



**TOWN OF REDINGTON BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
Monday, September 16th, 2024**

Immediately following the Final Budget Hearing

Town Hall

Assembly Hall

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 5. PUBLIC FORUM: Non-Agenda Items Only NOTE: A three-minute time limit applies to all comments from the public on non-agenda items only. If a person wishes to address the Board of Commissioners, **about a NON-AGENDA item**, please fill out a "Speakers Card" and give it to the Town Clerk prior to the start of the meeting.**
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Resolution 2024-04:** A Resolution of The Town of Redington Beach, Florida, Requesting That the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation File and Support A Special Act Removing the Town from Participation in The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority; Making Related Findings; And Providing For Severability And An Effective Date.
- 7. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**

Note: The Town of Redington Beach Board of Commissioners meet the First Wednesday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The Town of Redington Beach Board of Commissioners may take action on any matter during this meeting, including items that are not set forth within this agenda.

Minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting may be obtained from the Town Clerk's office. The meetings may be recorded. The Minutes are not transcribed verbatim. It is the policy of the Board of Commissioners to make "action minutes" of all meetings

Persons requiring a verbatim transcript of any Town meeting (for purposes of appeal or otherwise) should make arrangements to have a certified Court Reporter, at their own cost and expense, present at the meeting.

Persons who wish to appeal any decision made by the Board of Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. (F.S. 286.0105) **Notice Regarding Special Accommodations: (F.S. 286.26)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF REDINGTON BEACH, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION FILE AND SUPPORT A SPECIAL ACT REMOVING THE TOWN FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY; MAKING RELATED FINDINGS; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Central Pinellas Transit Authority (CPTA) was created by Chapter Law 70-907, Laws of Florida, which became law on July 2nd 1970 without the Governor's signature; and

WHEREAS, the original cities which joined together to form the CPTA were Clearwater, Dunedin, Largo, Safety Harbor, Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, Indian Rocks Beach, and Pinellas County; and

WHEREAS, the original purpose of the CPTA was "to meet the existing critical need for improved modern transit services in the central Pinellas area" which, it was suggested, "will be accentuated by the compulsory examination requirement for drivers' licenses which becomes effective on July 1, 1970", and due to the fact that a "large percentage of the population of the central Pinellas area is made up of senior citizens and/or disadvantaged groups who require bus transit facilities"; and

WHEREAS, the CPTA was created as "a body politic and corporate [and] an agency of the county", with the authority to establish a public transit system, and to impose a tax on properties within the CPTA of not more than one quarter of a mill; and

WHEREAS, the Special Act went on to be amended nine times, via Chapter Laws 82-368, 82-416, 90-449, 91-338, 94-433, 94-438, 99-440, 00-424, and 02-341; and

WHEREAS, the CPTA was renamed in Chapter Law 82-367 as the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, which Special Act also added municipalities with a population of 25,000 or more, but less than 100,000 and entitling such municipalities to one member on the governing board, and municipalities with a population of 100,000 or more, and entitling such municipalities to one member on the board for each 100,000 persons, and one member for any fraction thereof; and

WHEREAS, Chapter Law 90-449 repealed Chapter Law 70-907 on October 1st 1991 so that the PSTA could be reviewed by the Legislature to ensure it was operating efficiently and effectively and whether there would be a significant and discernable adverse effect in the County if the PSTA were abolished; and

WHEREAS, Chapter Law 90-449 also mandated that any future Special Act which reestablished the PSTA would be required to have a legislative review of these questions every ten years; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature changed course the next year and, in Chapter Law 91-338, the

Legislature repealed Chapter Law 90-449, removed the need for any legislative review of efficiency and effectiveness and impact on the County, and further granted additional powers to the PSTA Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, Chapter Law 94-433 created an obligation of the Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court to conduct periodic performance audits of the PSTA; and

WHEREAS, Chapter Law 99-440 converted the PSTA from an “agency of the County” to “an independent special district”; and

WHEREAS, Chapter Law 2000-424 re-enacted and re-created the PSTA, and, for the first time, including the Town of Redington Beach in the PSTA; and

WHEREAS, Chapter Law 2000-424 required the Town of Redington Beach to share one governing board appointment with nine other municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Chapter Law 02-341 allowed the PSTA to sell real property to another governmental entity without competitive bids; and

WHEREAS, in the decades since the PSTA was first created to meet the need for “improved modern transit services in the central Pinellas area” in order to provide “bus transit facilities” to “senior citizens and/or disadvantaged groups who require” such facilities, the manner in which citizens travel has substantially changed dramatically with the advent of ride share apps, food delivery apps, and the establishment of remote-working environments made possible by advanced communications services infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, these changes in society’s travel patterns appear to run contrary to a centralized bus service operating large capacity vehicles which often carry few passengers; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Redington Beach fully respects the right of each municipality within Pinellas County to financially support the PSTA if those municipalities determine the PSTA’s operations are advancing the economic or social interests of those municipalities in a manner that justifies the related taxation of property owners; and

WHEREAS, while having participated in it, the Town of Redington Beach has never identified a significant need for its inclusion in, and subsequent taxation of its property owners by, the PSTA; and

WHEREAS, according to data from the Pinellas County Tax Collector, property owners in the Town of Redington Beach paid \$529,007.89 to support the PSTA; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Redington Beach is a residential municipality with no commercial or industrial businesses, and no hotels or motels; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Redington Beach does not have a need, or desire for a bus stop within its jurisdiction, and for aesthetic and community safety reasons would desire not to have any mass transit facilities situated within the Town; and

WHEREAS, members of the Town's Board of Commissioners have received, over time, questioning from property owners in the Town as to why owners must pay ad valorem taxes to support a public transit system which is not necessary or beneficial for the personal lives and business ventures of Town residents and property owners; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Board of Commissioners and the Town's residents do not believe the membership model of the governing board, which does not provide for direct representation of Town residents, is not consistent with the principle of having taxation only with representation; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing history and concerns, the Board of Commissioners concludes that continuing membership in the PSTA is not in the Town's best interests.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Redington Beach, Florida, that:

Section 1. The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Redington Beach, Florida, hereby requests that the Pinellas County legislative delegation file a Special Act to amend the current Special Act creating and defining the membership of the PSTA, with such amendment removing the Town from the geographic area of the PSTA, removing the Town from the PSTA's membership, and as a result removing the obligation of the Town's property owners to financial support the PSTA's operations.

Section 2. The Town Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to each member of the Pinellas County legislative delegation.

Section 3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, provision, or word of this Resolution is held unconstitutional or otherwise legally invalid, same shall be severable and the remainder of this Resolution shall not be affected by such invalidity, such that any remainder of the Resolution shall withstand any severed provision, as the Board of Commissioners would have adopted the Resolution even absent the invalid part.

Section 4. Any prior motion or Resolution adopted by the Commission which is in conflict with this Resolution is hereby repealed.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 16th day of September, 2024, by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Redington Beach, Florida.

David Will, Mayor

Attest:

Adriana Nieves, Town Clerk