

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
APRIL 28, 2020
8:30 A.M.**

Proceedings of a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) 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 of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, communicated on Wednesday, April 23, 2020, Via media, website, and social media postings.

Present: Jeb S. Smith, District 2, District 2, Chair
 Jeremiah R. Blocker, District 4, Vice Chair
 James K. Johns, District 1
 Paul M. Waldron, District 3
 Henry Dean, District 5
 Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator
 Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
 Sindy Wiseman, Deputy Clerk

Also present: Joy Andrews, Assistant County Administrator. Additionally, Rebecca Lavie, Senior Assistant County Attorney, participated remotely.

(04/28/20 - 1 - 8:30 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Smith called the meeting to order. He reviewed a meeting script that included information on remote public participation and meeting materials.

(04/28/20 - 1 - 8:32 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll, and all Board members were present, with Blocker and Dean participating remotely.

(04/28/20 - 1 - 8:32 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Smith gave the invocation.

(04/28/20 - 1 - 8:33 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Smith lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

(8:33 a.m.) Congressman John Rutherford, provided an update on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; and the Stop School Violence Act. Additionally, he provided information on the request for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to waive their twenty-five percent max match.

(8:44 a.m.) Representative Cyndi Stevenson, provided COVID-19 statistic history. Additionally, she provided an update on the unemployment application process, Rapid

Recovery Assistance (RRA) application, and the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).

(04/28/20 - 2 - 9:02 a.m.)

1. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator, provided an update on the St. Johns County's response to COVID-19, and Economic Recovery Task Force. He reviewed the beach status and future extended openings, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Small Business Recovery Program; the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) Small Business Recovery Programs; and the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Business Assistance Program.

(9:14 a.m.) McCormack commented on beach activity requirements.

(9:16 a.m.) Dr. Dawn Allicock, Department of Health, reviewed St. Johns County COVID-19 statistics, including testing statistics; hospital capacity; long-term care facilities; social distancing measures; and reinfection data. Additionally, she provided the website for resident and business assistance, www.flhealth.gov/covid-19.

(9:24 a.m.) Dean questioned whether test kits for individuals were quicker and more cost effective to test for the virus. Allicock responded on various testing options.

(9:27 a.m.) Linda Stoughton, Emergency Operations Center Director, provided an update on distribution of supplies.

(9:29 a.m.) Jesse Dunn, Director for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), provided details on the proposed amended fee schedule request with additional comments provided by Howard White, St. Johns County Building Official.

(9:38 a.m.) McCormack reviewed the proposed resolution, *Exhibit A*. Discussion ensued.

(9:40 a.m.) Johns questioned whether there was a mechanism to ensure the reduced fees were being passed on to the public. Conrad responded. McCormack reviewed the applications that were eligible for the reduced fees.

(9:49 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, spoke in opposition of the fee reductions.

(9:52 a.m.) Alex Cranberg, 307 Ponte Vedra Boulevard, spoke on various necessary and unnecessary rules and beach access.

(9:55 a.m.) Ronna Henderson, 1581 Masters Drive, spoke on public use of face masks.

(9:56 a.m.) Ed Slavin, P.O. Box 3084, spoke on the importance of reopening the beaches. Additionally, he spoke in opposition of the fee reductions.

(10:00 a.m.) John Grexa, 548 Domenico Circle, spoke on the number of COVID-19 cases in the County.

(10:02 a.m.) McCormack spoke on the building fee reduction restrictions.

(10:04 a.m.) **Motion by Johns, seconded by Blocker, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, to adopt Resolution No. 2020-147, amending the St. Johns County fee schedule for services provided by St. Johns County Departments for Fiscal Year 2020.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-147

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AMENDED SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR CERTAIN COUNTY DEPARTMENTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

(04/28/20 - 3 - 10:05 a.m.)

2. EXTENSION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

Patrick McCormack, County Attorney, provided the details of the extension.

(10:07 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, questioned whether the St. Johns County Summer Concert Series had been cancelled.

(10:09 a.m.) **Motion by Waldron, seconded by Johns, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, to approve Emergency Proclamation 2020-11, to extend the local state of emergency, as provided by Chapter 252, Part 1, Florida Statutes and by St. Johns County Ordinance No. 2019-40.**

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-11

A PROCLAMATION EXTENDING THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY, AS PROVIDED BY CHAPTER 252, PART I, FLORIDA STATUTES AND BY ST. JOHNS COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 2019-40

(04/28/20 - 3 - 10:10 a.m.)

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

McCormack commented on the legal aid availability in the County.

(10:12 a.m.) Smith requested Board consensus *to hold a special meeting regarding the Gate A1A appeal and Stratton Boulevard items, after the May 12, 2020, special meeting. Discussion ensued on public safety and advertising. Consensus was given.*

(10:17 a.m.) Dean commented on the distinction between the health criteria and the safety criteria regarding opening the beaches. Additionally, he reiterated the importance of the rapid COVID-19 test kits.

(10:20 a.m.) Waldron requested Board consensus *to direct staff to revisit the Local Purchasing Policy regarding the award of Bids. Discussion ensued. Consensus was given.* Additionally, he extended condolences to the family of Al Brennan.

(10:26 a.m.) Ed Slavin, P.O. Box 3084, spoke in opposition of the request.

(10:29 a.m.) Johns spoke on extending the unused portion of the \$2 million-dollar surplus and allocating it for short-term small business loans, for the businesses with less than twenty employees. Discussion ensued on the request.

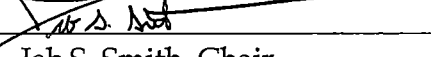
(10:44 a.m.) Waldron commented on Career Source operations.

(04/28/20 - 4 - 10:45 a.m.)
ADJOURN


With there being no further business to come before the Board, Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Approved _____ May 19 _____, 2020

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Jeb S. Smith, Chair

ATTEST: BRANDON PATTY, CLERK

By: 
Deputy Clerk

