

Largo, Florida, February 16, 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
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:

1. Appointment of Gay Lancaster as Interim Executive Director

Reading from a prepared statement, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, Chair Dunn provided historical background information regarding the item; whereupon, noting that the PCCLB has gallantly fulfilled its mission of protecting county residents for over 40 years, he related that hiring an individual capable of managing such an essential agency could take 60 days or more, and discussed the consequences of not quickly appointing an individual to serve as Interim Executive Director.

Chair Dunn reported that during conversations with local community leaders, the name of Gay Lancaster was proposed as an accomplished leader who could capably assume the duties of the interim role; and that he is in agreement with the proposal; whereupon, he discussed the duties of the position.

Thereupon, Mr. Joyner moved, seconded by Mr. Goldman, that Gay Lancaster be appointed as Interim Executive Director of the PCCLB.

Mr. Wolf commented that he is impressed with Ms. Lancaster's résumé and expressed his confidence regarding her abilities; whereupon, responding to his queries, Attorney Salzman advised that the Board is following proper protocol with respect to the motion and the appointment.

Upon call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Discuss the options for Rodney Fischer's separation and appropriate leave pay out

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Chair Dunn introduced the item. In response to his call for persons wishing to be heard, Marion Hale, Clearwater, and Vince Cocks, St. Petersburg, presented their comments and concerns.

Attorney Hale related that she represents Mr. Fischer and discussed factors regarding his employment contract, the termination process, and state law. 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 a three-month severance package.

Mr. Cocks presented his concerns regarding vacation time and other benefits being sought by Mr. Fischer, and requested that the members defer a decision on the matter, pending a potential investigation of the PCCLB by the Office of the State Attorney; whereupon, in response to query by Mr. Wolf, Mr. Cocks stated that he would not answer any questions.

Attorney Salzman, Board Legal Counsel, provided background information concerning the item, and reported that Mr. Fischer has tendered his notice of retirement; whereupon, he presented three options for consideration, advising that the members proceed with Option No. 3, authorizing him and the Interim Executive Director to negotiate with Mr. Fischer's attorney and return with a settlement proposal and a release pertaining to future lawsuits.

During discussion and in response to query by Mr. Joyner, Attorney Salzman related that there is a provision in the contract that allows for the resignation of the Executive Director.

Mr. Rosenbluth moved, seconded by Mr. Joyner, that Option No. 3 be chosen, allowing Board legal counsel to negotiate an agreement with Mr. Fischer and his representative; and that the agreement be brought before the Board for a vote as soon as possible.

Upon call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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C. Miscellaneous Correspondence – None.

D. Citizens to be Heard – None.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Mr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Gleaton, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

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Interim Chair