

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022  
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 notice of the special meeting to adoption the Tentative Milage Rates and Budget for Fiscal Year 2023, was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record* on August 29, 2022.

Present: Henry Dean, District 5, Chair  
Christian Whitehurst, District 1, Vice Chair  
Sarah S. Arnold, District 2  
Paul M. Waldron, District 3  
Jeremiah R. Blocker, District 4  
Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator  
David Migut, County Attorney  
Artricia K. Allen, Deputy Clerk

Also present: Brad Bradley, Deputy County Administrator Chief of Staff; Joy Andrews, Deputy County Administrator of Strategic Affairs; Sarah Taylor, Assistant County Administrator; and Lex Taylor, Deputy County Attorney

(09/06/22 - 1 - 5:01 p.m.)  
CALL TO ORDER

Dean called the meeting to order.

(09/06/22 - 1 - 5:02 p.m.)  
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll. Commissioners Dean, Whitehurst, and Arnold were present. Commissioner Blocker and Waldron participated remotely.

(09/06/22 - 1 - 5:02 p.m.)  
INVOCATION

Pastor Earl Glisson, Anchor Faith Church, gave the invocation.

(09/06/22 - 1 - 5:03 p.m.)  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Joe McDermott, Command Sgt. Major U.S. Army, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(09/06/22 - 1 - 5:03 p.m.)  
ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO SPECIAL AGENDA

There were none.

(09/06/22 - 2 - 5:04 p.m.)  
APPROVAL OF SPECIAL AGENDA

(5:04 p.m.) **Motion by Whitehurst, seconded by Arnold, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, with Blocker and Waldron participating remotely, to approve the special meeting as submitted.**

**Yea: Arnold, Waldron, Whitehurst, Blocker, Dean**  
**Nay: None**

(09/06/22 - 2 - 5:05 p.m.)

1. PUBLIC HEARING - 5:01 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2023. 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 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 6, 2022, 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 2023. 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 2023. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BCC ESTABLISH SEPTEMBER 20, 2022, AT 5:01 P.M. IN THE COUNTY AUDITORIUM TO CONDUCT SUCH HEARINGS. A COPY OF THE FY 2023 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 and Budget, presented the details of the recommended tentative millage rate and budget, via PowerPoint. He reviewed the tentative budget process and timeline, growth in taxable revenue, property tax renewal, rolled back rates, save our home provision, and Milage fund reserves. Additionally, he reviewed the percentages increase over the rolled back rate.

(5:24 p.m.) Migut reminded the Board that under the budget statue the public is allowed to ask questions as part of their public comment and staff or the Board should respond to those questions.

(5:24 p.m.) Ed Slavin, PO Box 3084, questioned the allotted funds in the proposed budget for dash and body camera for the police department, a Charter Review Committee, the clerk of courts inspector general, an impact fee study, ethics training, and whistleblowing empowerment.

(5:25 p.m.) Chief Robert Hardwick, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, responded to the body and dash cameras.

(5:30 p.m.) Peter Copeland, 243 Casa Sevilla Avenue, voiced his concerns with the inflations occurring in the last year and increased property taxes.

(5:31 p.m.) Tracy Gray, 10 Arthur Street, voiced her concerns with the mitigation attempts to save her neighborhood. She suggested that the Board consider an alternative concept to include adding pipes and dirt to alleviate the flooding and provide public safety in the neighborhood.

(5:35 p.m.) Melody Ziegler, 400 Hill Street, voiced her concerns with flooded ditches, mosquitos, branches, and trash, congestion with traffic, and the need for sidewalks, and playgrounds.

(5:39 p.m.) Chuck Labanowski, 1748 North Cappero Drive, questioned the increase in the fair market value. Additionally, he voiced his concerns with the increase in milage rates, and sales tax for homeowners. Dean responded.

(5:45 p.m.) Ed Kierce, 356 Fiddlers Point Drive, voiced his concerns with his increased property taxes, and the PGA Hall of Fame returning to North Carolina. Dean responded on the revision and revitalization of the World Golf Village.

(5:47 p.m.) Jim Mose, 4708 State Road 13, voiced his concerns with the milage rate, budget change, and rolled back rate. He suggested researching ways to reduce the milage rate, and to achieve efficiency. Discussion ensued on the milage rates, rolled back rate, inflation, and infrastructure.

(5:55 p.m.) Mike Goodman, 225 Windley Drive, asked the Board whether the recommended budget was sufficient for the Sheriff's Office to provide appropriate public safety. Whitehurst responded.

(5:58 p.m.) Chief Robert Hardwick, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, provided additional information in the increasing crime rates, domestic violence, and drug abuse in St. Johns County. He encouraged the citizens in our community to have accountability with locking car doors and putting firearms or valuable items away.

(6:02 p.m.) Kristyn Sheridan, 129 Kingston Drive, questioned the process for revisiting the impact fees in fiscal year 2023, requested completing infrastructure prior to development, and asked for public input on the placement of sand from Vilano Beach to the Serenata Beach Dune. Dean responded.

(6:03 p.m.) Dunn commented on the process for impact fee implementation.

(6:09 p.m.) Krista Keating-Joseph, 121 Lagoon Forest Drive, voiced her concerns on increasing taxes, and limiting development until infrastructure is caught up.

(6:11 p.m.) Dunn read the tentative milage rates.

**(6:14 p.m.) Motion by Whitehurst, seconded by Arnold, carried 4/1, with Waldron dissenting, via roll call vote, with Blocker and Waldron participating remotely, to adopt Resolution No. 2022-334, establishing the Fiscal Year 2023 Tentative millage rates, as set by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County.**

**Yea: Arnold, Whitehurst, Blocker, Dean**

**Nay: Waldron**

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-334

RESOLVED, that the following FISCAL YEAR 2023 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, 2022

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
St. Augustine South Street Lighting District	0.1350
Vilano Street Lighting District	0.0320
Summerhaven M.S.T.U.	7.3392
Coastal Highway M.S.T.U.	0.5000
South Ponte Vedra Beach Dune & Beach Restoration M.S.T.U.	2.0000
Serenata Beach Dune & Beach Restoration M.S.T.U.	0.5500
Ponte Vedra Beach Dune & Beach Restoration M.S.T.U.	0.0000
AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE	6.8266
Aggregate Rolled-back Rate	6.0642
<i>Percentage increase in Property Taxes from rolled-back rate:</i>	<i>12.57%</i>

(6:15 p.m.) Waldron requested to lowering the General Fund Milage Rate or roll it back to cover through the existing reserves.

(6:17 p.m.) Motion by Whitehurst, seconded by Arnold, carried 4/1, with Waldron dissenting, via roll call vote, with Blocker and Waldron participating remotely, to adopt Resolution No. 2022-335, approving the Fiscal Year 2023 Tentative Budget of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, using the certified taxable value of \$40,840,143,494, generating an estimated \$278,797,359 in taxes, and resulting in a total budget of \$1,550,104,053.

Yea: Whitehurst, Blocker, Arnold, Dean  
Nay: Waldron

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-335

RESOLVED, that the following FISCAL YEAR 2023 TENTATIVE BUDGET of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, developed using the certified taxable value of \$40,840,143,494, generating an estimated \$278,797,359 in taxes, is hereby adopted, resulting in a total budget of \$1,550,104,053, as follows:

**General Fund** \$394,211,848

**Special Revenue Funds**

- Transportation Trust	\$127,353,318
- Fire District	70,629,981
- Health Department	634,110
- Building Services	38,561,735
- Cultural Events	34,774,182
- Tourist Development	33,599,108
- Impact Fees - Public Buildings	22,889,581
- Impact Fees - Police Services	2,734,598
- Impact Fees - Fire Rescue	16,351,561
- Impact Fees - Roads	71,333,057
- Impact Fees - Parks	21,792,249
- Beach Services	3,296,034
- County Pier	1,240,925
- Golf Course	3,092,809
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse Trust	78,373
- Community Based Care	8,952,688
- Transit System	8,024,352
- State Housing Initiative Partnership	5,232,757
- Tree Bank	2,795,818
- Sidewalk Mitigation	179,482
- E-911 Communications	2,455,094
- Law Enforcement Trust	51,250
- Crimes Prevention Trust	106,733
- Court Innovation	156,858
- Legal Aid	355,668
- Law Library	60,291
- Juvenile Alternative Programs	58,908
- Court Technology	8,683,199
- Communications Surcharge	194,483
- Florida Boating Improvement	308,383
- Northwest Tower	356,501
- Court Facilities Trust	408,200
- Driver's Safety Education	74,354
- American Recovery Plan	45,911,359
- Emergency Rental Assistance	7,344,892
- FEMA Emergency Disaster Relief	15,098,894
- Equitable Sharing Justice	10,816
- Equitable Sharing Treasury	3,295
- Equitable Sharing Task Force	28,066
- West Augustine CRA	913,961
- Flagler Estates CRA	675,433
- Vilano CRA	650,329
- Vilano Street Lighting District	40,550
- Elkton Drainage District	71,053

**Special Revenue Funds Continued**

- St. Aug. South St. Lighting District	\$122,849
- Treasure Beach M.S.B.U.	252,244
- Summer Haven M.S.T.U.	534,137
- Durbin CTITF	1,035,099
- PV Beach Dune & Beach M.S.T.U.	300,500
- Coastal Hwy Dune & Beach M.S.T.U.	30,774
- SPV Blvd Dune & Beach M.S.T.U.	580,077

- Serenata Beach M.S.T.U. 38,282

**Debt Service Funds**

- Trane Capital Lease \$241,561  
- Public Facility Note 411,184  
- Series 2012 Chase Note 1,280,100  
- 15 Transportation Refunding Bonds 1,655,494  
- 14 Revenue Sharing Refunding Bonds 1,164,307  
- 15 Sales Tax Refunding Bonds 3,917,775  
- 19 CBA Refunding Bond 1,452,750  
- 20 Special Obligation Revenue Note 1,244,447  
- 21 Taxable Special Obligation Bonds 5,033,648  
- 22 Special Obligation Bonds 1,828,923

**Capital Improvement Funds**

- Beach Re-Nourishment Projects \$2,883,643  
- SR 207 CIG Developers Projects 2,748,290  
- 2019 Capital Projects 11,227,019  
- Coastal Hwy Dune & Beach Project 714,736  
- PV Beach Dune & Beach Project 5,203,412  
- SPV Beach Dune & Berm Project 1,961,643  
- LAMP 1,500,721  
- County Capital Improvement Projects 53,505,046  
- Golf Course Reconstruction 140,839

**Enterprise Funds**

- Solid Waste Management \$51,616,574  
- Utility Services 392,459,039

**Internal Service Funds**

- Worker Compensation Insurance \$3,449,231  
- Health Insurance 43,979,446

**Trust & Agency Funds**

- FSA-Medical \$919,419  
- FSA-Dependent 132,008  
- OPEB Trust \$4,761,700

(6:18 p.m.) **Motion by Whitehurst, seconded by Arnold, carried by 5/0, via roll call vote, with Waldron and Blocker participating remotely, to set a public hearing, on September 20, 2022, at 5:01 p.m., in the County Auditorium, to consider the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023 millage rates and budget for the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida.**

**Yea: Dean, Waldron, Blocker, Arnold, Whitehurst**

**Nay: None**

(6:18 p.m.) Dean provided an overview of the needed beach renourishment at Mickler’s Landing. He suggested using \$3 million from category 5 of the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) and sending a letter to the legislature requesting matching funds. Discussion ensued. Waldron questioned the amount currently received from the State. Dunn responded.

(6:27 p.m.) **Motion Dean, seconded by Whitehurst, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, with Blocker and Waldron participating remotely, to allocate \$3 million dollars from Category 5 of the Tourist Development Tax funds for the Ponte Vedra Beach renourishment project.**

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

(6:28 p.m.) Ed Slavin, PO Box 3084, spoke in support of the request.

(6:28 p.m.) Mark Mondello, 5395 4th Street, spoke in opposition of the request. He also suggested that the Board utilize the allocated funds for lifeguards on the beach all year round. Dunn noted that TDT funds could not be used for public safety.

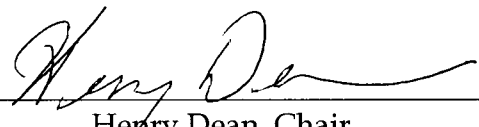
(6:30 p.m.) Beth Angelo, 1283 Ponte Vedra Boulevard, spoke in support of the request.

(09/06/22 - 7 - 6:33 p.m.)  
ADJOURN

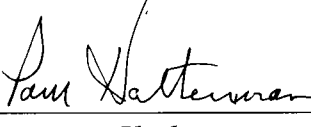
With there being no further business to come before the Board, Dean adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_September 20\_\_\_\_\_, 2022

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:   
Henry Dean, Chair

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

By:   
Deputy Clerk

