

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
JANUARY 5, 2021
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 December 30, 2020, via media, website, and social media postings.

Present: Jeremiah R. Blocker, District 4, Chair
Henry Dean, District 5, Vice Chair
Christian Whitehurst, District 1
Jeb S. Smith, District 2
Paul M. Waldron, District 3
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

(01/05/21 - 1 - 8:30 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

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

(01/05/21 - 1 - 8:32 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll, and all Board members were present.

(01/05/21 - 1 - 8:32 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Dean led the invocation.

Blocker pulled Special Agenda Item 3 due to not having enough information on the item.

(01/05/21 - 1 - 8:33 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Patrick McCormack, County Attorney, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(01/05/21 - 1 - 8:34 a.m.)
1. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator, provided an update on St. Johns County's response to COVID-19; and spoke on the COVID-19 vaccination schedule and distribution plan in the County.

(8:43 a.m.) Waldron questioned who was taking care of assisted living facilities and nursing homes. Joseph Giammanco, Director of Emergency Management, explained assisted living facilities and nursing homes would be handled through a Federal program and administered by CVS and Walgreens.

(8:45 a.m.) Whitehurst questioned the reason for dialing "904" prior to calling the vaccine hotline, the call back process for individuals who had been tested, and clarifying to the public why the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines could not be mixed. Conrad explained dialing "904" first would prevent the call from going to a different area code. Joseph Giammanco, Director of Emergency Management, provided additional information on flyers that explained why the Pfizer vaccine and the Moderna vaccine could not be mixed.

(8:50 a.m.) Dean clarified how the vaccines were being distributed. Conrad noted the Board would not know how many vaccines were being distributed because it was a State decision.

(8:54 a.m.) Smith questioned if there were ample amounts of booster vaccines. Conrad explained there was not a scheduled time when vaccines would be delivered, but they were operating under the premise that additional vaccines would be coming.

(8:55 a.m.) Waldron questioned if volunteers would be accepted to help administer the vaccines, and if there would be a partnership with Flagler Hospital. Giammanco explained he was making a list of volunteers and working with Fire Rescue as they planned to open a second site; and noted they were also looking for administrative help. Giammanco explained he was working to partner with Flagler Hospital.

(8:59 a.m.) Dr. Dawn Allicock, Medical Director of the St. Johns County Health Department, provided details on the St. Johns County COVID-19 vaccination plan.

(9:06 a.m.) Blocker questioned whether the National Guard had been contacted, and where location sites were for vaccinations. Giammanco explained that the National Guard had not been contacted, as they were trying to work out the process on their own and stated if they needed assistance, they would reach out to them. Conrad explained there were a few site locations in Ponte Vedra and Julington Creek, and they were looking in northern St. Johns County for an additional location. Additionally, Blocker spoke on bringing in volunteers to help with the vaccination process.

(9:13 a.m.) Jesse Dunn, Office of Management and Budget Director, provided information on the funding mechanism for the vaccination plan and read a suggested motion.

(9:17 a.m.) Whitehurst questioned how much of the \$500,000 would be payroll. Dunn explained Fire Rescue overtime could reach \$325,000 to \$350,000. Discussion ensued on reimbursement for the Sheriff's Office, City of St. Augustine's Fire Rescue, and City of St. Augustine Beach's Fire Rescue.

(9:19 a.m.) Blocker questioned the reimbursement plan for the Sheriff's Office. Conrad explained Sheriff Robert Hardwick planned to approach the Board regarding reimbursement for his employees. Discussion ensued on the partnership with the City of St. Augustine and the City of St. Augustine Beach.

(9:21 a.m.) Motion by Smith, seconded by Waldron, to authorize the use of COVID-19 response appropriations, up to \$1,000,000 million, to fund the initial St. Johns County COVID-19 vaccination program.

(9:22 a.m.) Smith questioned if other counties were committing to large financial contributions to accomplish administering the vaccine. Giammanco explained there was

a wide range of counties that were looking at different funding options for administering vaccinations.

(9:24 a.m.) Ed Slavin, P.O. Box 3084, spoke on the miscommunication from the Florida Department of Health and Governor Ron DeSantis on the vaccine process, and having a committee system in St. Johns County.

(9:28 a.m.) Carol Harris, 1365 S.R. 206 East, questioned why assisted living facilities were not getting COVID-19 vaccines from CVS, and why people with underlying health conditions were not getting vaccinated before those without.

(9:31 a.m.) Lisa McGreevy, 703 Pinehurst Place, commended all County staff for their kindness, compassion, and quick action to address the vaccination distribution problems. Additionally, on behalf of the St. Johns County Civic Round Table, she spoke on volunteering in any way they could with the vaccination process.

(9:33 a.m.) BJ Kalaidi, 8 Newcomb Street, requested the Board rescind mask mandates in County buildings; and questioned whether individuals who had been given the vaccine were residents of St. Johns County. Additionally, she requested that information be given out for vaccine locations in the County.

(9:37 a.m.) **The motion carried 5/0.**

Yea: Smith, Waldron, Dean, Whitehurst, and Blocker

Nay: None

(01/05/21 - 3 - 9:37 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.

(9:38 a.m.) **Motion by Waldron, seconded by Whitehurst, to adopt St. Johns County Emergency Proclamation No. 2021-1, extending the local state of emergency for an additional seven-day period.**

(9:38 a.m.) BJ Kalaidi, 8 Newcomb Street, questioned if the emergency proclamations would be extended every two weeks and if special meetings would start at 8:00 a.m.

(9:40 a.m.) **The motion carried 5/0.**

Yea: Smith, Waldron, Dean, Whitehurst, and Blocker

Nay: None

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2021-1


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

(Regular Agenda Item 3 was pulled.)

3. AMENDMENT TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE: DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE. AT THE BOARD'S OPTION, IT MAY CHOOSE TO TREAT THIS DISCUSSION AS A FIRST READING AND DIRECT THE

Approved _____ January 19 _____, 2021

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Henry Dean, Vice Chairman

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

By: 
Deputy Clerk

