



**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 3, 2024 - 5:01 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

Staff Present: Joy Andrews, County Administrator
Brad Bradley, Deputy County Administrator
Lex Taylor, Deputy County Attorney
Saundra Hutto, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION

Kelly Kemp, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Chaplin, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bill Dudley, Lieutenant Colonel United States Air Force Retired, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DELETIONS TO THE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

There were none.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Dean, seconded by Whitehurst, carried 5/0, to approve the Special Meeting Agenda, as submitted.

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

1. Public Hearing - 5:01 p.m. Public Hearing - Adoption of Tentative Millage Rates and Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. 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 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 3, 2024, 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 2025. 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 2025. It is recommended that the BCC establish September 17, 2024, at 5:01 p.m. in the County Auditorium to conduct such hearings. A copy of the FY 2025 Tentative Budget Workbook, including detail per line item, may be found on the County's webpage at <http://www.sjcfl.us/OMB/>

Jesse Dunn, Office of Management and Budget Director, presented the details of the budget.

Public Comment: David Williams, Ed Slavin, Suzanne Clulow, Mark Desmond, and Charlie Hunt provided public comment.

Dean responded to the public's concerns on the budgeting differences between Duval County and St. Johns County.

Discussion ensued on a partial rollback, unassigned reserve funds, utilizing reserves, increasing impact fees, and new taxable values.

Dean requested to transfer \$1,000,000 from the General Reserve Funds to the Land Acquisition Management Program fund and questioned the process. Dunn responded that the request would not affect the overall budget.

Motion by Dean, to transfer \$1,000,000 from General Fund Reserves to the Land Acquisition Management Program (LAMP) fund. The motion failed.

The Board members expressed their positions on the budget.

Motion by Arnold, seconded by Alaimo, carried 5/0, to adopt Resolution No. 2024-370, establishing the Fiscal Year 2025 Tentative Millage Rates as set by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 -370

RESOLVED, that the following **FISCAL YEAR 2025 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, 2024.

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	6.8263
Aggregate Rolled-back Rate	6.3766
<i>Percentage increase in Property Taxes from rolled-back rate:</i>	<i>7.05%</i>

Motion by Arnold, seconded by Alaimo, carried 5/0, to adopt Resolution No. 2024-371, approving the Fiscal Year 2025 Tentative Budget of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, using the certified taxable value of \$53,893,811,532, generating an estimated \$367,893,353 in taxes, and resulting in a total budget of \$1,750,868,966.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 -371

RESOLVED, that the following **FISCAL YEAR 2025 TENTATIVE BUDGET** of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, developed using the certified taxable value of \$53,893,811,532 generating an estimated \$367,893,353 in taxes, is hereby adopted, resulting in a total budget of \$1,750,868,966 as follows:

General Fund	\$446,817,063
Special Revenue Funds	
- Transportation Trust	\$233,508,367
- Fire District	88,176,363
- Health Department	842,712
- Building Services	39,509,064
- Tourist Development	38,912,369
- Impact Fees - Public Buildings	35,446,277
- Impact Fees - Police Services	8,348,743
- Impact Fees - Fire Rescue	17,120,557
- Impact Fees - Roads	108,497,863
- Impact Fees - Parks	24,508,877
- Beach Services	5,967,075
- County Pier	1,421,727
- Golf Course	4,412,151
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse Trust	164,068
- Community Based Care	12,947,940
- Transit System	7,872,770
- State Housing Initiative Partnership	9,440,854
- Tree Bank	1,637,638
- Sidewalk Mitigation	153,861
- E-911 Communications	2,322,693
- Law Enforcement Trust	2,868
- Crimes Prevention Trust	97,850
- Court Innovation	187,434
- Legal Aid	370,038
- Law Library	70,248
- Juvenile Alternative Programs	55,898
- Court Technology	9,929,539
- Communications Surcharge	462,238
- Florida Boating Improvement	281,944
- Northwest Tower	502,587
- Court Facilities Trust	742,839
- Driver's Safety Education	103,047
- American Recovery Plan	25,956,168
- Emergency Rental Assistance	246,823
- FEMA Emergency Disaster Relief	9,847,121
- Opioid Settlement Funds	618,848
- Equitable Sharing Justice	3,927

- Equitable Sharing Treasury	9,173
- Equitable Sharing Task Force	98,355
- West Augustine CRA	1,703,633
- Flagler Estates CRA	1,099,696
- Vilano CRA	1,030,862
- Vilano Street Lighting District	47,553
- Elkton Drainage District	130,800

Special Revenue Funds Continued

- St. Augustine South Street Lighting District	\$ 138,054
- Treasure Beach M.S.B.U.	234,198
- Summer Haven M.S.T.U.	679,843
- Durbin CTITF	1,908,409
- Coastal Hwy Dune & Beach M.S.T.U.	38,501
- South Ponte Vedra Blvd Dune & Beach M.S.T.U.	629,883
- Serenata Beach M.S.T.U.	47,301

Debt Service Funds

- Trane Capital Lease	\$241,561
- Public Facility Note	414,651
- 15 Transportation Refunding Bonds	1,657,494
- 15 Sales Tax Refunding Bonds	3,916,275
- 19 CBA Refunding Bond	1,446,750
- 20 Special Obligation Revenue Note	641,067
- 21 Taxable Special Obligation Bonds	5,019,232
- 22 Special Obligation Bonds	1,075,921
- 22A Special Obligation Note	2,893,827
- 24 Special Obligation Refunding Bonds	1,103,750
- 24 HUD 108 Loan Note	631,391

Capital Improvement Funds

- Beach Re-Nourishment Projects	\$4,137,337
- SR 207 CIG Developers Projects	4,823,176
- 2019 Capital Projects	6,742,641
- Coastal Hwy Dune & Beach Project	1,709,244
- Ponte Vedra Beach Dune & Beach Project	3,182,716
- South Ponte Vedra Beach Dune & Berm Project	225,000
- LAMP	5,309,420
- County Capital Improvement Projects	29,566,079
- Hastings Community Center & Library	9,639,106
- Porpoise Point Stabilization	2,000,000
- FY 25 Capital Improvement Projects	7,500,000

Enterprise Funds

- Solid Waste Management	\$58,327,599
- Utility Services	388,925,917

Internal Service Funds

- Worker Compensation Insurance	\$3,953,411
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- Health Insurance	53,973,106
Trust & Agency Funds	
- FSA-Medical	\$995,721
- FSA-Dependent	210,864
- OPEB Trust	5,301,000

Motion by Arnold, seconded by Whitehurst, carried 5/0, to set a public hearing, on September 17, 2024, at 5:01 p.m. in the County Auditorium, to consider the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025 Millage Rates and Budget for the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida.

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

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

No report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

No report.

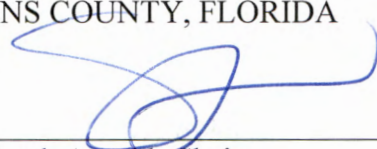
COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report.

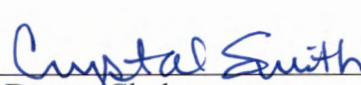
With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Approved September 17, 2024

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Sarah Arnold, Chair

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

By: 
Deputy Clerk

