

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SEPTEMBER 21, 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 September 13, 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  
Crystal Smith, Deputy Clerk

Also present: Brad Bradley, Deputy County Administrator Chief of Staff; Joy Andrews, Deputy County Administrator of Strategic Affairs; and Rebecca Lavie, Senior Assistant County Attorney

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

Blocker called the meeting to order.

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

1. PUBLIC HEARING - 5:01 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING - ST. JOHNS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' ADOPTION OF FINAL 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 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. THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2021, 5:01 P.M. HEARING DATE HAS BEEN ADVERTISED IN THE ST. AUGUSTINE RECORD. 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 FINAL MILLAGE RATES, PRIOR TO ADOPTING ITS FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2022.

Jesse Dunn, Director, Office of Management and Budget, presented the details of the final millage rate and budget, via PowerPoint. He highlighted the percentage increase over the rolled-back rate.

(5:15 p.m.) Smith questioned whether the solid-waste reserve was encompassed in the general reserve and what the current amount was in the fund. Dunn explained the solid waste reserve had its own enterprise fund, \$1 million was taken out during Hurricane Matthew, and provided the amount that was in the four different reserves. Smith questioned whether a vote to adopt a rolled-back rate would affect or compromise the County's double AA rating if they unitize the reserves. Dunn explained going back to a rollback rate would not have any impact to the County's credit rating; however, going back to the current rolled-back rate, could cause a structural deficit.

(5:21 p.m.) BJ Kalaidi, 8 Newcomb Street, voiced her concerns with the Tourist Development Council's \$2 million debt that the Board paid off and stated that the 6.5273 rolled-back rate should be used.

**(5:24 p.m.) Motion by Dean, seconded by Whitehurst, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-412, approving the Fiscal Year 2022 Final Millage Rates, as set by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, for all property in St. Johns County, as of January 1, 2021.**

(5:24 p.m.) Smith stated he was in support of the rolled-back rate and that he would not vote in favor of approving the Fiscal Year 2022 Final Millage Rates.

(5:25 p.m.) Whitehurst spoke on a project in his district that had \$80,000 in deficient roads and said that is why he seconded the motion.

**(5:26 p.m.) The motion carried 3/2, with Smith and Waldron dissenting.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-412**

**RESOLVED, that the following FISCAL YEAR 2022 FINAL 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>
<b>County Health Unit Trust Fund</b>	<b>0.0160</b>
<b>Fire District, Countywide, Except City of St. Augustine</b>	<b>1.3813</b>
<b>Vilano Street Lighting District</b>	<b>0.0473</b>
<b>St. Augustine South Street Lighting District</b>	<b>0.1968</b>
<b>Summerhaven M.S.T.U.</b>	<b>7.3392</b>
<b>Coastal Highway M.S.T.U.</b>	<b>0.5000</b>
<b>Ponte Vedra Beach Dune &amp; Beach Restoration M.S.T.U.</b>	<b>0.0000</b>

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>	<b>4.40%</b>

(5:26 p.m.) Motion by Dean, seconded by Whitehurst, carried 4/1, with Smith dissenting, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-413, approving the Fiscal Year 2021 Final 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: Dean, Whitehurst, Waldron, and Blocker**  
**Nay: Smith**

(5:27 p.m.) McCormack clarified that Dean was aware that all of the subfigures were the same in the proposed resolution in the agenda packet.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-413**

**RESOLVED, that the following FISCAL YEAR 2022 FINAL 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>	<b>395,443,638</b>
<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

**Special Revenue Funds Continued**

- 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

**Enterprise Funds**

- Solid Waste Management	52,684,092
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- Utility Services	201,609,367
- Ponte Vedra Utility Services	33,151,699
- Convention Center	804,745

**Internal Service Funds**

- Worker Compensation Insurance	3,443,088
- Health Insurance	39,234,686

**Trust & Agency Funds**

- FSA-Medical	902,531
- FSA-Dependent	125,337
- OPEB Trust	4,095,982

Dean recommended transferring \$1.7 million from the Tourist Development Council Category 5 reserves to the Ponte Vedra Beach Renourishment project.

(5:30 p.m.) Waldron asked for clarification on whether a new Board rule policy was passed stating that funding over \$500,000 could not be passed without a presentation. McCormack explained that the Board recently added to the Boards Rules and Policies, that unless it was a published agenda item, a request for funding was limited to \$500,000, and noted that the Board rules could be suspended by a super majority vote. Discussion ensued.

(5:35 p.m.) Smith questioned other uses for the \$1.7 million. Tera Meeks, Tourism and Cultural Development Director, explained Category 5 was called Beach Assets and that it had to be used for beach related services that had a tourism base.

(5:39 p.m.) Dunn explained the transfer would not affect anything with the two resolutions that were adopted, specifically the budget resolution.

**(5:37 p.m.) Motion by Dean, seconded by Waldron, to appropriate \$1.75 million from Category 5 to the Ponte Vedra Beach Renourishment project.**

(5:40 p.m.) McCormack explained there was a savings clause put into the Board’s Rules and Policy that stated, “nothing herein shall limit the Board from revising and approving a published request for funding after Board consideration and public comment.”

(5:42 p.m.) BJ Kalaidi, 8 Newcomb Street, questioned why Dean waited until after the vote was taken to bring the matter up.

(5:43 p.m.) Laurie Moffit, 917 Ponte Vedra Boulevard, commended the Board on their consideration of putting \$1.7 million into the project and requested the State match the funding.

(5:45 p.m.) **The motion carried 5/0.**

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

**Nay: None**

(5:45 p.m.) Blocker spoke on raising the merit pay for County and Fire Rescue employees by five percent.

(5:45 p.m.) Smith questioned whether the pay increase would change the budget. Dunn explained the merit pay increase would be allocated from a reserve into a specific line item and would not affect the overall budget. Discussion ensued.

(5:48 p.m.) McCormack questioned whether the motion would change any of the numbers with the adopted resolution. Dunn explained it would not and the appropriation would be moved from the reserves to an expense line.

(5:51 p.m.) Whitehurst stated he felt it was appropriate to increase the merit pay for employees by five percent.

(5:53 p.m.) **Motion by Blocker, seconded by Dean, to give a five percent increase to County staff, to include merit raises, cost of living, inflation, and would include Fire Rescue employees.**

(5:53 p.m.) BJ Kalaidi, 8 Newcomb Street, voiced her concerns with taking the percentage from general funds for pay increases and suggested to use it to address roadways, flooding, and traffic.

(5:56 p.m.) Waldron spoke in support of the five percent pay increase and expressed his concerns with the line items being altered after the resolution was adopted. Discussion ensued on what the cost would be to implement the pay increase.

(5:28 p.m.) **The motion carried 4/1, with Smith dissenting.**

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

(09/21/21 - 6 - 5:58 p.m.)  
ADJOURN

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Blocker adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ October 5 \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

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

By: *Sam Halterman*  
Deputy Clerk

