

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020
5:01 P.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 notice of a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners to hold a public hearing to consider and adopt the tentative millage rates and FY 2021 budget was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record*, on August 25, 2020.

Present: Jeb S. Smith, 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
 Crystal Smith, Deputy Clerk

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

(09/08/20 - 1 - 5:01 p.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

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

(09/08/20 - 1 - 5:03 p.m.)
ROLL CALL

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

(09/08/20 - 1 - 5:03 p.m.)
INVOCATION

Johns led the invocation.

(09/08/20 - 1 - 5:03 p.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dean led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(09/08/20 - 1 - 5:04 p.m.)

1. PUBLIC HEARING - 5:01 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES & BUDGET FOR FY 2021. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 129.03 AND 200.065 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BCC) IS REQUIRED TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS TO ADOPT ITS MILLAGE RATES AND BUDGET FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR (FY). SUCH HEARINGS MUST BE HELD AFTER 5:00

P.M., IF SCHEDULED ON A DAY OTHER THAN SATURDAY. IN THE RECENTLY MAILED NOTICES OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAXES (TRIM) BY THE COUNTY'S PROPERTY APPRAISER, THE DATE AND TIME NOTICED FOR THE REQUIRED HEARINGS IS SEPTEMBER 8, 2020, AT 5:01 P.M. THE FLORIDA STATUTES FURTHER PRESCRIBE THE SPECIFIC ORDER FOR CONSIDERATION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE REQUIRED PUBLIC HEARINGS. THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE OF DISCUSSION MUST BE THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE COUNTY'S AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE OVER THE ROLLED-BACK RATE NECESSARY TO FUND THE BUDGET. THE ROLLED-BACK RATE IS DEFINED AS THE AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE THAT WOULD GENERATE THE SAME LEVEL OF PRIOR YEAR TAX REVENUES LESS CERTAIN DEFINED ALLOWANCES (SUCH AS NEW CONSTRUCTION). DURING SUCH DISCUSSION, THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHALL BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK AND ASK QUESTIONS PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF ANY MEASURES BY THE BCC. THE BCC SHALL ADOPT, BY RESOLUTION, ITS TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES PRIOR TO ADOPTING ITS TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY 2021. ADDITIONALLY, THE BCC IS REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A DATE, TIME, AND PLACE TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE FINAL MILLAGE AND BUDGET ADOPTION FOR FY 2021. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BCC ESTABLISH SEPTEMBER 22, 2020, AT 5:01 P.M., IN THE COUNTY AUDITORIUM, TO CONDUCT SUCH HEARINGS. A COPY OF THE FY 2021 TENTATIVE BUDGET WORKBOOK, INCLUDING DETAIL PER LINE ITEM, MAY BE FOUND ON THE COUNTY'S WEBPAGE AT [HTTP://WWW.SJCFL.US/OMB/MEDIA/FY2021/FY2021TENTATIVEFINAL BUDGET.PDF](http://www.sjcfl.us/omb/media/fy2021/fy2021tentativefinalbudget.pdf)

Jesse Dunn, Director, Office of Management & Budget, presented the details of the tentative budget, via PowerPoint, and referenced the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) increase, *Exhibit A*. He stated that the rolled-back millage rate was 6.8470, the tentative aggregate millage rate 7.2496, and the percentage increase over the rolled-back rate was 5.88%.

(5:27 p.m.) Felix Bueno, 251 Suzanne Circle, spoke on his concerns with the increase in restricted and unrestricted reserves; and suggested reallocating the money to lower fees, such as planning fees, animal adoption fees, public defender fees, and ambulance fees.

(5:30 p.m.) Smith recommended a rolled-back millage rate due to the strain on the economy and the county's unemployment rate, which was 7.9% for July, and an increase in gross taxable property values. He stated that from 2016 to 2020 just values increased \$12,696,113,678, taxable values increased \$9,481,095,413, and gross taxable values increased by \$69,563,745. Discussion ensued on a rolled-back millage rate that would not include new construction.

(5:38 p.m.) **Motion by Dean, seconded by Blocker, failed 2/3, via roll call vote, with Waldron, Smith, and Johns dissenting, and Waldron and Blocker participating remotely, to adopt the tentative millage rate resolution, approving the fiscal year 2021 tentative millage rates for fiscal year 2020, as set by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, as outlined, with an aggregate millage rate of 7.2496: General Fund 4.9500; County Transportation Trust Fund 0.9000; County Health Unit Trust Fund 0.0171; Fire District, Countywide except City of St. Augustine, 1.4700; St. Augustine South Street Light District 0.2100; Vilano Street Lighting District 0.05; Summerhaven MSTU 8.5; Coastal Highway MSTU 0.5000; Ponte Vedra Beach Dune & Beach Restoration MSTU 0.0; S. Ponte Vedra Dune & Beach Restoration MSTU 0.0; Serenata Beach Dune & Beach Restoration MSTU 0.0; with an aggregate millage rate of 7.2496 mils; rolled-back rate 6.8470 mils.**

(5:41 p.m.) Dunn presented the rolled-back millage rates, *Exhibit B*.

(5:46 p.m.) Motion by Smith, seconded by Johns, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, with Blocker and Waldron participating remotely, to adopt Resolution No. 2020-342, approving the fiscal year 2021 tentative millage rates for fiscal year 2020 as set by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County: General Fund 4.6537 mils; County Transportation Trust Fund 0.8444 mils; County Health Unit Trust Fund 0.0160 mils; Fire District, Countywide except City of St. Augustine, 1.3813 mils; St. Augustine South Street Lighting District 0.1968 mils; Vilano Street Lighting District 0.0473 mils; Summerhaven MSTU 7.3392 mils; Coastal Highway MSTU 0.5000 mils; Ponte Vedra Beach Dune & Beach Restoration MSTU 0.0 mils; S. Ponte Vedra Dune & Beach Restoration MSTU 0.0 mils; Serenata Beach MSTU 0.0 mils; with an aggregate millage rate of 6.8130 mils; rolled-back rate 6.8470.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-342

RESOLVED, that the following **FISCAL YEAR 2021 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, 2020.

General Fund	4.6537
County Transportation Trust Fund	0.8444
County Health Unit Trust Fund	0.0160
Fire District, Countywide, <i>Except City of St. Augustine</i>	1.3813
Vilano Street Lighting District	0.0473
St. Augustine South Street Lighting District	0.1968
Summerhaven MSTU	7.3392
Coastal Highway MSTU	0.5000
Ponte Vedra Beach Dune & Beach Restoration MSTU	0.0000
South Ponte Vedra Beach Dune & Beach Restoration MSTU	0.0000
Serenata Beach Dune & Beach Restoration MSTU	0.0000
AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE	6.8130
 Rolled-back Rate	6.8470
 Percentage increase in Property Taxes from rolled-back rate:	(0.50%)

The Board recessed the meeting at 5:49 p.m. and reconvened at 6:14 p.m.

(6:14 p.m.) Dunn presented the changes to the tentative budget resolution.

(6:15 p.m.) Motion by Smith, seconded by Dean, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, with Waldron and Blocker participating remotely, to adopt Resolution No. 2020-343, establishing the fiscal year 2021 tentative budget of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, developed using the certified taxable value of \$31,661,478,276, generating an estimated \$215,708,900 in taxes, is hereby adopted, resulting in a total budget of \$1,017,904,024 (corrected to \$1,053,354,980).

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-343

RESOLVED, that the following FISCAL YEAR 2021 TENTATIVE BUDGET of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, developed using the certified taxable value of \$31,661,478,276, generating an estimated \$215,708,900 in taxes, is hereby adopted, resulting in a total budget of \$1,053,354,980, as follows:

General Fund	\$366,085,650
Special Revenue Funds	
- Transportation Trust	\$95,165,210
- Fire District	51,918,488
- Health Department	487,867
- Building Services	29,196,188
- Cultural Events	15,495,177
- Tourist Development	13,863,765
- Impact Fees - Public Buildings	11,236,854
- Impact Fees - Police Services	1,153,430
- Impact Fees - Fire Rescue	8,544,780
- Impact Fees - Roads	45,579,687
- Impact Fees - Parks	6,156,901
- Beach Services	2,124,566
- County Pier	533,284
- Golf Course	1,948,755
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse Trust	28,839
- Community Based Care	7,779,335
- Transit System	7,330,935
- State Housing Initiative Partnership	1,360,727
- Tree Bank	1,912,330
- Sidewalk Mitigation	53,795
- E-911 Communications	2,103,666
- Law Enforcement Trust	81,443
- Crimes Prevention Trust	74,100
- Court Innovation	139,923
- Legal Aid	341,850
- Law Library	40,333
- Juvenile Alternative Programs	41,800
- Court Technology	7,028,420
- Communications Surcharge	350,456
- Florida Boating Improvement	338,993
- Northwest Tower	333,718
- Court Facilities Trust	495,781
- Driver's Safety Education	77,134
- West Augustine CRA	450,551
- Flagler Estates CRA	195,674
- Vilano CRA	470,143
- Vilano Street Lighting District	36,235
- Elkton Drainage District	50,805
- St. Aug. South St. Lighting District	97,462
- Treasure Beach M.S.B.U.	255,360
- Deerwood Lane M.S.B.U.	10,198
- Summer Haven M.S.T.U.	356,400
- Durbin CTITF	438,908
- Coastal Hwy Dune & Beach M.S.T.U.	86,115
- SPV Blvd Dune & Beach M.S.T.U.	439,963

Debt Service Funds

- 12 Transportation Refunding Bonds	\$2,013,375
- Ponte Vedra MSD Sewer Contract	1,619,403
- Commercial Paper	1,791,533
- Flagler Estates Loan	515,038
- Trane Capital Lease	241,561
- Public Facility Note	410,723
- 12 Sales Tax Refunding Bonds	3,636,769
- Series 2012 Chase Note	1,279,817
- 15 Transportation Refunding Bonds	1,661,244
- 14 Revenue Sharing Refunding Bonds	1,168,507
- 15 Sales Tax Refunding Bonds	3,921,275
- 19 CBA Refunding Bond	1,448,250
- 20 Special Obligation Revenue Note	497,109

Capital Improvement Funds

- Beach Re-Nourishment Projects	\$2,271,516
- SR 207 CIG Developers Projects	471,448
- Public Facilities Projects	2,651,726
- Sheriff Training Facility	11,902,767
- 2019 Capital Projects	17,172,362
- Coastal Hwy Dune & Beach Project	223,026
- PV Beach Dune & Beach Project	500,000

Enterprise Funds

- Solid Waste Management	\$49,263,696
- Utility Services	181,204,692
- Ponte Vedra Utility Services	36,251,937
- Convention Center	1,692,100

Internal Service/Trust & Agency Funds

- Worker Compensation Insurance	\$3,205,837
- Health Insurance	38,908,907
- FSA-Medical	974,850
- FSA-Dependent	182,635
- OPEB Trust	3,980,883

(6:18 p.m.) Motion by Smith, seconded by Dean, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, with Waldron and Blocker participating remotely, to set a Public Hearing on September 21, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., in the County Auditorium to consider the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021 millage rates and budget for the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida.

(09/08/20 - 5 - 6:19 p.m.)
ADJOURN

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Approved ____October 6_____, 2020

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____

Jeb S. Smith, Chair

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

By: _____

Deputy Clerk

