



Minutes of Meeting
Board of County Commissioners
St. Johns County, Florida
Special Meeting
County Administration Building
500 San Sebastian View
St. Augustine, Florida 32084
September 5, 2023 – 5:01 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Whitehurst called the special meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Present: Christian Whitehurst, District 1, Chair
Sarah S. Arnold, District 2, Vice Chair
Roy Alaimo, District 3
Krista Joseph, District 4
Henry Dean, District 5

Staff Present: Joy Andrews, Interim County Administrator
David Migut, County Attorney
Artricia K. Allen, Deputy Clerk

ROLL CALL

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

INVOCATION

Pastor Mike Krulick, Anchor Faith Church, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Joe McDermott, Command Sergeant Major United States Army Retired, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DELETIONS TO THE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

There were none.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Migut requested Board consensus to authorize Commissioner Arnold to participate remotely in today's special meeting. Consensus was given.

Motion by Alaimo, seconded by Arnold, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, to approve the Special Meeting Agenda, as submitted.

Yea: Arnold, Dean, Whitehurst, Alaimo, Joseph

Nay: None

1. Public Hearing - 5:01 p.m. Public Hearing - Adoption of Tentative Millage Rates and Budget for Fiscal Year 2024. 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 5, 2023, 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 Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners shall adopt, by resolution, its tentative millage rates prior to adopting its tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Additionally, the Board of County Commissioners is required to establish a date, time, and place to conduct public hearings on the final millage and budget adoption for Fiscal Year 2024. It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners establish September 19, 2023, at 5:01 p.m., in the County Auditorium, to conduct such hearings. A copy of the Fiscal Year 2024 Tentative Budget Workbook, including detail per line item, may be found on the County's webpage at <http://www.sjcfcl.us/OMB/>

Jesse Dunn, Director, Office of Management and Budget, presented the details of the request, via PowerPoint.

Migut reminded the Board that under the budget statute, the public are allowed to ask questions as part of their public comment and staff or Board could respond to those questions.

Public Comment: Carl Gutzmer, Ed Slavin, Lauren Watkins, Eric Devita, Tolar Bryan, Elena Czigany, Peter Brazis, David Florence, and Eric Hires provided public comment. Discussion ensued on the increased property taxes, millage rates, and what the tax dollars are used for.

Motion by Whitehurst, seconded by Dean, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-333, establishing the Fiscal Year 2024 Tentative Millage Rates as set by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County.

Yea: Arnold, Dean, Whitehurst, Alaimo, Joseph
Nay: None

RESOLUTION NO. 2023–333

RESOLVED, that the following **FISCAL YEAR 2024 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, 2023:

General Fund	4.6537
County Transportation Trust Fund	0.8444
County Health Unit Trust Fund	0.0160
Fire District, Countywide, Except City of St. Augustine	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 and Beach Restoration M.S.T.U.	2.0000
Serenata Beach Dune and Beach Restoration M.S.T.U.	0.5500
Ponte Vedra Beach Dune and Beach Restoration M.S.T.U.	0.0000
AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE	6.8265
Aggregate Rolled-back Rate	6.1760
Percentage increase in Property Taxes from rolled-back rate:	10.53%

Motion by Whitehurst, seconded by Dean, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, to adopt Resolution No. 2023-334, approving the Fiscal Year 2024 Tentative Budget of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, using the certified taxable value of \$47,591,879,581, generating an estimated \$324,884,476 in taxes, and resulting in a total budget of \$1,665,664,624.

Yea: Arnold, Dean, Whitehurst, Alaimo, Joseph
Nay: None

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 334

RESOLVED, that the following **FISCAL YEAR 2024 TENTATIVE BUDGET** of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, developed using the certified taxable value of \$47,591,879,581 generating an estimated \$324,884,476 in taxes, is hereby adopted, resulting in a total budget of \$1,665,664,624, as follows:

General Fund	\$ 399,177,009
Special Revenue Funds	
- Transportation Trust	\$186,869,507
- Fire District	83,708,847
- Health Department	1,241,433
- Building Services	37,157,532
- Tourist Development	32,421,082
- Impact Fees - Public Buildings	27,738,796
- impact Fees - Police Services	4,270,182
- Impact Fees - Fire Rescue	19,184,337
- Impact Fees - Roads	89,050,019
- Impact Fees - Parks	23,199,838
- Beach Services	5,230,728
- County Pier	1,322,774
- Golf Course	3,307,221
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse Trust	115,830
- Community Based Care	12,426,636
- Transit System	9,037,136
- State Housing Initiative Partnership	8,133,088
- Tree Bank	1,525,260
- Sidewalk Mitigation	30,664
- E-911 Communications	2,730,398
- Law Enforcement Trust	10,449
- Crimes Prevention Trust	90,250
- Court Innovation	178,114
- Legal Aid	362,782
- Law Library	64,814
- Juvenile Alternative Programs	53,902
- Court Technology	9,061,214
- Communications Surcharge	345,651
- Florida Boating Improvement	300,430
- Northwest Tower	434,278
- Court Facilities Trust	555,934
- Driver's Safety Education	81,000
- American Recovery Plan	9,581,937
- Emergency Rental Assistance	3,512,544
- FEMA Emergency Disaster Relief	10,428,702
- Equitable Sharing Justice	479
- Equitable Sharing Treasury	67
- Equitable Sharing Task Force	149,993

- West Augustine CRA	1,222,820
- Flagler Estates CRA	749,814
- Vilano CRA	802,396
- Vilano Street Lighting District	41,132
- Elkton Drainage District	105,522
Special Revenue Funds Continued	
- St. Aug. South St. Lighting District	\$ 128,049
- Treasure Beach M.S.B.U.	240,334
- Summer Haven M.S.T.U.	669,583
- Durbin CTITF	1,446,114
- Coastal Hwy Dune and Beach M.S.T.U.	72,003
- SPV Blvd Dune and Beach M.S.T.U.	620,959
- Serenata Beach M.S.T.U.	45,646
Debt Service Funds	
- Trane Capital Lease	\$241,561
- Public Facility Note	413,217
- 15 Transportation Refunding Bonds	1,654,994
- 14 Revenue Sharing Refunding Bonds	1,165,707
- 15 Sales Tax Refunding Bonds	3,919,525
- 19 CBA Refunding Bond	1,448,500
- 20 Special Obligation Revenue Note	1,908,512
- 21 Taxable Special Obligation Bonds	5,021,800
- 22 Special Obligation Bonds	2,896,170
- 22A Special Obligation Note	1,959,936
Capital Improvement Funds	
- Beach Re-Nourishment Projects	\$3,657,381
- SR 207 CIG Developers Projects	4,546,168
- 2019 Capital Projects	13,628,553
- Coastal Hwy Dune and Beach Project	916,360
- PV Beach Dune and Beach Project	38,845,965
- SPV Beach Dune and Berm Project	348,148
- LAMP	3,508,373
- County Capital Improvement Projects	45,457,222
Enterprise Funds	
- Solid Waste Management	\$51,689,075
- Utility Services	403,733,328
Internal Service Funds	
- Worker Compensation Insurance	\$3,434,671
- Health Insurance	49,838,402
Trust and Agency Funds	
- FSA-Medical	\$809,954
- FSA-Dependent	170,873

- OPEB Trust

5,215,000

Motion by Whitehurst, seconded by Dean, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, to set a public hearing, on September 19, 2023, at 5:01 p.m. in the County Auditorium, to consider the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024 Millage Rates and Budget for the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida.

**Yeà: Arnold, Dean, Whitehurst, Alaimo, Joseph
Nay: None**

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Approved _____ September 19 _____, 2023

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Christian Whitehurst, Chair

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

By: Crystal Smith
Deputy Clerk

