

Clearwater, Florida, March 31, 2008

The Joint Pinellas Planning Council/Countywide Planning Authority Annexation Subcommittee met at the Clearwater Courthouse, Clerk's Large Conference Room, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, at 10:03 A.M. on this date with the following members present:

Pinellas Planning Council (PPC)

City of Dunedin Mayor Bob Hackworth, Chairman, PPC; Subcommittee Chairman
City of Tarpon Springs Mayor Beverley Billiris, Vice-Chairman, PPC
City of Pinellas Park Vice-Mayor Sandra L. Bradbury

Countywide Planning Authority (CPA)

Commissioner Ronnie E. Duncan, Board of County Commissioners (BCC)
Commissioner Susan Latvala, BCC
Commissioner John Morroni, BCC

Also Present:

David P. Healey, Executive Director, PPC
Jewel White Cole, Managing Assistant County Attorney
Other interested individuals
MaryAnn Penhale, Deputy Clerk

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Approval of Agenda
 - B. Approval of Minutes of February 25, 2008
- II. Outline of Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement (ISBA) Process – Chapter 171, Part II, Florida Statutes
- III. Outline of Service and Annexation Areas
 - A. Service Areas – Fire, Water, Sewer
 - B. Planning/Annexation Areas
 1. Interlocal Agreements – Chapter 163.3171 (3) Florida Statutes
 2. Ordinance No. 00-63 - Chronology
- IV. Next Meeting
 - A. Materials to be Provided by Staff
 - B. Date/Time/Place
- V. Adjourn

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Chairman Hackworth called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M., and at his request, subcommittee members and others present introduced themselves. Upon motion by Mayor Billiris, seconded by Commissioner Morroni and carried, today’s agenda was approved. Upon motion by Mayor Billiris, seconded by Commissioner Latvala and carried, the minutes of the February 25, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

OUTLINE OF INTERLOCAL SERVICE BOUNDARY AGREEMENT (ISBA) PROCESS

Attorney Cole referred to her memorandum dated March 17, 2008 and a summary outline of Chapter 171, Part II, Florida Statutes attached thereto, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and provided a brief summary of procedural matters, including initiation of the process, invitations to cities or independent service providers, notification procedures, resolutions passed by initiating governments, procedures for meetings, Chapter 164 conflict resolution, and other related matters. Chairman Hackworth noted that the matter of annexation could also be addressed through working with the state legislature for a statutory solution or by pursuing a recommendation of an amendment to the county charter; whereupon, he indicated that the subcommittee had decided to explore the Chapter 171 process before considering the other available options. In response to queries by the members, Attorney Cole discussed the possible impacts to existing sewer and water districts and crossovers in the provision of services, with additional input provided by Commissioner Duncan regarding the most efficient, economical provision of services and what is best for the citizens and property owners.

* * * *

Deviating from the agenda, Chairman Hackworth announced that citizens’ comments would be heard following the presentations.

* * * *

OUTLINE OF SERVICE AND ANNEXATION AREAS

A. Service Areas – Fire, Water, Sewer

Mr. Healey related that maps reflecting various service areas are being presented in response to direction from the members given at the last meeting; whereupon, Mr. Crawford displayed a map, pointed out the locations of the existing fire districts, and related that there are:

- 1. 25 fire districts.

2. Four independent districts: Lealman, Palm Harbor, East Lake and Pinellas Suncoast Fire District.
3. Ten dependent districts, examples of which would be Tarpon Springs and Dunedin.
4. Seven municipal districts, such as St. Pete Beach.
5. Four other districts, for example, the Redington District.

Responding to queries by Chairman Hackworth and Commissioner Latvala, he confirmed that there are 19 service providers and indicated that he will provide the members with a list of the fire districts and a breakdown of related information.

Mr. Crawford displayed a map and pointed out the location of the existing water districts. He noted that there are ten water districts in the county; that one minor change regarding Oldsmar will be made; and that nine of the districts are municipalities and the remainder is the county; whereupon, he discussed the billing for and distribution of water and related that water sources may vary for the various districts. Responding to queries by Vice-Mayor Bradbury and Commissioner Duncan, he displayed a map showing street locations and boundary lines and discussed the separate Pinellas Park Water Management District and surface water runoff.

Mr. Crawford displayed a map of the existing 13 sewer districts and noted that there two private and 11 public systems; and that the two private systems are located in North County and East Lake; whereupon, he pointed out the location of each and described the individual districts and various aspects related to the provision of services. Responding to queries by the members, Mr. Healey displayed another map depicting areas involving indentures and agreements, pointed out the planning area of the City of Largo, and discussed historical background information regarding the matter of indentures and annexations.

B. Planning/Annexation Areas

Mr. Crawford displayed a composite map showing existing water, sewer, and fire districts, and explained the methodology utilized in the placement of the boundary lines in a logical manner. Mr. Healey displayed a map showing the original planning areas established in 1992, discussed the interlocal agreements under Chapter 163; and stated that the interlocal agreements acted as a procedural mechanism; whereupon, he displayed a map depicting updates made in 2000 and discussed the agreements with the cities of Largo, Pinellas Park, and St. Petersburg; and related that the City of St. Petersburg has notified the county that it intends to terminate the existing agreement.

Mr. Healey presented a chronology regarding Ordinance 00-63 and stated that in November 2000 there were 13 annexation planning areas for the 13 cities having the potential to annex property.

He discussed Ordinance 02-48, which amended the area around Lealman by contracting the planning area boundaries for Pinellas Park, St. Petersburg, Kenneth City, Seminole, and Largo, and resulted in subsequent litigation; the restoration of some boundary lines with the adoption of Ordinance 02-83; and the changes resulting from the adoption of Ordinance 04-26. He indicated that the subcommittee's predecessor entity had been formed in order to address a requirement for a five-year review of planning area boundaries; and stated that the subcommittee had identified four proposed changes as follows:

1. Pull back the boundaries for the cities of Largo and St. Petersburg around the airport and judicial complex.
2. Remove the boundaries for the Town of Redington Shores because the town no longer has any area available for annexation.
3. Square off the annexation boundary lines for the City of Seminole.
4. Amend the boundary lines for the Tierra Verde area.

Mr. Healey displayed two additional maps, one providing further details regarding the tracking of annexations as they occurred; and another showing fire, water, and sewer districts together with the planning areas. Discussion ensued regarding various matters related to annexations, efficiencies in the provision of services, the possibility of unintended consequences that could cause more expense to citizens, and the use of interlocal agreements; whereupon, Commissioner Duncan requested that Mr. Healey provide the members with copies of the materials presented during the meeting.

Mr. Healey discussed the general downward trend in the number of annexations and the larger percentage of annexations reducing enclaves; and in response to a request by Chairman Hackworth regarding a method of benchmarking efficiency, he indicated that staff would attempt to compile information showing a comparison of the cost per capita to provide services. Deliberations continued regarding the feasibility of the option of addressing community protection areas with the state legislature and the formation of de facto community protection districts related to boundary lines. Responding to queries by the members, Attorney Cole stated that there is no provision in the law to provide for citizens to have a referendum and have lines put into place; and that the legislature would probably prefer use of the Chapter 171, Part II process rather than a special act or community protection act. Responding to query by Commissioner Morroni, City of St. Petersburg Chief Assistant Attorney Mark Winn indicated that he is not ready to comment on the city's position regarding participation in the process inasmuch as he has not yet received direction from the Mayor or City Council.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Responding to the Chairman's call for comments from the audience, the following individuals stated their concerns and suggestions, and the members responded and provided additional input.

Jim Millican, Lealman Fire District
Mary Ely, Director of Community Development, City of Seminole
Jack Parker, Tierra Verde
Ray Neri, Lealman Community Association

Planning Director Brian K. Smith referred to the letter received from the City of St. Petersburg regarding its intention to terminate the existing interlocal agreement; whereupon, he suggested that staff could consider contacting the City and inquiring as to whether it wishes to reconsider the cancellation; and that dialog with the City regarding the matter should be kept open. Discussion ensued, with input provided by Commissioner Duncan, Chairman Hackworth, and Vice-Mayor Bradbury.

NEXT MEETING

Materials to be Provided by Staff

Chairman Hackworth and Mr. Healey reviewed the directions provided to staff during the meeting, as follows:

- ♦ Provide the members with the materials presented at today's meeting.
- ♦ Provide the members with a list regarding the annexation of enclaves by cities, a copy of which was sent to Commissioner Morroni.
- ♦ Direct the County Attorney's Office to move forward with what is needed to initiate the next steps for the interlocal service boundary agreement process.
- ♦ Direct PPC staff to create boundary lines and address service delivery.
- ♦ Utilize boundary line modifications made two years ago by this entity's predecessor subcommittee as a starting point.
- ♦ Provide cost per capita information regarding the provision of services.

Vice-Mayor Bradbury discussed the *Truth in Annexation* document and distributed handouts titled *Pinellas Park/East Lealman Comparison Report* and *Pinellas Park/West Lealman Report*, together with attachments of related documents, copies of which have been filed and made a part of the record.

March 31, 2008

* * * *

At this time, 11:45 A.M., Commissioner Morroni left the meeting.

* * * *

Date/Time/Place

Following discussion, Chairman Hackworth suggested that the next meeting be held on Monday, April 28 at 10:00 A.M. in the Clerk's Conference Room at the Clearwater Courthouse.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 A.M.