

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015
5:30 P.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 a special meeting to hold a public hearing on the adoption of the fiscal year 2016 tentative millage rates and budget was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record* on August 31, 2015.

Present: Rachael L. Bennett, District 5, Chair
Jeb Smith, District 2, Vice Chair
James K. Johns, District 1
William A. McClure, District 3
Jay Morris, District 4
Michael Wanchick, County Administrator
Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
Bonnie Putman, Deputy Clerk

Also present: Doug Timms, Director of Office and Management (OMB); Darrell Locklear, Assistant County Administrator; Joy Andrews, Assistant County Administrator.

(09/08/15 - 1 - 5:30 p.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Bennett called the meeting to order.

(09/08/15 - 1 - 5:30 p.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll: All Board members were present.

(09/08/15 - 1 - 5:30 p.m.)
INVOCATION

Commissioner Smith led the invocation.

(09/08/15 - 1 - 5:30 p.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(09/08/15 - 1 - 5:30 p.m.)
PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Jurenovich, 536 Morningside Dr., Ponte Vedra Beach, Chairman of the Ponte Vedra Municipal Service District (MSD), described the functions of the MSD and stated that his and all MSD trustees' goal was to maintain and increase property values. He urged the Commission to continue to assist the MSD with special projects, including sidewalks and street signs, which increased property value. He thanked the Board and staff.

(09/08/15 - 2 - 5:34 p.m.)
ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

There were none.

(09/08/15 - 2 - 5:35 p.m.)
APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

(5:35 p.m.) **Motion by Bennett, seconded by Morris, carried 5/0, to approve the special meeting agenda, as submitted.**

(09/08/15 - 2 - 5:35 p.m.)

1. PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES AND BUDGET FOR FY 2016

Wanchick reminded the Commission that Administration presented the recommended budget on July 28, 2015, and that the only changes to that budget were one personnel action recommendation and one project modification.

Doug Timms, Director, Office of Management & Budget (OMB), presented the millage and budget adoption procedures, as prescribed by Florida Statute 200.65. He announced the taxing authority as St. Johns County; the rolled-back rate as 6.8901 mills; the percentage increase in property taxes from the rolled-back rate as 5.25%; and the tentative aggregate millage rate as 7.2518 mills.

Bennett opened the hearing to public comment; however, there was none.

(5:40 p.m.) **Motion by McClure, seconded by Morris, carried 5/0, to adopt Resolution No. 2015-262, approving the tentative fiscal year 2016 millage rates of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County as follows: General Fund millage rate of 5.1475; County Transportation Trust Fund millage rate of 0.7100; County Health Unit Trust Fund millage rate of 0.0171; Fire District Fund millage rate of 1.4625; Vilano Street Lighting District millage rate of 0.0500; St. Augustine South Street Lighting District millage rate of 0.2100; Summerhaven MSTU millage rate of 8.5000; and the St. Johns County aggregate millage of 7.2518.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-262

RESOLVED, that the following **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, 2015.

General Fund	5.1475
County Transportation Trust Fund	.7100
County Health Unit Trust Fund	.0171
Fire District, Countywide	
Except City of St. Augustine	1.4625
Vilano Street Lighting District	.0500
St. Augustine South Street Lighting District	.2100
Summerhaven M.S.T.U.	8.5000
AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE	7.2518
Rolled-back Rate	6.8901
Percentage increase in Property Taxes from rolled-back rate:	5.25%

Timms stated that the total County budget was \$629 million, which was up 1.8% from the current budget. There were two issues concerning the budget. He referenced page

six of the budget notebook. There was a general increase in the capital project carry-overs, which were typically multi-year projects. There were additional general revenue increases, including CIP expenditure savings in the Transportation Trust Fund, impact fees, the special election reimbursement and the SAFER grant for the Fire District. He noted that \$2 million was added to the Transportation Trust Fund Reserve. He mentioned that the tentative union agreement was covered, but not finalized, and would be brought to the Board. He stated that the Port Security Grant was received and he highlighted the Vilano fishing pier repairs, which were increased to the bid amount. The monies received from the special election reimbursement were utilized for that increase. There was one salary issue for a Growth Management Engineer that was exchanged for another vacant position. This exchange was funded through the additions received in revenue. He referred to page 161, of the budget notebook, and stated that the Tourist Development Council (TDC) took action and allocated \$60,000, from contingency reserves, and added it to Category II grants, but after review, OMB felt that not enough was left in reserves.

(5:47 p.m.) Morris stated that the original budget for these grants was \$550,000. Last year, \$60,000 from grant funding was carry-over and placed in reserves. The TDC voted to take the \$60,000 out of reserves and put it back into the grants fund. Morris was not in support of this action. He recommended that the Board put the \$60,000 back into reserves. He stated he had not received any complaints from those who received the grants last year.

(5:50 p.m.) McCormack stated that this could be done by consensus of the Board and it would not change the resolution. Discussion ensued concerning the \$60,000 in the TDC budget.

(5:52 p.m.) *There was consensus from the Board to move the \$60,000 back to reserves.*

(5:53 p.m.) Gary Easom, 125 Magnolia Hammock Dr., Ponte Vedra Beach, President of the Ponte Vedra Athletic Association, requested the Board fund athletics in Ponte Vedra. He stated that the cost of athletics was squeezing families and they had waived the fees for families. He spoke on the problem of child obesity and youth development.

McClure asked whether the costs of athletics (helmets and pads) or field space was the number one issue. Easom responded that field space was the number one issue.

(5:57 p.m.) Wendy Jo Williams, 10460 Turpin Ave., Hastings, a board member of the Hastings Friends of the Library, spoke on the importance of the Hastings Branch Library to the community. She stated that the Library had worked on creating valuable partnerships, including those with the St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department, the Wildflower Clinic and the Hastings Rotary. She mentioned upcoming events, including the Breast Cancer Walk, Trunk or Treat, and the Hastings Christmas Parade. She detailed an actual account of the Library's involvement in a student's schooling. She invited the Commission to visit the Hastings Branch Library.

(6:00 p.m.) Mary Geer, 1165 County Road 13 S., Riverdale, on behalf of the Hastings Library and its patrons, thanked the Board for its support of the Hastings Branch Library. She referred to "Great Expectations," a novel by Charles Dickens, and spoke on the connections between librarians and student patrons.

(6:04 p.m.) McClure thanked those who spoke about the Hastings Library. He questioned Timms about reserves. Timms responded that there was an increase in the use of reserves due to project carry-overs. The amount of reserves utilized was \$4.1 million. He questioned the Fire Service millage, and mentioned his concern for the golf course. Timms responded that there had been discussion on the best use of the golf course, either selling or converting it.

(6:11 p.m.) Johns referred to page 11 of the budget notebook and questioned the \$1.75 million increase in the Tree Bank project fund. Bennett and Timms responded that the increase was due to capital project carry-over.

(6:12 p.m.) Smith questioned the \$250,000 increase to the Vilano Beach Pier repairs.

(6:13 p.m.) Kevin Wiseman, Director of Facilities Management, responded to the \$1.1 million investment in the Vilano Beach pier, which would add approximately twelve to fifteen years of life expectancy. Smith replied that pier repairs were costly, at roughly \$100,000 a year, or \$2,000 a week.

(6:14 p.m.) Smith referred to page 39 of the budget notebook and questioned Wil Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation, concerning the \$487,000 cost for synthetic turf replacement. Wil Smith responded that it was a field-and-a-half. He stated a cost analysis was completed on this multi-purpose field and although the upfront cost was high, there would be no continuing maintenance of the synthetic turf and, additionally, there would be a fifteen year guarantee. He commented that the field was utilized seven days a week and with community growth, the field's use was doubling.

(6:18 p.m.) McClure questioned Wil Smith about the \$800,000 deficit in Beach Services. He responded that the \$517,000 allocated for beach re-nourishment came out of Category III funding. McClure questioned whether the TDC ordinance needed to be rewritten to defray operational costs. Smith responded, referring to Florida Statute 125.0104 and allowable uses of the funding.

Discussion ensued about changing the ordinance and the percentage of funds allowed in each category.

(6:22 p.m.) Morris stated that the County's current revenue was taxes, dues, and fees, and that the County provided services and evaluated the services provided. He referenced the pier and golf course, stating there was \$270 million looming in deferred maintenance and capital expenditure requests.

(6:25 p.m.) Bennett commented that the current budget was a short-term strategy, and that the County had been successful due to long-term thinking and planning. She believed that short-term thinking was not a successful financial strategy.

(6:26 p.m.) Motion by Morris, seconded by McClure, carried 5/0, to adopt Resolution No. 2015-263, approving the tentative fiscal year 2016 budget of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, using the certified taxable value of \$20,258,199,821, generating an estimated \$146,908,753 in taxes, and resulting in a total budget of \$629,018,105.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-263

RESOLVED, that the following **FISCAL YEAR 2016 TENTATIVE BUDGET** of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, developed using the certified taxable value of \$20,258,199,821, generating an estimated \$146,908,753 in taxes, is hereby adopted, resulting in a total budget of \$629,018,105, as follows:

General Fund	\$ 182,690,472
Special Revenue Funds	
Alcohol & Drug Abuse Trust Fund	\$ 14,942
Beach Services Fund	\$ 2,072,824
Building Services Fund	\$ 16,669,055
CH Arnold Rd Grading MSBU Fund	\$ 11,771

Communication Surcharge Fund	\$ 566,147
Community Based Care Fund	\$ 5,614,279
County Cultural Events Fund	\$ 8,689,704
County Health Unit Trust Fund	\$ 335,382
County Transportation Trust Fund	\$ 66,606,746
Court Facilities Trust Fund	\$ 937,826
Court Innovation Fund	\$ 109,013
Crimes Prevention Trust Fund	\$ 68,316
Court Technology Trust Fund	\$ 4,964,627
Deerwood Lane ROW MSBU Fund	\$ 10,198
Driver Safety Education Fund	\$ 149,218
E-911 Communications Fund	\$ 1,741,518
Elkton Drainage District Fund	\$ 31,616
Fire District Fund	\$ 38,945,212
Fire/EMS Impact Fees Fund	\$ 1,758,886
Florida Boating Improvement Fund	\$ 418,877
Flagler Estates CRA Fund	\$ 78,772
Juvenile Alternative Programs Fund	\$ 41,844
Law Enforcement Trust Fund	\$ 44,503
Law Library Fund	\$ 73,999
Legal Aid Fund	\$ 315,816
Northwest Tower Fund	\$ 345,412
Parks Zone-A Impact Fees Fund	\$ 454,022
Parks Zone-B Impact Fees Fund	\$ 335,790
Parks Zone-C Impact Fees Fund	\$ 227,543
Parks Zone-D Impact Fees Fund	\$ 9,266
Pier Fund	\$ 291,291
Police Services Impact Fees	\$ 502,146
Public Bldg Impact Fees	\$ 2,799,892
Roads Zone-A Impact Fees Fund	\$ 3,664,908
Roads Zone-B Impact Fees Fund	\$ 6,181,636
Roads Zone-C Impact Fees Fund	\$ 4,818,912
Roads Zone-D Impact Fees Fund	\$ 1,678,874
Sidewalk Fund	\$ 6,822
St. Augustine South Lighting District Fund	\$ 48,713
St. Johns Golf Course Fund	\$ 3,213,234
State Housing Initiative Program Fund	\$ 1,771,083
Summerhaven MSTU Fund	\$ 147,313
Tourist Development Tax Fund	\$ 11,080,113
Transit System	\$ 3,643,862
Treasure Beach MSBU	\$ 273,315
Tree Bank Special Revenue Fund	\$ 2,982,027
Vilano CRA Fund	\$ 300,194
Vilano Street Lighting District Fund	\$ 16,435
West Augustine CRA Fund	\$ 259,794

Debt Service Funds

03 Transportation Improvement Debt Service	\$ 627
04 Flagler Estates CRA Debt Service	\$ 510,876
06 Sales Tax Bonds Debt Service	\$ 1,044,750
06 Transportation Improvement Debt Service	\$ 592,800
09 Sales Tax Bonds Debt Service	\$ 3,827,218
09A Sales Tax Refunding Bonds Debt Service	\$ 1,571,519
12 Sales Tax Refunding Bonds Debt Service	\$ 1,914,369
12 Transportation Refunding Bonds Debt Service	\$ 2,012,775
14 Revenue Sharing Refunding Bonds Debt Service	\$ 1,165,807
Commercial Paper Program Debt Service	\$ 353,043

Ponte Vedra MSD Debt Service	\$ 1,613,352
HHS Facility Note	\$ 414,388
Series 2012 Chase Note Debt Service	\$ 1,279,472
Series 2015 Sales Tax Bonds Debt Service	\$ 2,938,275
Series 2015 Transportation Improvement Debt Service	\$ 1,040,794
Trane Capital Lease Debt Service	\$ 241,561

Capital Improvement Funds

Beach Re-nourishment Projects Fund	\$ 774,561
Interoperable Radio System Fund	\$ 53,534
Interoperable Radio Towers Fund	\$ 15,018
Series 2015 Sales Tax Projects Fund	\$ 16,708,126
SR 207 CIG Development Agreement Fund	\$ 154,495

Enterprise Funds

Convention Center Fund	\$ 3,502,865
Ponte Vedra Utility Services Fund	\$ 21,718,800
Solid Waste Fund	\$ 37,380,818
St. Johns County Utility Services Fund	\$ 110,325,864

Internal Service/Trust & Agency Funds

FSA - Dependent Fund	\$ 111,967
FSA - Medical Fund	\$ 826,539
Group Health Insurance Fund	\$ 32,417,368
HRA - Medical Fund	\$ 46,488
OPEB Trust Fund	\$ 4,528,275


(6:27 p.m.) Motion by Bennett, seconded by Morris, carried 5/0, to set a public hearing on September 24, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Auditorium to consider the adoption of the fiscal year 2016 millage rates and budget of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida.

(09/08/15 - 6 - 6:29 p.m.)
ADJOURN

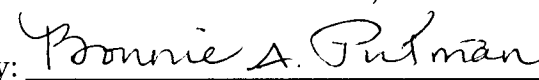
With there being no further business to come before the Board, Bennett adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

Approved _____ October 6 _____, 2015

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:  _____
Priscilla L. Bennett, Chair

ATTEST: GEORGE LAREAU, CLERK

By:  _____
Deputy Clerk