved in accordance with the County's Residential Traffic Management program; cost of the installation is estimated at \$1,434.69, with an anticipated additional cost of \$235.70 per year for maintenance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Eggers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

Safety and Emergency Services

19. Purchase authorization with Ten-8 Fire Equipment, Inc. for the purpose of acquiring a medium duty rescue squad truck.

Contract No. 178-0180-PB in the amount of \$432,531.00 approved pursuant to the pricing, terms, and conditions of Florida Sheriffs Association, Florida Fire Chiefs' Association, and Florida Association of Counties Contract No. FSA16-VEF12.0, Fire Rescue Vehicles and Other Equipment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

20. County Administrator Miscellaneous - None.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

21. Proposed settlement in the case of Samuel J. Shamos, III, and Maha Shamos, his wife; Circuit Civil Case No. 15-004290-CI-20 - allegations of negligence resulting in personal injuries and a consortium claim.

Settlement rejected in accordance with the confidential memorandum dated February 6, 2018.

A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the proposed settlement be rejected. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

22. Selection of outside legal counsel to provide legal services related to potential opioid litigation.

County Attorney authorized to negotiate an agreement with the No. 1 ranked firm, Levin Papantonio, for Board approval.

Attorney White indicated that a committee composed of multiple attorneys and experts conducted a thorough evaluation of the seven firms that responded to the County's solicitation and selected firms ranked Nos. 1 and 2; whereupon, she requested that the Board select one and authorize the County Attorney to negotiate a contract for services and the Purchasing Director to sign the agreement.

Discussion ensued, and Attorney White responded to queries and comments by the Commissioners as follows:

- She expects that a contract could be negotiated within a matter of days, as the No. 1-ranked firm already represents a number of local governments.
- She agreed to provide the Board with a bullet-point summary of the contract, along with the full contract.
- The County would pay attorney fees and litigation costs only in the event of a recovery.
- The top-ranked firm has proposed a contingency fee of 25 percent, with a provision that the combined fees and costs cannot exceed 50 percent of the recovery.
- Causes of action that have been advanced in other parts of the country include misstatements by manufacturers as to the actual effects of the medications, and the targeting of certain groups with marketing and advertising techniques.
- The firm selected will determine the causes of action and defendants that are appropriate for Pinellas County.

Commissioner Long commented that she would not want litigation to harm legitimate physicians who are treating chronically and terminally ill patients with acute pain; whereupon, Chairman Welch expressed his concern that the recommended firm's proposed 50-percent cap on fees and costs is too high. Attorney White related that it is standard practice for litigation costs to be added to the contingency fee; and that the cap offers the County some protection against exceptionally high expenses.

In response to query by Commissioner Justice as to whether litigation costs would be divided among the plaintiffs, Attorney White indicated that the top-ranked firm has represented that they would, but cautioned that there could be litigation needs that are unique to Pinellas County. Responding to query by Commissioner Eggers, she indicated that causes of action could also target doctors, but the selected firm will determine the appropriate strategy for Pinellas County.

Responding to query by Commissioner Long as to whether manufacturers and distributors named in litigation may be willing to settle, Attorney White related that some of the lawsuits filed in federal court have covered multiple jurisdictions; and Managing Assistant County

Attorney Christie Pemberton indicated that some manufacturers have indicated a willingness to resolve the issues, at least in the form of proactive relief that could help communities and restore them to where they were before the crisis began.

Commissioner Morrone commented that he concurs with Chairman Welch that the top-ranked firm's proposed cap is too high and questioned whether it has the same arrangement with other local governments. Attorney White responded that she presumes that the firm's proposal is standard, but she will be able to investigate that during negotiations since the contracts are public record. Commissioner Seel noted that the No. 2 ranked firm proposes a lower contingency fee for any pretrial recovery and the same fee for a post-trial recovery, but no cap on the combined fees and expenses.

Thereupon, Chairman Welch proposed that the Board authorize the County Attorney to negotiate a contract with the recommended firm and bring the contract back to the Board for final approval. The members expressed general support, and Attorney White indicated that her office would strive to present a completed contract to the Board at its February 27 meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Morrone, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morrone

23. County Attorney Miscellaneous - None.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Economic Development Authority

24. Second Amendment to Economic Development Funding Agreement with STAR-TEC Enterprises to provide economic development incubation and acceleration services.

Second amendment approved, reducing the contract amount from \$375,000.00 to \$225,000 for Fiscal Year 2018 (based on STAR-TEC's fiscal year, July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018), extending the term for one year with funding of \$200,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2019, and providing for three additional one-year renewal periods with funding set at \$175,000.00.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morrone

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**25. County Administrator Reports:**
- Lealman Community Center Update

Assistant County Administrator Jake Stowers provided an update on the County's recent purchase of the Windsor Preparatory Academy for conversion into a community center within the Lealman Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). Referring to an aerial photograph and various diagrams, he identified the CRA boundary and key elements within it and discussed the layout, configuration, and potential uses of the three campus buildings.

Responding to queries by Chairman Welch and Commissioner Long, Mr. Stowers indicated that the classroom space can be modified as needed; that there could be co-working opportunities; and that the County will seek partners for potential uses such as adult education, financial and nutritional counseling, after-school care, recreation, and seniors fitness; whereupon, Commissioner Gerard commented that the center would be a great place for CareerSource Pinellas to provide job seeking and training services, and Commissioner Long concurred. Responding to query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Stowers and Assistant County Administrator Paul Sacco could not provide a definitive answer as to whether the school's two-story main building has an elevator.

Mr. Stowers presented and discussed a brochure, letter, and flyer soliciting community-related tenants and announced an upcoming Open House; whereupon, Commissioner Justice thanked the County Administrator's Office for the work done on the project and commented that the center will be life-changing for the community and have a ripple-effect for generations. Responding to query by Chairman Welch, Mr. Woodard indicated that the County typically calculates lease rates for nonprofit partners at an amount that covers the direct cost of utilities, maintenance, and janitorial services.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**26. Public Comment.**

Lenore Faulkner, Madeira Beach, re Martin Luther King
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, re burning of the town declared

COUNTY COMMISSION**27. Three appointments to the Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Citizens Advisory Committee (Board of County Commissioners as a whole).**

Mr. Woodard noted that information pertaining to the applicants' eligibility and qualifications has been provided in the agenda package. Later in the meeting, Ms. Harris announced that Linda Rochelle, Tommy Johnson, and Enoch Nicholson have been appointed for three-year terms following a ballot vote.

28. County Commission New Business Items:
- Palm Harbor Community Services Agency, Inc. (PHCSA) - Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) Funding Request (Commissioner Eggers)
 - Comments on National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program and corresponding Resolution (BOCC)
 - CareerSource Pinellas Update (Commissioner Gerard)

CareerSource Pinellas

Deviating from the agenda, Chairman Welch indicated that the CareerSource Pinellas item would be heard at this time; whereupon, Commissioner Gerard referred to her memorandum to the Board dated January 31, 2018, a copy of which has been made part of the record, and related that she is recommending the following:

1. The removal of Chairman Aundre A. Green from the CareerSource Pinellas Board, effective immediately.
2. The re-evaluation of all candidates who recently applied for a vacancy on the CareerSource Pinellas Board.
3. The establishment of a revised appointment process, whereby applicants are screened by the County Administrator's staff, not CareerSource Pinellas.

Commissioner Gerard related that she is a member of the CareerSource Pinellas Board; that at an Executive Committee meeting last week, she attempted to make a motion that Chief Executive Officer Ed Peachey be placed on paid administrative leave until investigations into certain agency actions are completed; and that she was cut off by Chairman Green, who then adjourned the meeting. She stated that she has serious concerns about the independence of the Board and the Chairman, in particular; that she does not believe he is treating the issues impacting the agency with the gravity they merit; and that she disagrees with the Committee's decision to form an ad hoc committee to conduct an internal review; whereupon, she clarified that while the BCC cannot remove Mr. Green from the chairmanship, it can remove him from the Board.

Discussion ensued, and the members thanked Commissioner Gerard for her leadership on the matter and expressed unanimous support for the removal of Mr. Green from the Board. Chairman Welch related that Mr. Green contacted him following the referenced Executive Committee meeting to say that he had reconsidered his position pertaining to Mr. Peachey; but that the overture did not change his view that a change on the Board is needed. He indicated that he also has concerns about the ad hoc committee process and, recounting a previous occasion in which the agency's external audit firm was fired without the knowledge of the Audit Committee, cited a pattern of unilateral actions by the agency's leadership.

Chairman Welch indicated that he also does not have faith in CareerSource Pinellas attorney Charles Harris and provided reasons why; whereupon, Commissioner Long offered a friendly amendment to Commissioner Gerard's informal motion to remove Mr. Green from the Board, proposing the additional removal of Mr. Harris and the other Executive Committee members who sided with Mr. Green at the Executive Committee

meeting, opining that they are not looking out for the best interests of the taxpayers and job seekers. Commissioner Gerard stated that she did not support the amendment and questioned whether the Board has the authority to remove Mr. Harris. Commissioner Long withdrew her friendly amendment, and discussion ensued.

Upon the Chairman's call for citizens wishing to be heard, Jack Geller, CareerSource Pinellas Board Chairman-Elect, appeared and, following discussion pertaining to what he could comment on without violating the Sunshine Law and advisement by Attorney White, urged the Board to retain Mr. Green, stating that he has done an excellent job, and his removal would impede continuity.

Discussion ensued, and Chairman Welch advised Mr. Geller that he respectfully disagrees with his analysis and requested that he examine the agency's bylaws to determine whether it was legal for Mr. Green to place Mr. Peachey on paid administrative leave. Responding to query by Commissioner Long, Mr. Geller indicated that Mr. Green has not apologized to Commissioner Gerard because he is prohibited by the Sunshine Law from speaking to her directly, but that Mr. Harris has been in contact with Commissioner Gerard.

Commissioner Eggers commented that due to his respect for Mr. Geller's judgment, he would be willing to allow the Executive Committee to meet again before voting on whether to remove Mr. Green from the Board, and discussion ensued, but no other member expressed that sentiment. Responding to a request for clarification as to what action the Board can take relative to Mr. Green, Attorney White advised that while there is no specific process outlined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for removing a Board member, a general law in the Florida Statutes addresses nonprofit corporation Boards and authorizes the appointing body to remove a member; whereupon, she stated her opinion that the BCC can remove Mr. Green from the Board, and Mr. Geller, as Chairman-Elect, would automatically be elevated to Chairman.

Commissioner Gerard discussed her other recommendations, relating that she is withdrawing her request for a re-evaluation of candidates who recently applied for a vacancy on the CareerSource Pinellas Board since there is only one nominee, but that she wishes to push forward her proposed revised appointment process providing for screening of applicants by the County Administrator's staff.

Discussion ensued, and Mr. Woodard related that his office could facilitate the revised process through the following two steps: (1) Initiate a recruitment through the County website to fill approximately 13 vacant positions, evaluate applicant eligibility through the Economic Development Department, and present the applications to the Board; and (2) conduct a review of the current Board members, confirm their eligibility and term status, and bring that information to the Board.

Commissioner Gerard stated that she liked the proposal, and the Board expressed support for moving forward with it.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gerard, seconded by Commissioner Long, that Aundre A. Green be removed from the CareerSource Pinellas Board, effective immediately. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

A motion was made by Commissioner Gerard, seconded by Commissioner Morroni, that a revised CareerSource Pinellas Board appointment process be established, as outlined by the County Administrator. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

MSTU Funding Requests

Commissioner Eggers presented MSTU funding requests, copies of which have been made part of the record, as follows:

- Palm Harbor Recreation is requesting up to \$20,000 to partially fund the installation of new flooring in its multi-purpose Palm Room.
- Palm Harbor Library is requesting up to \$10,120 to purchase new printers, laptops, and tables.
- East Lake Recreation is requesting up to \$11,000 to install two water fountain/bottle filling stations.
- East Lake Library is requesting up to \$12,000 to purchase furniture for its new Community Room.

Responding to query by Chairman Welch, Mr. Woodard related that \$220,000 is allocated annually toward projects within the MSTU; and that with a carryover balance from last year, the current fund balance is approximately \$329,000.

Brief discussion ensued, and Commissioner Long commended Commissioner Eggers for his thoughtful and diligent focus on his north county constituents.

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

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

Oil and Gas Drilling

Resolution 18-6 adopted stating the Board's opposition to oil and gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico; Chairman authorized to send a letter transmitting the information to the federal government.

Intergovernmental Liaison Brian Lowack indicated that staff prepared the draft resolution and letter pursuant to the Board's direction at its January 9 meeting; whereupon, responding to query by Commissioner Eggers, he related that Senator Bill Nelson has introduced legislation that would make the current moratorium on drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico permanent.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gerard, seconded by Commissioner Morroni, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman Welch, Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, and Commissioner Morroni

29. County Commission Board Reports and Miscellaneous Items.

The members reported on the activities of their assigned Boards and Committees and related or discussed the following items:

Commissioner Morroni

- The Forward Pinellas Board will meet on February 14.

Commissioner Eggers

- The Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area Leadership Group will meet on February 9.
- In advance of the next Tampa Bay Water Board meeting on February 19, he will tour the City of Tampa's water facilities to gain a better understanding of the infrastructure.
- He has had discussions with East Lake Fire Commissioner David Root and Chief Tom Jamison, as well as the PHCSA directors, about their Penny for Pinellas allocation requests and has asked Mr. Woodard whether projects could be funded early through bonding. Chairman Welch added that the Barrier Islands Governmental Council wishes to discuss the Penny allocation for Gulf Boulevard.
- A presentation by St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport at the Safety Harbor City Council meeting last night indicated that the Noise Abatement Task Force has made significant progress in reducing complaints. Commissioner Seel provided input, and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Seel

- She will attend 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares, Inc.'s second-annual *Fuel the Fire* fundraiser Thursday at Duncan McClellan Gallery in St. Petersburg.
- The Homeless Leadership Board (HLB) is fully staffed, and Chief Executive Officer Susan Myers is doing a great job.

- The County's Homeless Management Information System was transitioned to the HLB on October 2, 2017, and the HLB has reviewed the data security plan and revised the data quality plan for 2017 to 2020 to have benchmarks.
- The Juvenile Welfare Board successfully underwent a reaccreditation process last week.
- The Early Learning Coalition will hold a "PreK 5K Readiness Run" fundraiser at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve in St. Petersburg on April 14. The agency recently fared very well in an audit, and Chief Operating Officer Lindsay Carson is doing an excellent job.

Commissioner Justice

- The Tampa Bay Estuary Program Board will meet on February 16.
- The Historic Preservation Board will meet on February 21 and receive an update on the placement of historical markers throughout the county, for which state funding has been secured.
- The Area Agency on Aging Board will meet on February 12, and Executive Director Ann Marie Winter is doing a great job.
- He will travel to Tallahassee later today for a Gulf Consortium meeting at which the organization's Statewide Expenditure Plan will be finalized.
- The Wastewater/Stormwater Task Force will meet on April 9 at the St. Petersburg College Seminole Campus and will receive an update from its Technical Working Group.
- He sent the members an article on the history of Joe's Creek in Lealman and its namesake.
- He met with the Faith and Action for Strength Together organization this week and discussed scheduling a workshop on affordable housing. Discussion ensued pertaining to the workshop and promises the Board has made to allocate certain Penny for Pinellas proceeds for affordable housing.

Commissioner Long

- The Regional Transit Feasibility Study has been advanced to the public engagement process, and the aim is to have a modified transit plan in place by October.

As directed by the Legislature, the Tampa Bay Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) will assume a leadership role for regional transit, with the advice and consent of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations and transit agencies, and a Memorandum of Understanding is being distributed to those entities.

The Legislature is considering a \$1 million allocation request to provide TBARTA with resources to strengthen the organization and continue to drive the transit plan; and the Florida Department of Transportation has included a \$5 million appropriation as part of its Work Plan to be considered by the Legislature. TBARTA expects that those funds will be directed to the agency to develop a scope of work, send out a Request for Proposal, and select a contractor for the selected project.

The catalyst project is a Bus Rapid Transit route between Wesley Chapel in Pasco County and downtown St. Petersburg in Pinellas County.

- The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Executive Committee met yesterday and discussed the TBARTA Memorandum of Understanding. Commissioner Seel commented that she hopes PSTA will participate in the public engagement process, noting that the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority will not.
- The PSTA Nominating Committee has nominated her to replace City of Clearwater Councilmember Bill Jonson as the outgoing PSTA representative on the Forward Pinellas Board, subject to the full PSTA Board's approval. Later in the meeting, Commissioner Eggers questioned whether having a fourth County Commissioner would be advisable, and discussion ensued. Attorney White indicated that she would research the matter to ascertain whether there are legal restrictions.
- AMSkills has not met yet in 2018, but is expected to in the near future.
- The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council will hold its second meeting on sea level rise and climate resiliency and the Transit Feasibility Plan on February 12, and St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman will provide a report on a global compact conference he attended in Chicago. Responding to query by Chairman Welch, Commissioner Long indicated that she is hoping to coordinate a major conference on sea level rise and climate resiliency that will allow subject-matter experts to present to the BCC, Forward Pinellas, the Economic Development Council, and the Tourist Development Council.

Commissioner Gerard

- The CareerSource Pinellas ad hoc committee will meet Friday, and a rescheduled meeting of the Executive Committee will be held February 14.
- The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Subcommittee met recently, and a discussion proposing broadening the eligibility criteria for the underutilized Evening Reporting Center bogged down in details. Further discussion is expected at the next meeting on March 1.

- The Tampa Bay Water Board has not met recently, and a bill pertaining to reclaimed water is stalled in the Legislature.

Chairman Welch

- Thanked the Board for a productive strategic planning workshop last week at Weedon Island Preserve.
- The Business Technology Services Board will discuss the selection process for a permanent Chief Information Officer at its meeting on February 12.
- The Economic Development Council (EDC) met recently and received a Regional Workforce Analysis and held a roundtable discussion with business leaders on their top issues for 2018, the most pressing of which was transportation. The EDC also unanimously authorized a letter of opposition to a higher education bill that would consolidate the University of South Florida (USF) system.
- He will join Commissioner Justice in Tallahassee this week to discuss a number of issues with legislators, including Community Redevelopment Area legislation, the education bill that could impact USF St. Petersburg, and other issues.

ADJOURNMENT - 12:21 P.M.

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By _____
Deputy Clerk

Chairman