

Pinellas County

*315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, April 10, 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 - 9:34 A.M.

Present: 5 - Vice-Chairman Karen Williams Seel, Dave Eggers, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, and Janet C. Long

Absent: 2 - Chairman Kenneth T. Welch, and John Morroni

Also Present: Jewel White, County Attorney; Mark S. Woodard, County Administrator; Claretha N. Harris, Chief Deputy Clerk; and Michael P. Schmidt, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION by Pastor Jason Knott, Dunedin First United Methodist Church, Dunedin.**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. National Volunteer Week Proclamation:
 - Parks and Conservation Resources
 - Sandy Wilson, Volunteer Program Project Manager
 - Jonathan Skinner, Volunteer Program Coordinator
 - Richard Berube, Volunteer
 - Dorothy Vitrone, Volunteer
 - Animal Services
 - Season Groves, Volunteer Program Coordinator
 - Gene Sanita, Volunteer
 - Emergency Management
 - Mary Burrell, Volunteer Program Coordinator
 - Sandra Pittman, Volunteer

Vice-Chairman Seel called forward volunteer staff members and presented a proclamation declaring April 15 through 21, 2018 as National Volunteer Week.

2. Water Conservation Month Proclamation:
 - Valerie Hoskavich, Water Conservation Coordinator, Utilities

Vice-Chairman Seel called forward Ms. Hoskavich and presented a proclamation in recognition of Water Conservation Month, noting that clean, safe, and sustainable water is a vital resource to Pinellas County's economy, environment, and citizens; and that water conservation education and collective efforts to raise awareness have resulted in a significant reduction in personal daily consumption; whereupon, Ms. Hoskavich noted that the Pinellas County Extension Office offers opportunities to learn about water conservation through Florida landscaping techniques.

3. Doing Things! Employee Recognition Award:
 - Jonathan Skinner, Parks and Conservation Resources

Vice-Chairman Seel and Mr. Woodard related that Mr. Skinner is a 25-year employee who helps coordinate volunteers; and that he has more than 100,000 hours with the Parks system; whereupon, a video was shown highlighting the services he provides. Mr. Skinner related that it has been an honor and pleasure to work for Pinellas County Government and thanked the volunteers, his dedicated coworkers, Mr. Woodard, and the Board for the opportunity to serve.

4. Partner Presentation:
- Paul Anderson, President & CEO, Port Tampa Bay

Mr. Anderson thanked the Board for the invitation to speak and reported that Chairman Welch is part of a 40-delegate trade mission to Mexico to open regional trade opportunities, noting the appropriateness of today's presentation. He related that the port's recent name change to *Port Tampa Bay* is reflective of the regional nature of the facility; whereupon, he introduced Jamal Sowell, Director of Special Projects.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Port Tampa Bay, Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners*, Mr. Anderson provided an update regarding commercial operations, including operating revenue, commodities, infrastructure investment, a property tax rate decrease, cargo growth and diversity, business opportunities and development, and generational impact and environmental projects.

Mr. Anderson related that a recent study conducted by a third party shows that the complex increased its regional economic impact to \$17.2 billion; that the port's four major shipyards provide 85,000 direct and indirect jobs; that it provides the critical petroleum component that supports everyday lives and fuels tourism; that its growing cruise market is an important tourism resource; and that all-time passenger records have been set during the last two weeks; whereupon, he related that his team is working with the County to grow the Tampa Bay Export Alliance to bring smaller companies in to showcase their products and extended an invitation to the Board and stakeholders to tour the port complex, noting that staff guides are always available.

In response to comments and queries by Commissioners Justice and Eggers, Mr. Anderson discussed the port's niche market in the cruise industry and domestic imports and exports.

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

5. Petition of JoAnne S. Frank to release a portion of a 30 foot drainage and utility easement lying within Lot 13, Lake Seminole Village Stage 3, Plat Book 89, Pages 15-16, lying in Section 14-30-15, Pinellas County, Florida. (Quasi-Judicial Hearing)

Resolution No. 18-42 adopted granting the petition. Authority granted for the Clerk to record the resolution. Letters of no objection have been received from all appropriate parties. Interested property owners were notified as to the date of the public hearing. Staff indicated no objection to the petition being granted. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chairman Welch, and Commissioner Morroni

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 6 through 19 (Items 12, 16, 17, and 19 addressed under Regular Agenda)

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chairman Welch, and Commissioner Morroni

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

6. Minutes of the regular meetings held February 27 and March 20, 2018.

7. Vouchers and bills paid from February 25 through March 24, 2018.

Period: February 25 through March 3, 2018

Accounts Payable - \$72,590,360.98

Payroll - None

Period: March 4 through March 10, 2018

Accounts Payable - \$14,648,760.60

Payroll - \$3,521,401.09

Period: March 11 through March 17, 2018

Accounts Payable - \$17,701,817.28

Payroll - None

Period: March 18 through March 24, 2018

Accounts Payable - \$5,749,266.56

Payroll - \$3,484,287.19

Reports received for filing:

8. Quarterly Investment Report for the period ended December 31, 2017.
9. Dock Fee Report for the month of March 2018.
10. Quarterly Report of Routine Dock and Dredge/Fill Applications Received from January 1 to March 31, 2018.
11. City of Belleair Beach Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2017.

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

13. City of Clearwater Notice of Public Hearing regarding proposed Ordinance No. 9126-18 annexing certain property; public hearing to be held April 4, 2018.
14. City of Seminole Ordinances Nos. 01-2018 through 04-2018 adopted February 27, 2018, annexing certain properties.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Public Works

15. Award of bid to Bayshore Construction, Inc. for the boardwalk replacement project at John Chesnut Sr. Park.

Bid No. 178-0163-CP (PID No. 000039A) in the amount of \$1,998,214.50 awarded on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications; all work is expected to be completed within 450 consecutive calendar days. Chairman authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.

Bid of Tampa Bay Marine, Inc. rejected on the basis of being non-responsive for not meeting prequalification requirements.

Real Estate Management

18. Conveyance of escheated properties to the City of Clearwater and the City of St. Petersburg.

Resolution 18-43 adopted approving the conveyance of escheated properties to the Cities of Clearwater (2) and St. Petersburg (3) in accordance with Section 197.592, Florida Statutes. Chairman authorized to execute and the Clerk to attest and record the resolution and County deeds.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Reports received for filing:

12. Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue Public Facilities Annual Notice of Change Report.

Commissioner Long related that the inclusion of the report on the Consent Agenda prompted her to clarify that the Board's approval applies only to the receipt and file of the document.

Referring to an ongoing study involving call volume in the Bay Pines area, Commissioner Long commented that residents within the Seminole community and the local fire department have expressed concerns regarding excessive call volume, noting recent changes in neighborhood characteristics, and requested that the Board be briefed regarding the status of the study; whereupon, she pointed out that long-term fire service contracts for the beach communities are coming up and suggested that the Board discuss the issue.

Noting that the County Commission is the fire protection authority for Pinellas County, Mr. Woodard confirmed that staff is monitoring the activity of its partners and will brief the members on the study in the near future; whereupon, he related that the subject Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue report has been filed annually with the Pinellas Planning Council, in error; and that it will be filed with the County Clerk going forward.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chairman Welch, and Commissioner Morroni

Public Works

16. Grant agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Treasure Island Segment - Pinellas County Shore Protection Project.

FDEP Grant Agreement No. 18PI1 (County PID No. 001515A) approved, providing 50 percent of the County's non-federal cost share for an amount not to exceed \$2,540,000.00.

In response to queries by Vice-Chairman Seel, Public Works Director Rahim Harji, referring to the project location map, provided an overview of the beach erosion control project for Treasure Island and discussed the secured and unsecured easements, nourishment template, easement requirements, erosion control line, and the definition and location of state-owned land and private property. Mr. Woodard noted that the nourishment project will not be greatly impacted by the easement exceptions.

Responding to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Chief Assistant County Attorney Don Crowell related that the easements are required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to its interpretation of federal law prohibiting public money from being spent on private property; that easements are an interest in land, but can be tailored to the need; and that many factors are used to determine the impact of an easement, noting that the easements allow for the placement of fill and ensure public access across the property.

Following discussion regarding basic property law, easements, and the rights of a property owner and in response to query by Vice-Chairman Seel, Mr. Harji related that the project design requires the use of an easement, noting that the easement grants access to tie the sand infill elevation into the existing grade at the back end.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chairman Welch, and Commissioner Morroni

Real Estate Management

17. Award of bid to Air Mechanical & Service Corp. for the Air Handler Replacement - Phase 3 Project at the Young-Rainey Science Technology and Research (STAR) Center.

Bid No. 178-0130-CP (PID No. 002887A) in the amount of \$755,000.00 awarded on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications; all work is expected to be completed within 150 consecutive calendar days. Chairman authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.

In response to a request by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Woodard provided an update regarding the STAR Center, reporting that negotiations with the Industrial Realty Group for a cash-only sale have collapsed; whereupon, he presented the following options for moving forward:

- Issue a revised Request for Negotiations, eliminating the cash-only requirement, to seek new buyers - Economic Development has been contacted by parties expressing interest.

- Hold onto the property as an Economic Development capital project - The recent passage of the 2020 Penny for Pinellas program presents an opportunity to demolish Building 100 at a future date, providing access to the contamination area on the site for remediation to be funded by the Department of Energy. The centrally located property would be a prime real estate asset.

In response to queries by Vice-Chairman Seel and Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Woodard related that the STAR Center is a self-funding operation; that it collects rentals, fees, and revenues to pay for expenditures; that the air handlers fail on a regular basis; that there are currently several tenants in the building; and that the County has a legal obligation to provide air conditioning pursuant to the leases.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chairman Welch, and Commissioner Morroni

Utilities

- 19.** Award of bid to Miller Pipeline, LLC for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Cured-in-Place Pipelining Projects located in Madeira Beach, Gulfport, SE Lake Seminole and Lift Station 075.

Bid No. 178-0050-CP (PID No. 001933C) in the amount of \$1,220,075.00 awarded on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications; all work is expected to be completed within 365 consecutive calendar days.

In response to a request by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Woodard provided a description of the project in relation to the County's total sewer infrastructure, noting the locations of the sewer pipelines and total linear footage, forms of inspection, and the cyclic sewer rehabilitation timeline; whereupon, Interim Utilities Director Megan Ross discussed movement of the County's asset management plan towards a data-driven approach.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chairman Welch, and Commissioner Morroni

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Public Works

- 20.** Road transfer interlocal agreement with the City of Oldsmar for the transfer of specific roadway segments.

Agreement approved transferring roadway segments as set forth in the Staff Report. Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest the agreement; Clerk authorized to record the corresponding right-of-way map.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chairman Welch, and Commissioner Morroni

Real Estate Management

- 21.** Extension and increase to the contract with Waste Management Inc. of Florida D/B/A Waste Management of Pinellas County for requirements of trash collection services.

Increase to Contract No. 145-0081-B in the amount of \$204,526.43 approved for a revised contract total of \$1,648,242.43 (average annual expenditure, \$483,355.55); contract extended through September 30, 2018.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chairman Welch, and Commissioner Morroni

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- 22.** County Administrator Miscellaneous.

Mr. Woodard reported that the governor has signed Senate Bill 382, a bill that would designate the bridge between Safety Harbor and Oldsmar as the Gold Star Family Memorial Bridge, dedicated to U.S. Army Corporal Frank R. Gross. He indicated that the Cities of Safety Harbor and Oldsmar have each passed a resolution of support as required by state law; that a section of the bridge is located in the unincorporated area; and that if the

Board desires, his office can bring forward a similar resolution at the April 24 meeting as requested by Representative James Grant.

In response to query by Commissioner Gerard, Mr. Woodard related that he would conduct further research regarding resolution requirements; whereupon, Vice-Chairman Seel indicated that the item will be brought forward at the April 24 meeting, and no objections were noted.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

- 23.** Proposed settlement in the case of Michael Weiner v. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office; Workers' Compensation, Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims Case No. 16-024427SLR.

Settlement approved in accordance with the confidential memorandum dated April 10, 2018.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chairman Welch, and Commissioner Morroni

- 24.** Proposed settlement in the case of Natalie Jackson-Fuller v. Pinellas County; U.S. Middle District Case No. 8:16-cv-01590.

Settlement rejected in accordance with the confidential memorandum dated April 10, 2018.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chairman Welch, and Commissioner Morroni

- 25.** County Attorney Miscellaneous: None.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

CareerSource Pinellas

- 26.** Approval of the 2018 two year modification to the 2016-2020 Local Workforce Services Plan.

Modification approved as requested by the CareerSource Pinellas Board.

CareerSource Pinellas Interim Director Jennifer Brackney provided historical information and a timeline regarding the item. She reported that the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) had recommended that her office put together the two-year modification in January; that it was approved by the Local Workforce Board in March; and that if approved by the members today, it would need to be submitted to the state by April 13; whereupon, she related that the plan is essentially the same as the one approved by the members in 2016, but now includes changes as recommended by the DEO.

In response to comments by Commissioner Long regarding the members not being bound by today's action, Ms. Brackney indicated that the plan is a living document that can be modified going forward; whereupon, Commissioner Justice related his concerns regarding the provision of documents in a timely manner, citing the difficulties experienced in the past relating to the members not receiving requested information and challenges associated with approving a large document in a short timeframe, and Commissioner Gerard provided input.

During discussion and in response to comments and queries by the members, Ms. Brackney related that she is presently developing the CareerSource Pinellas budget; that she will provide a full budget presentation at a future work session as suggested by Vice-Chairman Seel; and that she will also discuss what has been taking place at the Science Center as requested by Commissioner Long.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Gerard, that the item be approved with the option to amend the document at a later date. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 2 - Chairman Welch, and Commissioner Morroni

Emergency Medical Services Authority

27. Appointments to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.

Sitting as the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority, the Board approved the appointments of Chiefs Tom Jamison and David Mixon as the Pinellas County Fire Chiefs' Association representative and alternate representative, respectively; and John Peterson and Richard Schomp as the Ambulance Services representative and alternate representative, respectively, for two-year terms ending in March 2020.

In response to queries by Commissioner Gerard, Mr. Woodard provided information regarding the rate of turnover on the Advisory 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: 5 - Vice-Chairman Seel, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Justice, and Commissioner Long

Absent: 2 - Chairman Welch, and Commissioner Morroni

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

28. County Administrator Reports: - Lealman Community Center Update

Mr. Woodard provided historical background information regarding the item; whereupon, Planning Director Renea Vincent referred to a PowerPoint presentation titled *Doing Things! Planning Department and Partners*, and discussed the following:

- Lealman Community Campus - Making A Property A Place!
- Recruitment and Review Process
- Preliminary Tenant Selection
- Preliminary Space Programming
- Next Steps

During discussion and in response to comments and queries by the members, Ms. Vincent provided additional information regarding preliminary space programming, the recruitment and application process, and how rental rates will be negotiated. She related that because children and adults could be attending classes during the same time period, measures will be taken to ensure the safety of the children; whereupon, Mr. Woodard reported that an evaluation is underway regarding the prospect of using the two-story building as an emergency shelter and the gymnasium building as a post-event special needs shelter, and Commissioner Eggers discussed the importance of groups working together in order to meet community needs.

Planning Department Principal Planner Rachel Booth referred to the Pinellas County Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) 2017 Annual Report, and discussed the following:

- Fast Facts
- Project Partnerships
- CRA Operating Funds
- In The Pipeline 2018

Commissioner Eggers discussed the importance of the CRA Citizen Advisory Committee, and in response to his queries and those of Commissioner Justice, Ms. Booth provided information regarding committee member turnover and the need for consistent representation, and confirmed that all meetings will be held at the Community Center;

whereupon, Mr. Woodard presented further information with respect to the CRA, and following brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Seel thanked everyone for their hard work.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

29. Public Comment.

Rushie Thomas, Largo, re to get answer about roof
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, re Humanitarian Crisis/Rectitude of Intent - submitted documents

In response to comments and queries by Ms. Thomas, Mr. Woodard related that Assistant County Administrator Lourdes Benedict would offer assistance regarding her concerns.

COUNTY COMMISSION

30. County Commission New Business Items: - CareerSource Pinellas Update (Commissioner Gerard)

Noting that two members were not in attendance, Commissioner Gerard suggested that in addition to today's update, the item be placed on next week's work session agenda in order that a thorough discussion take place on the matter.

Commissioner Gerard discussed recent meetings she had attended with the Department of Labor (DOL) and Department of Economic Opportunity, reporting that DOL would like to see the County Commission more involved as it relates to CareerSource Pinellas; whereupon, she related that the Ad Hoc Committees of CareerSource Pinellas and CareerSource Tampa Bay will be meeting later in the week regarding the structure of and interaction between the two agencies; that DOL does not wish to discuss merging the two organizations at the present time; and that due to current circumstances, stabilizing the two entities is of vital importance, and discussion ensued regarding the reluctance of DOL to consider a merger at this time.

In response to queries by Vice-Chairman Seel regarding staffing, CareerSource Pinellas Interim Director Jennifer Brackney provided historical and current information regarding the shared services plan between CareerSource Pinellas and CareerSource Tampa Bay, noting that the two separate boards use shared staff, and Commissioner Long discussed short-term and long-term goals relating to leadership of the organization and a vision for the future; whereupon, Commissioner Gerard provided information regarding the concerns expressed by DOL that the County Commission was not more involved in the financial aspects of CareerSource Pinellas.

Commissioner Justice opined that the respective CareerSource boards should not be merged and suggested how the members should proceed if the Pinellas board is to remain an independent entity, and discussion ensued regarding the process for appointing and

removing board members. Vice-Chairman Seel related that there are positive aspects associated with regionalism and with having one combined board, including lower staffing costs; whereupon, Commissioner Gerard related that current day-to-day issues need to be addressed; and that the issue of regionalism could be discussed at some point in the future, and Commissioner Long provided input.

Following lengthy discussion, Vice-Chairman Seel directed that Mr. Woodard work with Chairman Welch and send a letter to the Hillsborough County BCC Chairman requesting a meeting between the two entities, and Mr. Woodard noted other individuals he considered integral to the discussion.

31. 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 Eggers

- The Forward Pinellas Board will meet on April 11.
- The MyVA Community Engagement Board is working toward having more copies of its Resource Guide printed and distributed; the Board will be having a community meeting in May to discuss additional ways to assist veterans in obtaining counseling and/or finding employment. The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System observed National Vietnam War Veterans Day during the last week of March.
- The Tampa Bay Water (TBW) Board will not impose a wholesale water rate increase. Discussion will take place at the next meeting regarding the TBW Master Plan Update. Later in the meeting and in response to query by Commissioner Gerard, Intergovernmental Liaison Brian Lowack and Commissioner Long discussed recent legislation with respect to reclaimed water and the City of Tampa.
- The Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area Leadership Group will meet on May 11.
- Expressed appreciation to Laura Moore, Executive Director, Girls on the Run Tampa Bay, indicating that the national organization builds the confidence and self-esteem of young women.
- City of Oldsmar Mayor Doug Bevis and City of Dunedin Mayor Julie Bujalski are the new President and Vice-President of the Mayors' Council.
- Clearwater Free Clinic opened at its new location and is bringing great services to the community.
- A CNCN Town Hall meeting will be held on April 17 at 7:00 P.M. at Harbor Hall in Downtown Palm Harbor.

- Dunedin is the first city to be recognized by the state for incorporating trails into its community; a celebration will take place during April.

Commissioner Gerard

- Attended a forum at the Caruthers Institute regarding strategies to combat automobile thefts by teenagers.
- Toured Lighthouse Pinellas and discussed technologies incorporated into Apple iPhones that are helping to assist the visually impaired.
- Provided information regarding an online survey pertaining to the Volkswagen settlement.
- Appointed Linda O'Rourke to the Feather Sound Community Services District Board.
- The recently-hired Pinellas County (Child Care) License Board Director is doing a great job.

Commissioner Long

- She and Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Board members traveled to Washington, DC and met with Federal Transit Agency Acting Administrator Jane Williams and Congressional leaders.
- The 2018 federal budget has been passed; Pinellas County could be receiving transportation grant money early for the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit. Transit service from Pinellas County to Tampa International Airport is slated to begin in June; direct service is now available between Downtown Tampa and Downtown St. Petersburg via the Gandy Bridge.
- The partnership with Uber is being expanded. Free spring break trolley service is currently available between Downtown Clearwater and Clearwater Beach. The International Bus Conference will be held in Tampa from May 5 through May 9 with a Bus Rodeo taking place on that Saturday at PSTA.
- Requested that discussion take place at an upcoming work session regarding a class action lawsuit being filed by some municipalities pertaining to state preemption laws and how the Board could be part of that initiative. Requested that discussion also take place regarding potentially dedicating a portion of bed tax dollars to help fund transportation solutions with regard to tourist impacts on local infrastructure; discussion ensued regarding capital funding versus operating expenses and having a legal review of the current bed tax legislation.

- Provided information relating to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC), indicating that staff has developed a timeline regarding the Sea Level Rise and Climate Resilience initiative that commenced in January; and that her hope is to have a summit by the end of the year. Discussion took place at the TBRPC regarding the effect of plastic straws on the environment.
- A recruitment firm has been selected and efforts are underway to hire a new Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority Executive Director.

Commissioner Justice

- The Historic Preservation Board has scheduled a historic summit for May 16 at Stetson University.
- The Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas will hold its annual luncheon and installation of officers on April 27 at Ruth Eckerd Hall.
- The Gulf Consortium meeting scheduled to take place in Panama City in April has been postponed.
- The Wastewater/Stormwater Task Force met yesterday at St. Petersburg College Seminole Campus; significant work has been accomplished since the group was formed in late 2016.

Vice-Chairman Seel

- Provided information regarding how Creative Pinellas is making progress on its public art program through the use of BP Oil Spill funds.
- She would like to explore trying to encourage electric vehicle charging stations in Pinellas County either through the Land Development Code or other policies that could be put into place.
- Thanked Commissioner Long for bringing up the plastic straw issue, relating that she has requested that legal staff research the issue of plastic bags and what the County can and cannot do with respect to state preemption laws to reduce plastic in the environment.

ADJOURNMENT - 12:23 P.M.

Chairman

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By _____
Deputy Clerk