

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2021  
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 the special meeting was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record* on August 24, 2021.

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  
Sindy Wiseman, Deputy Clerk

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

(09/07/21 - 1 - 5:01 p.m.)  
CALL TO ORDER

Blocker called the meeting to order.

(09/07/21 - 1 - 5:01 p.m.)  
ROLL CALL

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

(09/07/21 - 1 - 5:01 p.m.)  
INVOCATION

Smith led the invocation.

(09/07/21 - 1 - 5:02 p.m.)  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

McCormack led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(09/07/21 - 1 - 5:03 p.m.)  
ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO SPECIAL AGENDA

There were none.

(09/07/21 - 1 - 5:02 p.m.)  
APPROVAL OF SPECIAL AGENDA

**Motion by Smith, seconded by Dean, carried 5/0, to approve the special meeting agenda as submitted.**

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

**Nay: None**

(09/07/21 - 2 - 5:03 p.m.)

1. PUBLIC HEARING - 5:01 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES AND BUDGET FOR FY 2022. 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 7, 2021, 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 2022. 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 2022. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BCC ESTABLISH SEPTEMBER 21, 2021, AT 5:01 P.M., IN THE COUNTY AUDITORIUM, TO CONDUCT SUCH HEARINGS. A COPY OF THE FY 2022 TENTATIVE BUDGET WORKBOOK, INCLUDING DETAIL, PER LINE ITEM, MAY BE FOUND ON THE COUNTY'S WEBPAGE AT [HTTP://WWW.SJCFL.US/OMB/INDEX.ASPX](http://www.sjcfl.us/omb/index.aspx)

Jesse Dunn, Director, Office of Management & Budget, presented the details of the tentative millage rate and budget, including the rolled back rate effects, via PowerPoint. He spoke on the fuel tax, half-cent sales tax, and tourist development tax, carryforwards, and millage fund reserves. He also stated that the rolled-back millage rate was 6.5273, the tentative aggregate millage rate was 6.8147, and the percentage increase over the rolled-back rate was 4.40%.

(5:22 p.m.) Michael Goodman, 225 Windley Drive, expressed his appreciation for the information given and asked for clarification on whether the property taxes would increase by 4.4%. Dunn reaffirmed that the 4.4% was a prescribed rate of what was being recommended in aggregate verses rolled-back rate.

(5:23 p.m.) Margaret Walter, 229 Phoenetia Drive, noted the numerous accidents on SR 206 and asked whether there was any provision in the budget for additional traffic lights for that roadway. Waldron explained that SR 206 was a state highway, so that would be at the discretion of the State, however the Board could request the State review the situation.

(5:26 p.m.) Richard Goldman, president, Visitors and Convention Bureau (VCB), 29 Old Mission Avenue, spoke on the possibility of moving funds in Category 1 from the VCB to the Cultural Council, for destination/marketing. He requested the funds remain with the VCB.

(5:29 p.m.) Virginia Whetstone, Chairman of the Visitors and Convention Bureau, 297 St. George Street, said that 10% of the 5th cent tax increase was intended to go into Category 1 to further grow tourist destination tourist destination marketing. She asked for clarification as to where these funds were going. She requested that the funds remain with the VCB and for the VCB to be the only source to market the destination. Dean requested that staff address the concern with destination/marketing funds.

(5:33 p.m.) Tera Meeks, Director, Tourist Development Council (TDC), responded that regardless of the Board's concerns with destination marketing, the budget being presented would not change. She explained the TDC's promotional plans and what was recommended by the TDC. Dean stated that his wish was *not to transfer any money from Category 1 to the Cultural Council, for advertising and marketing purposes*. Discussion ensued on advertising and marketing.

**(5:43 p.m.) Motion by Dean, seconded by Whitehurst, carried 4/1, with Waldron dissenting, that should the Board adopt the proposed resolution, as set forth in the agenda packet, the subtenant change shall be reflected in the proposed final adoption meeting of the budget.**

(5:43 p.m.) Smith questioned whether the \$2 million allocated to the VCB for destination marketing had been expended. Meeks responded that the funds were provided in FY 2020, approximately \$1.2 million had been expended, \$800,000 was carried forward into FY 2021 and was earmarked for promotions. Goldman added additional comments regarding the remaining \$800,000. Discussion ensued on destination marketing.

(5:54 p.m.) Virginia Whetstone, Chairman of the Visitors and Convention Bureau, 297 St. George Street, spoke on the VCB and Cultural Council's contracts and suggested that there be only one destination marketing plan.

(5:57 p.m.) Richard Goldman, VCB, 29 Old Mission Road, spoke on the types of marketing performed by the VCB.

(6:00 p.m.) Kimberly Wilson, General Manager, Casa Monica Resort and Spa, 95 Cordova Street, reiterated the success seen with record breaking months and remaining competitive against other destinations.

(6:01 p.m.) Whitehurst spoke on the intended allocation from the approval of the 5th cent increase and stated that he wanted to see the 10% from the 5th cent go to the VCB. McCormack clarified the effect of Dean's motion on the budget. Waldron noted that he voted against the motion, due to the recommendation by the TDC.

**(6:06 p.m.) Motion by Waldron, seconded by Dean, carried 5/0, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-384, establishing the tentative millage rates for FY 2022, as set by the BCC.**

**Yea: Blocker, Dean, Smith, Waldron, and Whitehurst  
Nay: None**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-384**

**RESOLVED, that the following FISCAL YEAR 2022 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, 2021.**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>4.6537</b>
<b>County Transportation Trust Fund</b>	<b>0.8444</b>

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 M.S.T.U.	7.3392
Coastal Highway M.S.T.U.	0.5000
Ponte Vedra Beach Dune & Beach Restoration M.S.T.U.	0.0000
South Ponte Vedra Beach Dune & Beach Restoration M.S.T.U.	0.0000
Serenata Beach Dune & Beach Restoration M.S.T.U.	0.0000
<b>AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE</b>	<b>6.8147</b>
<b>Rolled-back Rate</b>	<b>6.5273</b>
<i>Percentage increase in Property Taxes from rolled-back rate:</i>	<i>4.40%</i>

(6:08 p.m.) Motion by Waldron, seconded by Dean, carried 5/0, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-385, approving the Tentative Fiscal Year 2022 budget of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, using the certified taxable value of \$34,613,934,308, generating an estimated \$235,884,708 in taxes, and resulting in a total budget of \$1,298,036,820.

Yea: Blocker, Dean, Smith, Waldron, and Whitehurst  
Nay: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-385**

**RESOLVED**, that the following **FISCAL YEAR 2022 TENTATIVE BUDGET** of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, developed using the certified taxable value of \$34,613,934,308, generating an estimated \$235,884,708 in taxes, is hereby adopted, resulting in a total budget of \$1,298,036,820, as follows:

<b>General Fund</b>	395,443,638
<b>Special Revenue Funds</b>	
- Transportation Trust	111,643,121
- Fire District	61,225,158
- Health Department	555,419
- Building Services	34,430,487
- Cultural Events	22,306,390
- Tourist Development	21,763,810
- Impact Fees - Public Buildings	17,514,600
- Impact Fees - Police Services	2,397,525
- Impact Fees - Fire Rescue	12,448,699
- Impact Fees - Roads	63,454,121
- Impact Fees - Parks	14,119,548
- Beach Services	2,678,561
- County Pier	709,475
- Golf Course	1,397,104

- Alcohol & Drug Abuse Trust	37,169
- Community Based Care	8,637,516
- Transit System	9,116,809
- State Housing Initiative Partnership	2,765,415
- Tree Bank	2,843,456
- Sidewalk Mitigation	108,703
- E-911 Communications	2,007,918
- Law Enforcement Trust	13,100
- Crimes Prevention Trust	74,100
- Court Innovation	143,903
- Legal Aid	348,687
- Law Library	109,441
- Juvenile Alternative Programs	50,000
- Court Technology	8,143,182
- Communications Surcharge	141,075
- Florida Boating Improvement	253,991
- Northwest Tower	403,696
- Court Facilities Trust	436,574
- Driver's Safety Education	71,148
- American Recovery Plan	25,704,717
- FEMA Emergency Disaster Relief	33,832,869
- Emergency Rental Assistance	14,302,149
- Equitable Sharing Justice	10,761
- Equitable Sharing Treasury	3,282
- Equitable Sharing Task Force	27,965
- West Augustine CRA	548,817
- Flagler Estates CRA	268,973
- Vilano CRA	560,583
- Vilano Street Lighting District	40,605
- Elkton Drainage District	54,239
- St. Aug. South St. Lighting District	120,455
- Treasure Beach M.S.B.U.	240,473
- Summer Haven M.S.T.U.	422,532
- Durbin CTITF	686,620
- Coastal Hwy Dune & Beach M.S.T.U.	252,617
- SPV Blvd. Dune & Beach M.S.T.U.	342,801

**Debt Service Funds**

- 12 Transportation Refunding Bonds	1,365,000
- Ponte Vedra MSD Sewer Contract	1,513,285
- Commercial Paper	849,863
- Trane Capital Lease	241,561
- Public Facility Note	413,753
- 12 Sales Tax Refunding Bonds	2,283,400
- Series 2012 Chase Note	1,279,698
- 15 Transportation Refunding Bonds	1,659,244
- 14 Revenue Sharing Refunding Bonds	1,166,907
- 15 Sales Tax Refunding Bonds	3,932,025
- 19 CBA Refunding Bond	1,449,250
- 20 Special Obligation Revenue Note	4,888,912
- 21 Special Obligation Revenue Note	1,416,680

**Capital Improvement Funds**

- Beach Re-Nourishment Projects	2,132,558
- SR 207 CIG Developers' Projects	1,086,085
- Public Facilities Projects	1,116,148
- Sheriff Training Facility	285,213

- 2019 Capital Improvement Projects	16,287,300
- Coastal Hwy Dune & Beach Project	496,830
- PV Beach Dune & Beach Project	501,950
- Land Acquisition & Management Program	1,000,000
- 2022 Capital Improvement Projects	33,500,000
- Golf Course Reconstruction	7,905,634
<b>Enterprise Funds</b>	
- Solid Waste Management	52,684,092
- Utility Services	201,609,367
- Ponte Vedra Utility Services	33,151,699
- Convention Center	804,745
<b>Internal Service Funds</b>	
- Worker Compensation Insurance	3,443,088
- Health Insurance	39,234,686
<b>Trust &amp; Agency Funds</b>	
- FSA-Medical	902,531
- FSA-Dependent	125,337
- OPEB Trust	4,095,982

(6:09 p.m.) Motion by Smith, seconded by Dean, carried 5/0, to set a public hearing, on September 21, 2021, at 5:01 p.m., in the County Auditorium, to consider the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2022 millage rates and budget for the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida.

Yea: Blocker, Dean, Smith, Waldron, Whitehurst  
 Nay: None

(09/07/21 - 6 - 6:11 p.m.)  
 ADJOURN

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Blocker adjourned the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ September 21 \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
 OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: *Jeremiah R. Blocker*  
 Jeremiah R. Blocker, Chair

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

By: *Pam Halterman*  
 Deputy Clerk

