

Minutes of the Sales Tax Committee- Regular Meeting

Date: December 9, 2021, at 5:00 PM

Location: Polk County Public Schools 1915 South Floral Ave., Bartow, FL 33830 (863)534-0620

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Dillons Daniels at 5:02 PM

Members Present: Dillon Daniels, Jeremy Clark, Eddy Twyford, Brian Yates, Robert Kincart.
Karen Tiner, Dr. Robert Emilio Moses, Diretta Wilcox joined via Zoom.

Staff Present: Frederick Heid, Angela Usher, Jason Pitts, Heather Jenkins, Jennifer Farrell,
Autumn Ashley.

School Board Representative: William Allen via Zoom.

At 5:02, Chairperson Dillion Daniels called the meeting to order.

Dillion Daniels called for approval of the June Sales Tax meeting minutes. Jeremy Clark motioned and Eddy Twyford seconded the motion. The vote to approve the June Sales Tax meeting minutes was unanimously approved.

Dillion Daniels called for approval of the September Sales Tax meeting minutes. Eddy Twyford motioned and Jeremy Clark seconded the motion. The vote to approve the September Sales tax meeting minutes was unanimously approved.

Chairperson Dillion Daniels brought to the Committee's attention that it was time to hold the chairman election. Eddy Twyford volunteered; Mr. Twyford was unanimously voted the new chairperson for the Sales Tax Committee. Jeremy Clark volunteered for Vice Chairperson; Mr. Clark was unanimously voted the new vice chairperson for the Sales Tax Committee.

Angela Usher introduced Superintendent Frederick Heid, along with Jason Pitts, Chief of Staff, and Heather Jenkins, Chief Financial Officer, to the Sales Tax Committee.

Jennifer Farrell reviewed the past quarterly sales tax revenue with the committee. Mrs. Farrell explained the drop in revenue from the prior year was attributed to the COVID pandemic lockdown and that current revenue was back up and more aligned with previous projections.

Eddy Twyford inquired about plans for any extra or unused revenue. Angela Usher explained the money would be used for additional projects or to accelerate the schedule of current projects.

Jennifer Farrell reviewed the new sales tax-funded project of added school security measures using Blue Poles and field lights at Davenport Senior High. The Committee members did not have any questions at that time.

Angela Usher discussed projects completed with Sales Tax including the playground at Karen Segal and the covered walkways at Babson Park. Mrs. Usher further discussed projects including the completion of modernization at Fred Garner Elementary and the new gym at Denison Middle. She also spoke of the projects awaiting completion at Mulberry Senior, Lake Wales Fueling Station, and the early learning center at Willow Oak School. Planned upcoming projects include modernizations of Elbert Elementary and Eagle Lake Elementary.

A project to come to the Board at the next School Board Meeting is the new Elementary 21C on Highway 643. A possible additional project is a future middle school at Massy Rd. /Highway 27, depending on enrollment and projected revenue.

Mrs. Usher also reviewed projections for demography. She noted that meetings between Facilities staff and local builders are held often to keep on top of growth. In the next four years, based on projections four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school will need to be built.

Robert Kincart asked where the largest growth in the county was taking place. Mrs. Usher explained that at this time growth is taking place countywide but especially in southwest Lakeland. Eddy Twyford asked how the district pays for needs created by the growth and Mrs. Usher explained funds come from impact fees and local capital improvement.

Eddy Twyford inquired about ADA requirements regarding Rochelle School of the Arts and if there were any available funds. Mrs. Usher agreed on the importance of ADA compliance and stated ADA projects could be added as needed.

Jennifer Farrell asked the committee members for any questions or comments.

Dr. William Allen offered his thanks to the committee members, Mr. Heid, Mrs. Usher and Staff for their involvement. He congratulated the new Chairperson, Eddy Twyford and Vice Chairperson, Jeremy Clark. Dr. Allen then asked for feedback on the Bella Citta K-8 expansion; the K-8 lease to purchase on White Clay Pit Road option, and the community meeting for Alturas Elementary.

Superintendent Frederick Heid responded to Dr. Allen's request for information regarding the community meeting at Alturas Elementary. He spoke about safety and being respectful of the community while measuring the decision between the two options for the school. Superintendent Heid stated the two options were between putting in proper utilities for the existing school to make it safe or building a new school in another location. He further noted that this is a decision that will take more time and thought to determine the right choice for everyone. Superintendent Heid offered his thanks to the committee for the service they offer their communities.

Jennifer Farrell asked for any further questions or comments.

Brian Yates brought to the attention of the committee that the City of Winter Haven would like to improve the Denison Stadium track and field. Mr. Yates asked if there may be any sales tax available to complete this project. Jason Pitts, Chief of Staff, stated that this project would be funded out of local capital improvement funds and not sales tax funds. Mr. Yates requested that School Board staff take a look at the requested project for Denison Stadium track and field.

Eddy Twyford recalled the ribbon cutting at the Westwood Middle School gymnasium. He stated how rewarding it was to do the ribbon cutting there during a home game for the girls basketball team. He enjoyed being able to experience the excitement of the team and community. Mr. Twyford stated that he feels it is important to connect to the local community as a member of the Sales Tax Committee.

Jennifer Farrell suggested the date for the next meeting and reminded the committee of the opportunity to view the new Willow Oak School and Early Learning Center.

Chairperson Eddy Twyford agreed that the next meeting should be held at Willow Oak School and offered the tentative date Tuesday March 29th, 2022, pending availability of the school.

Brian Yates motioned for adjournment of the meeting. Dillion Daniels seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.