

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 29, 2004
(5:30 P.M.)**

Proceedings of a Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, began and held in the Auditorium at the County Administration Building, 4020 Lewis Speedway (County Road 16-A) and U.S. 1 North, St. Augustine, Florida.

Present were: Karen Stern, District 2, Chair
 Bruce Maguire, District 4, Vice Chair
 Nicholas Meiszer, District 1
 James E. Bryant, District 5
 Ben W. Adams, Jr., County Administrator
 Dan Bosanko, County Attorney
 Diane Gorski, Deputy Clerk

(09/29/04 - 1 - 5:30 p.m.)

Chair Stern called the Special Meeting to order.

(09/29/04 - 1 - 5:30 p.m.)

1. 5:30 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - FLORIDA STATUTES 129.03 AND 200.065 REQUIRE THAT EACH YEAR THE BCC MUST ADOPT ITS MILLAGE RATES AND BUDGET FOR ITS NEXT FY AT A PUBLIC HEARING. THAT HEARING MUST BE HELD AFTER 5.00 PM, IF SCHEDULED ON A DAY OTHER THAN A SATURDAY. THERE ARE TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS REQUIRED. THE FIRST HEARING, TO ADOPT THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES AND THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY 2005, WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2004. THIS PUBLIC HEARING IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE FINAL MILLAGE RATES AND THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2005. THE FLORIDA STATUTES PRESCRIBE A SPECIFIC ORDER FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS AT THE PUBLIC HEARING. THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE OF DISCUSSION MUST BE THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE OVER THE ROLLED - BACK RATE. PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATES AND BUDGET MUST ALSO BE HEARD. PRIOR TO THE CLOSURE OF THE MEETING, THE BCC WILL NEED TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS SETTING FORTH THE FINAL MILLAGE RATES AND BUDGET FOR FY 2005

Proof of publication of Notice of a Special Meeting of the St. Johns County Board of Commissioners was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record* on September 24, 2004.

Doug Timms, Interim Director of Management and Budget, reviewed the Final Millage Rates as set forth by Florida Statute 200.65 also known as Truth in Millage or the TRIM Statute and explained that the percentage increase over the roll-back rate is required to be the first substantive issue to be discussed. He stated that the percentage increase for FY (FY) 2005 is 6.69% over the Roll-back rate that is roughly 6.2 million dollars. He provided the following reasons for the increase over the Roll-back rate are to fund salary structure upgrades for Fire Services and the Sheriff's Operations to enable the departments to become more competitive in the labor market; to balance the Mental Health and Worker's Compensation funds for the County and primarily to fund HVAC

(heating, ventilation and air conditioning) upgrades for the County Health and Human Services Center.

(5:32 p.m.) Stern asked if there was any Public Comment and there was not. (5:32 p.m.) Dan Bosanko, County Attorney, reiterated that State Statute required that the County characterize the percentage increase over the Roll-back rate as an increase in property taxes.

Timms gave a PowerPoint Presentation highlighting the FY 2005 Budget (Exhibit A) and reviewed the budgeting process. Discussion relating to the budget ensued.

(5:47 p.m.) Stern presented a request from the Health and Human Services (HHS), regarding the continuance of funding at the current level for the Hastings Medical Center. (5:48 p.m.) Bryant stated that the March 18, 2004 minutes from the HHS Advisory Council had recommended that the Board approve \$100,000 for the Hastings Clinic; subsequently a request had been made for \$150,000. He stated that he had not been able to get discerning figures from the private pays and indigents that were served at the clinic. He explained that this was a hybrid practice subsidized by the County who allowed the practitioner to see private patients to subsidize the clinic. He stated that a break down of types of patients had not been received from the clinic and that he did not support the request. (5:49 p.m.) Stern stated that the Board required accountability or reporting and that a condition for reporting was included in the request for additional funding. She explained that accountability was needed to provide funding for the Hastings Clinic and Primary Care services. (5:50 p.m.) Timms stated that the consensus of the Staff was to be agreeable to the current contract to fund an additional \$20,000 for two months to allow time for a full evaluation of the proposal. (5:51 p.m.) Bryant stated that the County had approved \$12,500 per month for FY 2004 and wondered why the Board would approve a \$20,000 monthly increase. He explained that there was an application on file for a Federal Qualified Health Center (FQHC) grant for the Hastings area and that the County Health Department would also be applying for this same grant and that this Department provides care to the entire County. (5:52 p.m.) Meiszer asked if the Federal Grant application required the requested additional funding and Timms answered that it did. Meiszer stated that there was no reason to jeopardize a grant or increase the total appropriated sum, but said that there should be a provision to approve the application and the County's increase of its allocation by \$50,000 from resources that would otherwise be appropriated and that could be used to validate the increase from resources that were available for appropriation. He stated that the payment would not need to be made until the grant was approved but that the authorization for additional funding was needed for grant approval and Timms explained that an extension of the contract for two months would allow time to apply for the grant. (5:54 p.m.) *Motion by Meiszer to extend the contract for two months and include sufficient funds from whatever source to qualify or to apply for the grant that is in progress.* (5:54 p.m.) Adams asked Timms if the funds needed to be identified in the motion and Timms stated that a Board consensus would be enough to change the budget accordingly. Stern verified that Meiszer had made a motion and stated that she would be willing to second the motion if Meiszer would add that the County would send it back to HHS to review the spreadsheet for accountability, or checklist for accountability for HHS and the Hastings Medical Center. (5:55 p.m.) Meiszer stated that just because the monies were available in the budget did not give them authority to incur the expense, it meant that they would need to come back with the qualifications and if the Commission at that time does not like the qualifications, they would not approve it. *Meiszer amended his motion using Sterns suggestions; the motion was then seconded by Stern.* (5:55 p.m.) Hunt stated that the requested amount of \$20,000, when looked at on a per annual basis, was more than the annual budget request and it was significantly more than what the Medical

Specialists had requested for the year. He stated that in anticipation of this request a proposed Resolution, extending the contract for 61 days, had been provided to the Board. (5:57 p.m.) Stern asked if this motion was passed would the resolution also need to be approved. Hunt explained that the resolution was to extend the contract until the Board could arrive at a consensus. He stated that if the contract was extended this evening the contract that is up for approval at the next scheduled Regular Board meeting would be taken off of that agenda. (5:58 p.m.) Meiszer stated this his motion was to amend the budget and deal with the other issues at another time. Bryant stated that Meiszer had mentioned that this motion was contingent upon them getting a grant and reminded everyone that the Health Department would also be applying for the same grant. He asserted that the Health Department was in a better position to provide for the whole County with the FQHC grant than one small grant to take care of a smaller portion of the County. (5:59 p.m.) Stern asked if the Hastings Medical Center was to be awarded the FQHC grant could it be blended it in with a grant to the Health Department and Bryant said that it could not. (5:59 p.m.) Bosanko clarified that the motion was to amend the appropriation in the budget and not to approve the contract extension, but to reconsider the contract extension at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting. (6:00 p.m.) Stern restated the motion: **Motion by Meiszer, seconded by Stern, carried 3/1, with Bryant opposed, for a \$50,000 budget amendment to the Hastings Medical Clinic appropriation, with the contract extension request to be brought before the Board at the October 6, 2004 Regular Board Meeting.** Bryant urged Staff and the Board to contact Volusia County to ascertain facts and details related to this issue.

(6:01 p.m.) Stern announced that she had failed to take roll call at the beginning of the meeting and that Commissioners Bryant, Stern, Maguire and Meiszer were present, with Commissioner Jacalone absent.

(6:01 p.m.) Stern declared that the Final Millage Rate for FY 2005 and Final Budget Resolutions needed to be adopted. Timms explained that the Final Millage Rate Resolution must be adopted first and that prior to adoption it was necessary to publicly announce that the taxing authority was St. Johns County and the Roll-back Rate was 6.5269 and the percentage increase in property taxes over the Roll-back Rate was 6.69% and the final Aggregate Millage Rate was 6.9636. He asked the Board to make a motion to adopt the Resolution establishing the Final Millage Rate for FY 2005. (6:02 p.m.) **Motion by Maguire, seconded by Stern, carried 4/0, with Jacalone absent, to adopt Resolution No. 2004-263, establishing the Final Millage Rates for FY 2005: General Fund - 4.930; County Transportation Fund - .900; County Health Unit Trust Fund - .020; Fire District, County-Wide, except City of St. Augustine - 1.200; Vilano Street Lighting District - .023; St. Augustine South Street Lighting District - .000; Julington Creek Municipal Service District - .000; Aggregate Millage Rate - 6.9636; Rolled-back Rate - 6.5269; Percentage increase in Property Taxes over Rolled-back Rate - 6.69%.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2004 -263

RESOLVED, THAT THE FOLLOWING FINAL 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, 2004.

GENERAL FUND	4.930
COUNTY TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND	.900
 COUNTY HEALTH UNIT TRUST FUND	 .020

FIRE DISTRICT, COUNTY-WIDE	1.200
EXCEPT CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE	
VILANO STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT	.023
ST. AUGUSTINE SOUTH STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT	.106
JULINGTON CREEK MUNICIPAL SERVICE DISTRICT	.000
AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE	6.9636
ROLLED-BACK RATE	6.5269
PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES OVER ROLLED-BACK RATE:	6.69%

(6:04 p.m.) Timms explained that the Final Budget Resolution had to be adopted following the Final Millage Rate Resolution and he asked the Board for a motion to adopt the Resolution establishing the Final Budget for FY 2005. **Motion by Meiszer, seconded by Maguire, carried 4/0, with Jacalone absent, to adopt Resolution 2004-264, the Final Budget for FY 2005, in the aggregate amount of \$445,552,451, with a General Fund of \$119,973,976; Special Revenue Funds as listed in the Resolution; Debt Service Funds: \$12,185,000 Refunding Debt Service; 03 Transportation Improvement Debt Service of \$3,543,653; \$21,095,000 for Refunding Debt Service; Ponte Vedra Sewer Debt Service of \$648,707, as listed in the Resolution; Capital Fund Projects and the Enterprise Funds and the Internal Service Funds as indicated in the Resolution.**

(6:07 p.m.) Maguire announced that he had spoken with Sheriff Neil Perry about the operational increases in the proposed Sheriff's budget and understood that most of the increases were due to outside issues beyond the Sheriff's Office control and he supported the Sheriff's FY 2005 Budget Request.

RESOLUTION NO. 2004 - 264

RESOLVED, THAT THE FOLLOWING FY 2005 FINAL BUDGET OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, DEVELOPED USING THE CERTIFIED TAXABLE VALUE OF \$14,214,010,792, GENERATING AN ESTIMATED \$98,980,262 IN TAXES, IS HEREBY ADOPTED, RESULTING IN A TOTAL BUDGET OF \$445,552,451 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL FUND	\$119,973,976
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SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

COUNTY HEALTH UNIT TRUST FUND	288,407
COURT FACILITIES TRUST FUND	729,608
BUILDING SERVICES FUND	11,776,832
LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND	11,802
STATE HOUSING INIT. PART. PROGRAM (SHIP)	783,929
MENTAL HEALTH UNIT TRUST FUND	4,737,304
COMMUNITY BASED CARE	3,957,819
UTILITY REGULATION FUND	249,222
COUNTY TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND	37,082,579
BEACH FUND	1,477,256
PIER OPERATIONS FUND	186,984
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT FUND	6,269,569
TREE BANK FUND	114,930
GALIMORE CENTER FUND	205,946
ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE TRUST FUND	32,286
COMMUNICATIONS SURCHARGE FUND	805,622
CHOOSE LIFE LICENSE FUND	13,239

DRIVER EDUCATION SAFETY FUND	157,735
W. AUGUSTINE CRA FUND	589,710
FLAGLER ESTATES CRA FUND	533,522
VILANO BEACH CRA FUND	5,858,113
FL BOATING IMPROVEMENT TRUSTFUND	1,262,717
HOUSING ABATEMENT FUND	75,721
IMPACT FEE FUNDS	14,888,933
FL ARTS LICENSE PLATE FUND	25,888
DAVIS PARK FUND	19,015
E-911 COMMUNICATIONS	1,492,254
FIRE DISTRICT FUND	20,357,513
SIDEWALK MITIGATION FUND	43,948
WORLD COMMERCE CENTER DRI FUND	28,600
VILANO STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT	14,162
ELKTON DRAINAGE DISTRICT	27,314
ST. AUGUSTINE SOUTH LIGHTING DISTRICT	38,616
JULINGTON CREEK M.S.D.	1,543
TREASURE BEACH M.S.B.U.	0
THOMPSON BAILEY ROAD M.S.B.U.	20,270
PRIVATE ROADS M.S.B.U.	22,210
C. H. ARNOLD ROAD GRADING M.S.B.U.	11,274
RUSTY ANCHOR/WENDOVER RD. M.S.B.U.	2,840
NORTHWEST TOWER FUND	49,074
CRIMES PREVENTION TRUST FUND	176,187
COURT MODERNIZATION TRUST FUND	1,204,400
LEGAL AID FUND	207,625
LAW LIBRARY FUND	157,200

DEBT SERVICE FUNDS

\$12,185,000 REFUNDING DEBT SERVICE	1,107,613
03 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DEBT SERVICE	3,543,653
\$21,095,000 REFUNDING DEBT SERVICE	1,534,651
PONTE VEDRA SEWER DEBT SERVICE	648,707
COMMERCIAL PAPER DEBT SERVICE	1,937,350
04 SALES TAX BONDS DEBT SERVICE	2,249,345
GE CAPITAL DEBT SERVICE	93,750

CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS

NORTHWEST ROAD PROJECT FUND	2,077,409
LIBRARY BUILDING FUND	295,000
PARK PROJECTS FUND	6,505,962
RECREATION PROJECTS	1,184,588
N. HOLMES BLVD. FUND	1,125,211
BOND TRANSPORTATION PROJECT FUND	16,029,056
SEWER CONSTRUCTION FUND	6,396,410
DETENTION FACILITY LIGHTING FUND	869,371
SALES TAX BOND PROJECTS FUND	35,014,813

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

SOLID WASTE FUND	25,605,277
ST. JOHNS COUNTY UTILITY FUND	80,129,561
CONVENTION CENTER FUND	3,063,862
GOLF COURSE FUND	2,980,582
AMPHITHEATER FUND	1,301,393

INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS

WORKERS COMPENSATION FUND	2,721,939
GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE FUND	11,173,254

(6:08 p.m.) Bryant explained that in 1979 the State had deeded Old A1A at Summerhaven to the County and that this road had been washed out due to the hurricanes, leaving seventeen residents, Emergency Medical Service or Fire Service Departments without access to the homes. He asked Adams if Road and Bridge would look into resolving this issue. Adams answered that he had met with Bosanko and discussed the problem at length. (6:09 p.m.) Bosanko explained that there were ways for the County to resolve the problem without the Department of Environmental Protections involvement and that a solution would be forthcoming. Bryant asked that this request be treated with urgency.

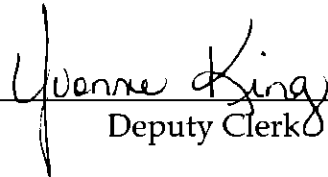
(6:10 p.m.) Motion by Stern, seconded by Maguire, carried 4/0, with Jacalone absent, to adjourn the meeting.

Approved _____ October 20 _____, 2004

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:  _____
Karen R. Stern, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By:  _____
Deputy Clerk

