

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
JULY 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.

Notice of a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, was communicated on July 25, 2020, via media, website, and social media postings.

Present: Jeb S. Smith, District 2, Chair
 James K. Johns, District 1
 Henry Dean, District 5
 Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
 Crystal Smith, Deputy Clerk

Also present: Brad Bradley, Deputy County Administrator Chief of Staff; Joy Andrews, Deputy County Administrator of Strategic Affairs

Absent: Paul M. Waldron, District 3; Jeremiah R. Blocker, District 4, Vice Chair; Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator

(07/28/20 - 1 - 8:30 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Smith called the meeting to order. He provided opening comments regarding remote public participation.

(07/28/20 - 1 - 8:30 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll. Commissioners Smith, Johns, and Dean were present. Commissioners Waldron and Blocker were absent.

(07/28/20 - 1 - 8:31 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Johns led the invocation.

(07/28/20 - 1 - 8:31 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(07/28/20 - 1 - 8:32 a.m.)
1. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Brad Bradley, Deputy County Administrator, provided an update on St. Johns County's response to COVID-19, and reviewed testing statistics.

(8:34 a.m.) Joseph Giammanco, Emergency Management Interim Director, provided an update on the Emergency Operations Center's (EOC) response to COVID-19. He reported

on the distribution of personal protective equipment; the number of businesses that had applied for the *Pledge St. Johns* program; Intensive Care Unit (ICU) availability at Flagler Hospital, Baptist South, and Baptist Beaches.

(8:37 a.m.) Dr. Dawn Allicock, Medical Director of the St. Johns County Health Department, provided a COVID-19 update. She reviewed testing statistics; the Florida COVID-19 Data Surveillance Dashboard; hospitalization rates; mortality rates; transmission statistics; mitigation strategies; immunity to the virus; St. Johns County's monitoring and contact tracing procedures; antibody testing; the importance of wearing a face mask, and the risk of reopening public schools.

(8:52 a.m.) Dean questioned if the Department of Health (DOH) was responsible for contact tracing and if financial resources were available. Allicock explained that the DOH was responsible for contract tracing and that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended a ratio of 30 contract tracers per 100,000 residents. She stated that funding for additional contract tracers was made available through the CARES Act.

(8:57 a.m.) Dean asked if there were any unencumbered CARES Act funds available to assist the DOH in increasing its number of contact tracers; Andrews said there was around \$17 million still available. Discussion ensued on finding qualified staff to fill the available positions, workspace for the new staff, and the need for a total of 75 to 80 employees dedicated solely to COVID-19. Johns asked for information on vaccines, the effectiveness of different types of mask materials, and airborne transmission of the virus. Allicock said she would bring that information back to the Board. Dean asked to be kept informed should the DOH need any additional funding.

(9:11 a.m.) Nangela Pulsfus, Chief Clinical Officer, Flagler Health Plus, provided an update on Flagler Hospital's current hospitalizations; rapid testing; and available personal protective equipment.

(9:14 a.m.) Wendy Seth, 2714 Las Calinas Blvd., spoke in support of a mandatory mask ordinance.

(9:18 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, spoke on his concerns with contact tracing employees working from home. Additionally, he spoke on adding hazmat pay for first responders; contracting COVID-19 through the eyes; rinsing with mouthwash; and wearing masks, safety glasses, and gloves for personal protection from COVID-19.

(9:22 a.m.) Christine Rementer, 476 Sparrow Branch Circle, spoke in opposition of a mandatory mask ordinance.

(9:24 a.m.) Larry Farnsworth, 157 Moses Creek Blvd., spoke in support of a mandatory mask ordinance.

(9:27 a.m.) Ed Slavin, P.O. Box 3084, spoke on Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) violations regarding contact tracing employees working from home, and the turnaround time on testing results.

(9:30 a.m.) Sherry Badger, 2772 S. Collins Avenue, spoke in opposition of a mandatory face ordinance.

(9:34 a.m.) McCormack clarified the Centers for Disease Controls (CDC) guidelines regarding social distancing and noted that the commissioners were seated six feet apart. Additionally, he noted emails that were added into public record, *Exhibit A*; and explained the St. Johns County School Board was an elected board and had the purview to decide the timing and procedures for school attendance.

(9:38 a.m.) Motion by Dean to adopt a Resolution stating "it is the policy of St. Johns County that all residents and visitors wear masks, where social distancing is not possible, to prevent the spread of COVID-19." The motion failed for a lack of a second.

(07/28/20 - 3 - 9:40 a.m.)

2. EXTENSION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

Patrick McCormack, County Attorney, presented the details of the extension. He recommended an extension for a seven-day period.

(9:40 a.m.) Motion by John, seconded by Dean, carried 3/0, with Waldron and Blocker absent, to adopt Emergency Proclamation No. 2020-25, extending the local state of emergency for an additional seven-day period.

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-25

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

(9:41 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, recommended that all bars, distilleries, and breweries be closed; and requested the Board add it to the Emergency Proclamation.

(07/28/20 - 3 - 9:43 a.m.)

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

McCormack requested that the Board appoint a commissioner to the Canvassing Board for the November 3, 2020, general election. Smith stated that he was available to serve. Discussion ensued on appointing an alternate member for the Canvassing Board.

(9:48 a.m.) Andrews provided an update on the CARES Act funding appropriation plan and explained the application process would be available for distribution by the following week.

(07/28/20 - 3 - 9:52 a.m.)

ADJOURN

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Approved ___August 18_____, 2020

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: [Signature]
Jeb S. Smith, Chair

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

By: [Signature]
Deputy Clerk

