

Largo, Florida, February 9, 2017

A special session of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board (PCCLB) was held in the Board Conference Room, 12600 Belcher Road, Suite 102, Largo, Florida at 1:30 P.M. on this date.

Members Present:

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>
Rick Dunn, Interim Chair	Building Official
Kevin Garriott	Building Official
Steve Gleaton	Specialty Structure
Larry Goldman	Building Official
Alan Holderith	General Contractor
James "Arry" Housh	Roofing Contractor
Stephen Lee	Building Official
Jack Joyner	Mechanical
Rob Maslo	Plumbing
Mike Rodde	Fire Marshal
James Rosenbluth	Building
Danny Sandlin	Building Official
Peter Vasti	Consumer
Fritz Wolf	Residential (via telephone)

Also Present:

- Rodney S. Fischer
- Anne L. Maddox, Department Administrative Manager, PCCLB
- Andrew J. Salzman, Attorney, Unice Salzman Jensen P.A.
- Marion Hale, Attorney, Johnson Pope Bokor Ruppel and Burns LLP
- Other interested individuals
- Michael P. Schmidt, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call/Swearing In

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 P.M. by Interim Chair Dunn; whereupon, he led the Pledge of Allegiance and administered the Oath to persons planning to give testimony, and Ms. Maddox conducted a roll call of the members and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

I. **PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None.

II. **CONSENT AGENDA** – None.

III. **REGULAR AGENDA** – None.

IV. **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUESTS**

A. Old Business – None.

B. New Business:

Appointment and Job Duties of Interim Executive Director

Chair Dunn indicated that the purpose of today's meeting is to appoint an individual to serve as PCCLB Interim Executive Director, relating that he is putting forward the name of Gay Lancaster as someone who can assume the duties of the interim role; and that he has provided a résumé summarizing her years of administrative experience and educational background.

In response to the Chairman's call for persons wishing to be heard, Vince Cocks, St. Petersburg, and Marion Hale and Rodney S. Fischer, Clearwater, presented their comments and concerns.

Mr. Cocks discussed the financial compensation being sought by Mr. Fisher, opining that he should not be paid for his accrued vacation; whereupon, he stated that Pinellas County Government, not the State Legislature, should oversee the PCCLB. In response to queries by Mr. Wolf, Mr. Cocks indicated that he would not answer questions regarding whether he has had interactions with *Tampa Bay Times* reporter Mark Puente.

Attorney Hale related that she represents Mr. Fischer and discussed factors regarding his employment contract. She stated that the contract outlines what is required if the members move forward with his termination or forced resignation, and requested that the members proceed under the terms of the contract, which includes the payment of owed County benefits, and Chairman Dunn provided input.

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Mr. Fischer provided historical background information regarding his years of service as Executive Director of the PCCLB; whereupon, he requested that the members move forward and honor the terms of his contract.

During discussion, Chairman Dunn responded to concerns and queries by the members regarding his recommendation to appoint Gay Lancaster as PCCLB Interim Executive Director.

How was Ms. Lancaster nominated for the interim position? (*Vasti*)

- Senator Jack Latvala requested that Chair Dunn review the résumé of Ms. Lancaster; and recommended that her name be put forward.

Has the Board followed protocol regarding the appointment process? (*Vasti*)

- He is unaware of any additional protocol. Later in the meeting, Attorney Salzman indicated that it is his understanding that proper procedures have been followed for the limited amount of time that the Interim Executive Director will serve.

Does the candidate have construction experience? (*Joyner*)

- The present search relates to the interim position; the ensuing search for the permanent Executive Director will include requirements above and beyond administrative abilities.

Is there an anticipated timeframe regarding how long the Interim Executive Director will serve? (*Rosenbluth, Gleaton*)

- The Interim Executive Director will serve in an administrative capacity until a permanent individual is recruited and hired. The goal is to fill the permanent position in 60 to 90 days.

If Ms. Lancaster is not appointed, how will the overall operation of the PCCLB be affected? (*Vasti*)

- Chair Dunn indicated that he is uncertain of the answer to the question.

Can staff run the office until the interim position is filled? (*Rosenbluth*)

- Ms. Maddox is presently serving in that role and will continue to do so until the Interim Executive Director is selected.

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Who will be conduct the search for the permanent position if Ms. Lancaster is not appointed to the interim position? (*Gleaton*)

- The Board members would conduct the search.

Would Pinellas County be able to offer assistance in the search for a permanent Executive Director? (*Rosenbluth*)

- Attorney Salzman indicated that he has been informed that Pinellas County and the County Attorney's Office would provide assistance in the search effort.

Following lengthy discussion, Mr. Goldman moved, seconded by Mr. Rodde, that Ms. Lancaster be appointed as Interim Executive Director; whereupon, Mr. Rosenbluth offered an alternate motion and moved, seconded by Mr. Vasti, that discussion regarding the selection of an Interim Executive Director be tabled. Upon call for the vote, the motion carried 12 to 2, with Messrs. Rodde and Lee casting the dissenting votes.

Mr. Rosenbluth moved, seconded by Mr. Joyner, that Ms. Maddox continue office operations for the next 30 days to allow time for the members to establish an ad hoc committee, conduct a candidate search, and present names to the members for consideration for the Executive Director position. Following brief discussion and upon call for the vote, the motion carried 14 to 0. Later in the meeting, Chairman Dunn and Messrs. Rosenbluth, Rodde, and Sandlin indicated that they would serve on the ad hoc committee.

Mr. Gleaton moved, seconded by Mr. Wolf, that the members not table discussion regarding the separation/resignation of Mr. Fischer, and following discussion, Mr. Gleaton withdrew his motion; whereupon, Attorney Salzman indicated that it is his understanding that the members would like to handle the matter as soon as possible; and that such a request will be made to the County Attorney's Office.

Mr. Gleaton provided historical background information regarding the operation of the Probable Cause Committee; whereupon, Mr. Rosenbluth thanked him for his service, and thanked the *Tampa Bay Times* for identifying areas for improvement.

- C. Miscellaneous Correspondence – None.
- D. Citizens to be Heard – None.

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VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Mr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Gleaton, the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 P.M.

  
Interim Chair

