



**Minutes of Meeting
Board of County Commissioners
St. Johns County, Florida
Special Meeting
County Administration Building
500 San Sebastian View
St. Augustine, Florida 32084
September 3, 2026 - 5:01 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Murphy called the special meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Present: Clay Murphy, District 3, Chair
Ann Taylor, District 5, Vice Chair
Christian Whitehurst, District 1
Sarah Arnold, District 2
Krista Joseph, District 4

Staff Present: Joy Andrews, County Administrator
Rich Komando, County Attorney
Brad Bradley, Deputy County Administrator
Jesse Dunn, Deputy County Administrator
Sarah Taylor, Assistant County Administrator
Lex Taylor, Deputy County Attorney
Kealey West, Deputy County Attorney
Artricia Allen, Deputy Clerk

ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll.

INVOCATION

Pastor Jason Cullum, Christ Church, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bill Dudley, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force - Retired, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO SPECIAL AGENDA

Joseph requested that Commissioners' comments be held at the end of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL AGENDA

Motion by Joseph, seconded by Taylor, carried 5/0, to approve the Special Meeting Agenda, as amended.

Yea: Joseph, Taylor, Murphy, Whitehurst, Arnold

Nay: None

1. Public Hearing - 5:01 p.m. Public Hearing - St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners Adoption of Tentative Millage Rates and Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027. In accordance with Sections 129.03 and 200.065 of the Florida Statutes, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is required to hold public hearings to adopt its millage rates and budget for the next fiscal year. Such hearings must be held after 5:00 p.m. if scheduled for a day other than Saturday. The September 3, 2026, 5:01 p.m. hearing date has been advertised in *The St. Augustine Record*. The Florida Statutes further prescribe the specific order for consideration of substantive issues to be discussed during the required public hearings. The first substantive issue of discussion must be the percentage increase in the County's aggregate millage rate over the rolled-back rate necessary to fund the budget. The rolled-back rate is defined as the aggregate millage rate that would generate the same level of prior-year tax revenues, less certain defined allowances (such as new construction). During such discussion, the general public shall be allowed to speak and ask questions prior to the adoption of any measures by the BCC. The BCC shall adopt by resolution its tentative millage rates prior to adopting its tentative budget for FY 2027

Wade Schroeder, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, reviewed the details of the proposed millage rates and budget.

Discussion ensued regarding the tentative millage rates and the allocation of property tax revenue toward public safety.

Public Comment:

Debra Campbell questioned funding for license plate tag removal and the use of public funds for biometric tracking equipment and citizen surveillance without public consent. She urged the Board to deny the budget request.

Kaley Masters expressed support for increasing deputy salaries and urged the Board to direct more funding toward officers rather than Flock cameras.

Shawn Morrison spoke regarding the Flock camera system and urged the Board to remove the cameras from St. Johns County right-of-way.

Forrest Parham expressed concerns regarding cost, effectiveness, and constitutional implications of Flock cameras and license plate readers.

Ed Slavin urged the Board to allocate funding for cold case investigations, County staff involvement in investigations, and pending applications.

Mike Gill expressed concerns regarding Flock cameras and urged that funding should support higher sheriff salaries and case investigations.

Whitehurst asked Sheriff Robert Hardwick, who explained that the additional \$3.9 million budget request was primarily intended to increase deputy salaries and improve recruitment and retention. Hardwick also discussed the Flock license plate reader system, its costs, data security, required audit, and potential reallocation of funds if the system is removed. He emphasized the technology's role in solving crimes and protecting schools, while noting ongoing discussions with state officials regarding privacy and regulations.

Murphy requested *consensus to tentatively approve a flat-rate sealing, with the opportunity to consider a lower rate at the next meeting*. Schroeder clarified that the tentatively approved rate could be lowered but could not be increased.

Motion by Whitehurst, seconded by Taylor, carried 5/0, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-294, approving the Fiscal Year 2027 Tentative Millage Rates as set by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, for all property in St. Johns County, as of January 1, 2027.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 294

RESOLVED, that the following **FISCAL YEAR 2027 TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE** is hereby set by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, for all property in St. Johns County, as of January 1, 2026.

General Fund	4.4999
County Transportation Trust Fund	0.8444
County Health Unit Trust Fund	0.0160
Fire District, Countywide, <i>Except City of St. Augustine</i>	1.4700
St. Augustine South Street Lighting District	0.1268
Vilano Street Lighting District	0.0303
Summerhaven M.S.T.U.	7.3392
Coastal Highway M.S.T.U.	0.5000
South Ponte Vedra Beach Dune & Beach Restoration M.S.T.U.	2.0000
Serenata Beach Dune & Beach Restoration M.S.T.U.	0.5500
Ponte Vedra Beach Dune & Beach Restoration M.S.T.U.	0.0000
AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE	6.7559

Aggregate Rolled-back Rate	6.6143
Percentage increase in Property Taxes from rolled-back rate:	2.14%

 **Motion by Whitehurst, seconded by Taylor, carried 5/0, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-295, approving the Fiscal Year 2027 Tentative Budget of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, using the certified taxable value of \$63,056,698,242, generating an estimated \$426,006,002 in taxes, and resulting in a total budget of \$1,939,752,566.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 295

RESOLVED, that the following **FISCAL YEAR 2027 TENTATIVE BUDGET** of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, developed using the certified taxable value of \$63,056,698,242, generating an estimated \$426,006,002 in taxes, is hereby adopted, resulting in a total budget of \$1,939,752,566 as follows:

General Fund	\$543,610,743
Special Revenue Funds	
- Transportation Trust	\$204,279,506
- Fire District	114,972,336
- Health Department	977,629
- Building Services	23,536,917
- Tourist Development	41,538,897
- Impact Fees - Public Buildings	36,991,488
- Impact Fees - Police Services	5,095,861
- Impact Fees - Fire Rescue	15,612,491
- Impact Fees - Conservation	357,460
- Impact Fees - Roads	105,173,601
- Impact Fees - Parks	23,246,749
- Beach Services	6,229,105
- County Pier	753,802
- Golf Course	5,482,433
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse Trust	242,209
- Community Based Care	14,604,947
- Transit System	9,537,951
- State Housing Initiative Partnership	6,832,453
- Tree Bank	2,390,125
- Sidewalk Mitigation	63,758
- E-911 Communications	2,828,817
- Law Enforcement Trust	13,022
- Crimes Prevention Trust	104,532
- Court Innovation	327,735
- Legal Aid	384,988
- Law Library	65,589
- Juvenile Alternative Programs	80,241

- Court Technology	10,922,150
- Communications Surcharge	786,359
- Florida Boating Improvement	560,367
- Northwest Tower	509,573
- Court Facilities Trust	482,235
- Driver's Safety Education	92,964
- American Recovery Plan	5,944,830
- Emergency Rental Assistance	273,039
- FEMA Emergency Disaster Relief	354,137
- FEMA Emergency Disaster Events	51,331,897
- Opioid Settlement Funds	493,879
- Equitable Sharing Justice	21,248
- Equitable Sharing Treasury	65,820
- Equitable Sharing Task Force	7,132
- West Augustine CRA	2,210,932
- Flagler Estates CRA	1,105,075
- Vilano CRA	1,048,097
- Vilano Street Lighting District	53,445
- Elkton Drainage District	176,334

Special Revenue Funds Continued

- St. Aug. South St. Lighting District	\$150,980
- Treasure Beach M.S.B.U.	229,997
- Summer Haven M.S.T.U.	1,156,505
- Durbin CTITF	584,015
- Coastal Hwy Dune & Beach M.S.T.U.	84,411
- SPV Blvd Dune & Beach M.S.T.U.	601,688
- Serenata Beach M.S.T.U.	52,292

Debt Service Funds

- Trane Capital Lease	\$120,781
- Public Facility Note	410,923
- 19 CBA Refunding Bond	1,449,750
- 20 Special Obligation Revenue Note	764,732
- 21 Taxable Special Obligation Bonds	5,016,360
- 22 Special Obligation Bonds	1,059,446
- 22A Special Obligation Note	311,970
- 24 HUD 108 Loan Note	424,073
- 24 Special Obligation Bonds	1,105,500
- 24A Special Obligation Bonds	8,616,500
- 25 Special Obligation Bonds	5,201,000

Capital Improvement Funds

- Beach Re-Nourishment Projects	\$5,121,893
- SR 207 CIG Developers Projects	2,839,926
- 2019 Capital Projects	3,193,237
- Coastal Hwy Dune & Beach Project	2,119,208
- PV Beach Dune & Beach Project	200,645

- SPV Beach Dune & Berm Project	235,986
- LAMP	5,566,750
- County Capital Improvement Projects	15,507,189
- Hastings Community Center & Library	2,580,452
- Porpoise Point Stabilization	1,536,588
- FY 25 Capital Improvement Projects	70,950,172

Enterprise Funds

- Solid Waste Management	\$68,452,804
- Utility Services	417,358,335

Internal Service Funds

- Worker Compensation Insurance	\$3,765,704
- Health Insurance	63,980,501

Trust & Agency Funds

- FSA-Medical	\$1,143,802
- FSA-Dependent	209,748
- OPEB Trust	5,873,805

Motion by Whitehurst, seconded by Taylor, carried 5/0, to set a Public Hearing, on September 15, 2026, at 5:01 p.m. in the County Auditorium, to consider the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2027 Millage Rates and Budget for the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Arnold

No report.

Commissioner Joseph

Commissioner Joseph requested *Board consensus to direct staff to place the Encert 2026-01, North Palm Valley Road on the September 15 agenda and requested that the County Attorney's Office provide proper notice.* **Consensus was given.**

Commissioner Whitehurst

No report.

Commissioner Taylor

No report.

Commissioner Murphy

No report.

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Approved _____, 2026

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Clay Murphy, Chair

ATTEST: BRANDON J. PATTY,
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER

By: _____
Deputy Clerk