

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
JULY 29, 2014
9:00 A.M.**

Proceedings of a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, held in the auditorium at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida.

Proof of publication of the notice of special meeting to conduct a workshop to discuss the FY 2015 Recommended County Budget and set tentative County millage rates, was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record* on June 10, 2014.

Present: John H. Morris, District 4, Chair
 Rachael Bennett, District 5, Vice Chair
 Cyndi Stevenson, District 1
 Ron Sanchez, District 2
 William A. McClure, District 3
 Michael Wanchick, County Administrator
 Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
 Sindy Wiseman, Deputy Clerk

(07/29/14 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Morris called the meeting to order.

(07/29/14 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll: all board members were present. Also present was Jerry Cameron, Assistant County Administrator.

(07/29/14 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Cameron gave the invocation.

(07/29/14 - 1 - 9:03 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Morris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(07/29/14 - 1 - 9:04 a.m.)
ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Stevenson requested to add an item regarding the World Golf Village field space and it was placed as Item A1 on the special agenda.

(07/29/14 - 1 - 9:04 a.m.)
APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

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

(07/29/14 - 2 - 9:05 a.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Denver Cook, 266 Topsail Drive, commented on the importance of the budget meetings, and suggested evening or Saturday meetings to encourage more public participation. Morris mentioned that the first public meeting would be on September 3, 2014, at 5:01 p.m. Stevenson mentioned that the content of the workshop was also available for view on demand.

(07/29/14 - 2 - 9:07 a.m.)

A1. WORLD GOLF VILLAGE PARK PARTNERSHIP

Stevenson asked Wil Smith, Director of Recreation and Parks, to speak on the Cooperative Agreement with the World Golf Village area. Smith spoke about a park off of International Golf Parkway, built for the community that the athletic associations had not had access to. He said that the St. Johns Northwest Homeowners Association approached them on partnering and turning the park over to the County to manage and to open up to the community. He said that they hoped to bring an agreement to the Board by the next meeting.

(07/29/14 - 2 - 9:09 a.m.)

1. PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2015 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Michael Wanchick, County Administrator, gave the PowerPoint presentation of the recommended FY 2015 budget. He gave an overview of the budget process. He talked about the County's quality of life, the County's growth in single family permits, and economic development. He said St. Johns County had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the State, at 5.1%. He talked about the revenues vs. services. Staff posed a question to the community about what services they would be willing to pay for and talked about everyone's rolls in the budgeting process. He showed a pie chart of the general fund portion of the tax bill and explained the components. He talked about taxable value historical growth rates, demand for service, and ongoing economic uncertainty. He talked about the current financial strategy and said there would be no proposed millage/property tax rate increase from administration. He gave some highlights for the current budget and reviewed the population history, the County's total property taxes, taxable property value increase, and property tax revenue use. He said staff would recommend an increase in employees' salaries of 4.1% and had recommendations for new positions. He reviewed the general fund projections, falling capital investments, fire fund projections, transportation projections, and the unmet funding requests.

Wanchick talked about looking at the future, beyond 2015, with financial planning considerations. Discussion ensued on optional revenues. Wanchick talked about questioning the community on the goals of the County and gave contact information for himself and the County.

(9:44 a.m.) Stevenson thanked Wanchick for his presentation and mentioned changes in the County that took away from the revenues; Wanchick responded.

(07/29/14 - 2 - 9:49 a.m.)

2. OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, FY 2015 ST. JOHNS COUNTY RECOMMENDED FINANCIAL PLAN - DISCUSSION OF THE RECOMMENDED BUDGETS FOR THE FOLLOWING FUNDS

All Funds County Budget Summary
 General Fund Budget Summary
 County Personnel Summary
 FY 2015 Personnel Request Summary
 FY 2015 Vehicle Request Summary
 FY 2015 Computer Hardware/Software Request Summary
 FY 2015 Capital Outlay Request Summary
 FY 2015 Maintenance Request Summary
 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY 2015 - 2019
 General Fund
 General Fund - Revenue
 General Fund - Constitutional Officers
 General Fund - BCC Department
 General Fund - Independent Agencies
 General Fund - Reserves, Transfers & Other
 Special Revenue Funds
 Special Revenue Fund Descriptions
 Transportation Trust Fund
 Fire District Fund
 Health Department Fund
 Building Services Fund
 State Housing Initiatives Partnership Fund
 Alcohol & Drug Abuse Trust Fund
 Community Based Care Fund
 Beach Services Fund
 County Pier Fund
 Tourist Development Tax Fund
 Cultural Events Fund
 Tree Bank Fund
 Impact Fee Funds
 Transit System Fund
 Law Enforcement Trust Fund
 Crimes Prevention Trust Fund
 Court Innovation Fund
 Legal Aid Fund
 Law Library Fund
 Juvenile Alternative Programs Fund
 Court Technology Trust Fund
 Communications Surcharge Fund
 Florida Boating Improvement Fund
 Northwest Tower/Recreation Fund
 Court Facilities Trust Fund
 Driver's Safety Education Fund
 CRA Funds
 E-911 Communications Fund
 Special Districts Funds
 Debt Service Funds
 Debt Service Fund Descriptions
 03 Transportation Improvement Bonds
 06 Transportation Improvement Bonds
 12 Transportation Improvement Bonds
 06 Sales Tax Bonds
 Ponte Vedra MSD Sewer
 GE Capital Debt Service
 Commercial Paper
 Flagler Estates CRA Debt Service

05 Revenue Sharing Bonds
 09 Sales Tax Bonds
 09A Sales Tax Refunding Bonds
 Trane Capital Lease Debt Service
 HHS Facility Debt Service
 12 Sales Tax Refunding Bonds
 Series 2012 Chase Note
 Capital Improvement Funds
 Capital Improvement Fund Descriptions
 Beach Re-Nourishment Fund
 06 Bond Transportation Improvements Fund
 SR 207 CIG Dev Agreement Projects Fund
 09 Sales Tax Bonds Projects Fund
 Interoperable Radio Towers Fund (Non-Bond)
 Interoperable Radio System Fund (Bond)
 HHS Facility Fund
 Treasure Beach MSBU Canal Construction Fund
 Racetrack Road Proportionate Fair Share Fund
 Trane Equipment Lease Fund
 Enterprise Funds
 Enterprise Fund Descriptions
 Solid Waste Fund
 Utility Services Fund
 Ponte Vedra Utility Services Fund
 Golf Course Fund
 Convention Center Fund
 Internal Service, Trust & Agency Funds
 Internal Service, Trust & Agency Fund Descriptions
 Worker Compensation Insurance Fund
 Health Insurance Fund
 FSA Medical Fund
 FSA Dependent Fund
 OPEB Trust Fund

Doug Timms, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), gave a brief summary of the recommended financial plan and budget. He said there would be a phone with voicemail set up for OMB to answer the public's questions when the TRIM notices were sent. He noted that all 83 County funds were balanced and budgeted with adequate reserves. He referenced the booklet that OMB put out of the detailed budget that showed the total estimated County budget of \$612 million. He said the General Fund was the only discretionary fund with the other funds being restricted or legally obligated.

(9:55 a.m.) McClure voiced concerns about the continued decrease in the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). Timms explained that the Transportation Trust Fund did not have carry-over monies and the largest decrease was due to property tax reform. Discussion ensued regarding where revenues would come from to increase the TTF balance. Sanchez added that many of the changes were due to State regulations.

(10:08 a.m.) McClure asked about the proposed 4.1% salary increase and 5% revenue growth to maintain operations. He asked about additional funds from tourist development monies for Beach Services and the separate cost of the Sheriff's beach patrol; Timms responded.

(10:16 a.m.) Dan Able, 157 Summerfield Drive, spoke about his concern on the proposed Public Works Facility allocation missing from the budget. Timms responded that because the proposal had not been approved, it was not included in the budget. He said there were provisions in the budget to meet the potential debt service for the project. Discussion ensued on why the allocation did not appear in the budget.

(10:20 a.m.) Denver Cook, 266 Top Sail Drive, asked for an explanation of the increase in the ad valorem tax revenue and the decrease in transportation impact fee revenue. Timms explained that the impact fees were impacted by carryovers. Cook also asked about the increase in the State Grant revenue. Wil Smith, Director of Recreation and Parks, explained the grant application process.

(10:25 a.m.) Carlos Felder, 407 East Harris Street, talked about property tax, the high millage rate, and the quality of life for the Hastings residents. He referenced the connection with Hastings' and tourism, and he requested funds from Tourist Development Council. He spoke about the sewer area that needed to be addressed, noting ways that Hastings could help offset the debt in the budget. Bennett mentioned that the City of Hastings set their own tax rates and that the social programs were of interest.

(07/29/14 - 5 - 10:30 a.m.)

3. CONSIDERATION OF FY 2015 TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2014 AT 5:01 P.M. IN THE COUNTY AUDITORIUM AS THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 ANNUAL BUDGET

(10:32 a.m.) Stevenson commented that Hastings unincorporated areas needed work.

(10:33 a.m.) **Motion by Stevenson, seconded by Bennett, to approve a tentative millage rate as follows: General Fund, 5.3900; Health Department Fund, 0.0171; Transportation Trust Fund, 0.530; Fire District Fund, 1.4000; Vilano Street Lighting District, 0.0500; St. Augustine South Street Lighting District, 0.2100; and Summer Haven MSTU, 8.500; and authorize the completion and execution of the FY 2015 form DR420 by the county administrator.**

McClure voiced concerns regarding the Transportation Trust Fund. Discussion ensued.

The motion carried 4/1, with McClure dissenting.

(10:46 a.m.) **Motion by Stevenson, seconded by Morris, carried 5/0, that the date, time and place of first public hearing on the millage rate will be September 3, 2014, at 5:01 p.m. in the county auditorium.**

(10:48 a.m.) **Motion by Stevenson, seconded by Bennett, carried 5/0, to authorize advising the property appraiser of the proposed millage aggregate rate of 7.2552 as previously motioned, and including the calculated roll-back rate of 7.0275.**

(10:49 a.m.) Wanchick spoke about the Jaguar community event at Bartram High School. He mentioned that David Shore would be inducted as President of the Florida Association of Sheriffs and suggested sending him a letter in his honor.

(10:50 a.m.) Cameron noted that the Veterans Affairs (VA) was gridlocked on their plans to build a new clinic and their lease was restricted by the General Services Administration (GSA). He said thanks to Rep. Desantis' and Sen. Rubio's offices the GSA relinquished the authority back to the VA to secure a facility while they find a permanent building.

(07/29/14 - 6 - 10:53 a.m.)

4. ADJOURN

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Approved ____August 19_____, 2014

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
John H. Morris, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk