

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA  
JULY 27, 2000  
(9:00 A.M.)**

Proceedings of a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, began and held in the Auditorium at the County Administration Building, #4020 Lewis Speedway (County Road 16-A) and U.S. 1 North, St. Augustine, Florida.

Present were:       James E. Bryant, District 5, Chair  
                      Mary Kohnke, District 4, Vice-Chair  
                      Marc Jacalone, District 3  
                      John Reardon, District 2  
                      Ben W. Adams, Jr., County Administrator  
                      Judy Hamilton, Deputy Clerk

Commissioner Pal Howell, District 1, was absent.

Also present:       Joe Vonasek, Senior Budget Officer; Doug Timms, Budget Officer;  
                      Neil Perry, Sheriff; Cheryl Strickland, Clerk of Courts; Mike Givens,  
                      Finance-Chief Deputy; David Halstead, Assistant County  
                      Administrator; Ray Ashton, Emergency Operations; Mike Griffin,  
                      Development Services Director; Harold Law, Building Official

(07/27/2000 - 1 - 9:08 a.m.)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bryant.

(07/27/2000 - 1 - 9:09 a.m.)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Vonasek explained the increase in the Board of County Commissioners budget.

(07/27/2000 - 1 - 9:12 a.m.)

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Vonasek explained the addition of one attorney to the County Attorney's Office. Discussion was held on outside counsel.

(07/27/2000 - 1 - 9:15 a.m.)

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Vonasek explained the decrease in personnel in the County Administration budget.

(07/27/2000 - 1 - 9:17 a.m.)

MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Discussion was held on the pay plan for 2001, grant writing, and grants coordinating committees.

(07/27/2000 - 1 - 9:35 a.m.)

HUMAN RESOURCES

There was no discussion on the Human Resources Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 2 - 9:35 a.m.)

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Wylie Thibault was in attendance. Discussion was held on the MIS Budget, including commendation to the department for frugality in Y2K preparations, and the move to the new building.

(07/27/2000 - 2 - 9:39 a.m.)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Ted Zebrowsky was present. Discussion was held on Intergovernmental Relations request for an additional full-time employee, updated press releases, and interaction with other agencies.

(07/27/2000 - 2 - 9:41 a.m.)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ted Zebrowsky, Intergovernmental Relations Director, held discussion with the Board on reductions in this budget. Discussion followed on Cornerstone and benefits of that marketing group.

(07/27/2000 - 2 - 9:45 a.m.)

MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Vonasek discussed the budget and two positions requested with the Board. He advised that they had received notice that Government Finance Officers Association had awarded St. Johns County a distinguished budget presentation award for FY 2000 budget document, which made it eight years in a row that St. Johns County had received that award.

(07/27/2000 - 2 - 9:54 a.m.)

PURCHASING

Joe Burch was in attendance. There was no discussion on the Purchasing Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 2 - 9:55 a.m.)

RISK MANAGEMENT

There was no discussion on the Risk Management Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 2 - 9:56 a.m.)

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Mike Rubin was present. No additional personnel were discussed. There was no discussion on the Construction Services Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 2 - 9:57 a.m.)

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Gene Burns was in attendance. Discussion was held on additional positions requested, due to increased square footage buildings acquired by the County over the past year, including Flagler West. Further discussion was held on the Facilities Maintenance Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 2 - 10:04 a.m.)

JUDICIAL CENTER MAINTENANCE

There was no discussion on the Judicial Center Maintenance Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 3 - 10:06 a.m.)

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES CENTER MAINTENANCE

Discussion was held on the Health & Human Services Center Maintenance Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 3 - 10:06 a.m.)

CODES COMPLIANCE

Discussion was held on the addition of two personnel and on the Codes Compliance Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 3 - 10:07 a.m.)

ANIMAL CONTROL

Discussion was held on possible funding for H.A.W.K.E. and St. Johns Wildlife Care. Further discussion was held on the Animal Control Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 3 - 10:17 a.m.)

COURT SERVICES

Discussion was held on the Court Services Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 3 - 10:18 a.m.)

COMMUNICATIONS

There was no discussion on the Communications Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 3 - 10:19 a.m.)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

There was no discussion on the Emergency Management Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 3 - 10:19 a.m.)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

An additional EMS response unit was recommended in this budget. There was discussion on the Emergency Medical Services Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 3 - 10:21 a.m.)

MEDICAL EXAMINER

There was no discussion on the Medical Examiner Budget.

The meeting recessed at 10:21 a.m. and reconvened at 10:36 a.m.

(07/27/2000 - 3 - 10:36 a.m.)

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Neil Perry presented his budget to the Board. Discussion was held on the recommended budgets for Law Enforcement Operations, Detention Facilities, Bailiff Services, and Special Programs. Sheriff Perry stressed increases were needed for personnel in the trenches. (11:07 a.m.) The recommended budget was \$24,482,418.

(07/27/2000 - 4 - 11:08 a.m.)  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

Cheryl Strickland, Clerk of Courts, was present for discussion of the various budgets, including County Court and Finance. Clerk Strickland advised the Board that the original County Court Budget was revised by reduction of a position, because of laws which failed to pass. Salaries were recommended at a five percent increase.

(07/27/2000 - 4 - 11:10 a.m.)  
PROPERTY APPRAISER

There was no discussion on the budget for the Property Appraiser.

(07/27/2000 - 4 - 11:10 a.m.)  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

There was no discussion on the budget for the Supervisor of Elections.

(07/27/2000 - 4 - 11:10 a.m.)  
TAX COLLECTOR

There was no discussion on the budget for the Tax Collector.

(07/27/2000 - 4 - 11:10 a.m.)  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES

Loretta Hodys was in attendance. Discussion was held on the Agricultural Extension Services Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 4 - 11:13 a.m.)  
VETERAN SERVICES

O.C. Hayes, Veterans Affairs Officer, answered questions of the Board. Discussion was held on the Veteran Services Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 4 - 11:23 a.m.)  
SOCIAL SERVICES

Dr. Walker was in attendance. Gloria Benischeck was present. Discussion was held on the Social Services Budget and personnel.

(11:25 a.m.) Discussion was held on the budgetary request for Flagler Hospital, including indigent care costs, hospital stays, reimbursement, outpatient services, computerization, confidentiality, and proposed budget amendment. It was requested a workshop be scheduled on criteria changes.

(07/27/2000 - 4 - 11:46 a.m.)  
PLANNING

Scott Clem, Director of Growth Management Services, and Teresa Bishop, Planning Director, were in attendance. Discussion was held on the Planning Budget and the habitat study.

(07/27/2000 - 5 - 11:48 a.m.)

#### ZONING

Rosemary Yeoman, Zoning Director, was in attendance. Discussion was held on personnel and on the Zoning Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 5 - 11:55 a.m.)

#### GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Gail Oliver was in attendance. No discussion was held on the Geographic Information System Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 5 - 11:56 a.m.)

#### DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND PERMITTING

Betty Sue Stepp was in attendance. No discussion was held on the Development Review and Permitting Budget.

(07/27/2000 - 5 - 11:58 a.m.)

#### RECREATION AND PARKS

Leon Shimer and Dan Weimer were in attendance. Discussion was held on beach parking and the Recreation and Parks Budget. Bryant left the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

(07/27/2000 - 5 - 12:00 p.m.)

#### LIBRARY SERVICES

Mary Jane Little was in attendance. Grants and the Southeast Library were among items of discussion in the Library Services/System Budget.

The meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:34 p.m. with Bryant, Kohnke, Reardon, Jacalone, Adams, Vonasek, Timms, and Deputy Clerk Yvonne King present. Commissioner Howell was absent.

(07/27/00 - 5 - 1:35 p.m.)

#### BEACH SERVICES

Leon Shimer, Director of Recreation and Parks, and Dave Williams, Beach Management, were present. Shimer said in order to stabilize the beach fund, they increased the daily fees from \$3 to \$4. Discussion followed regarding patrol being increased on the beach during holidays, complaints of alcohol consumption on the beach, permanent restroom facilities, and sand placement.

(07/27/00 - 5 - 1:41 p.m.)

#### PIER FUND

Shimer said the entrance fees have not been raised since its opening, and it is collecting a small reserve.

(07/27/00 - 5 - 1:43 p.m.)

#### GALIMORE MEMORIAL CENTER FUND

Shimer explained that the Galimore Center is being operated through an Interlocal Agreement with the City of St. Augustine. Discussion followed on the maintenance of the building.

(07/27/00 - 6 - 1:46 p.m.)  
FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT FUND

Shimer explained that this budget is based on revenue received from registration of vessels. Discussion followed on the reserve funds.

(07/27/00 - 6 - 1:47 p.m.)  
GOLF COURSE FUND

Shimer updated the Board on the Golf Course. Shimer said the Golf Course is being expanded by an additional nine holes and creating the youth course. Discussion followed on the cart fee.

(07/27/00 - 6 - 1:51 p.m.)  
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX FUND

Glenn Hastings, Tourist Development Council Executive Director, was present. Discussion followed on the administration budget.

(07/27/00 - 6 - 1:53 p.m.)  
AMPHITHEATER FUND

Hastings explained the Amphitheater Fund. Discussion followed.

(07/27/00 - 6 - 1:59 p.m.)  
TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND

Joseph Stephenson, Public Works Director, informed the Board that there are 10 capital improvement projects on the list. Discussion followed on the cold mix paving projects, Guana Drainage Improvement Program, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit, Solano Road turn lane, South Francis Road widening, West Augustine Drainage Improvement Program, acquisition of land adjacent to the current Road & Bridge facility, countywide stormwater improvements, North Holmes Blvd. Extension, south entrance to the Judicial Center Complex, and C.R. A1A 3-laning.

(07/27/00 - 6 - 2:11 p.m.)  
ROAD AND BRIDGE MAINTENANCE

Stephenson said they are requesting one new position.

(07/27/00 - 6 - 2:11 p.m.)  
MOWING SERVICES

Stephenson addressed the mowing services. Stephenson said they are adding an inmate cleanup crew. Also added are more staff and equipment.

(07/27/00 - 6 - 2:17 p.m.)  
ENGINEERING / PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Discussion followed on the request for two new positions and project designs. (2:23 p.m.) Heather Michael, 981 Irma Way, addressed concerns with outside engineering firms.

(07/27/00 - 7 - 2:27 p.m.)  
SURVEYING & MAPPING

Gail Oliver, County Surveyor, said the increase is due to the part-time receptionist/secretary purchasing agent.

(07/27/00 - 7 - 2:28 p.m.)  
REAL ESTATE

Mary Ann Blount, Real Estate, requested two new positions in this department; real estate technician and a real estate coordinator.

(07/27/00 - 7 - 2:31 p.m.)  
FIRE DISTRICT FUND

Frank McElroy, County Fire Chief, was present. Discussion followed on the 22 new full time positions requested.

(07/27/00 - 7 - 2:44 p.m.)  
BUILDING SERVICES FUND

Harold Law, Building Department, was present. Discussion followed on the building permit revenue.

(07/27/00 - 7 - 2:46 p.m.)  
LOCAL HOUSING TRUST FUND

Judith Foxworth, SHIP Administrator, requested the Technician II position be upgraded to a Technician III position. Discussion followed on the request.

(07/27/00 - 7 - 2:49 p.m.)  
MENTAL HEALTH FUND

Dr. Robertson was present. Discussion followed on the Mental Health Fund.

(07/27/00 - 7 - 2:51 p.m.)  
UTILITY AUTHORITY FUND

Vonasek explained the fund. Discussion followed on the Utility Authority Fund.

(07/27/00 - 7 - 2:52 p.m.)  
ADDITIONAL COURT COSTS TRUST FUND

Vonasek explained this fund.

(07/27/00 - 7 - 2:54 p.m.)  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUND

Dr. James Walker, Medical Director, explained the Health Department Fund. Discussion followed on this fund.

(07/27/00 - 7 - 2:58 p.m.)  
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

Kohnke suggested that funding should not be allocated for Cerebral Palsy of Northeast Florida; they are primarily a research area, and is not providing many direct services to St.

Johns County. (2:59 p.m.) ***It was the consensus of the Board to not allocate funds for the Cerebral Palsy of Northeast Florida.***

(2:59 p.m.) Kohnke questioned why R.S.V.P. was getting an increase. Discussion followed. The additional amount was for insurance and ½ of the employee for the volunteer coordinator position.

The meeting recessed at 3:03 p.m. and reconvened at 3:12 p.m.

(07/27/00 - 8 - 3:14 p.m.)  
FLEET MAINTENANCE

Gary Emerson, was present. Discussion followed regarding the County Vehicles that are not serviced by the Fleet Maintenance Department.

(07/27/00 - 8 - 3:22 p.m.)  
UTILITY SERVICES FUND

Bill Young and Frank Kenton was present. Discussion followed regarding the Utility Department revenue.

(07/27/00 - 8 - 3:26 p.m.)  
UTILITY DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

Frank Kenton requested a new inspector position effective October 1, 2000.

(07/27/00 - 8 - 3:28 p.m.)  
WATER TREATMENT

Young informed the Board that work has been done to control the odor at the Water Treatment Plant on Mizell Road.

(07/27/00 - 8 - 3:29 p.m.)  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT & DISPOSAL

Discussion followed on the maintenance of fire hydrants.

(07/27/00 - 8 - 3:38 p.m.)  
COUNTY LABORATORY

Vonasek said Staff is examining the overall viability of a lab. Bids have been solicited from the region to provide lab services; and that will be compared against the operating costs.

(07/27/00 - 8 - 3:43 p.m.)  
SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS

Donna Stadler explained that the grants programs are all still active. Discussion followed on the grants, Phase II Closure, Tire Recycling Program, Paint Program, and Solid Waste Assessment.

(07/27/00 - 8 - 4:00 p.m.)  
CONVENTION CENTER FUND

Vonasek said the inventory has been completed, and is being entered on the property list to a database. Kohnke requested that there be an annual reevaluation. Discussion followed on the audit.



(07/27/00 - 9 - 4:02 p.m.)  
HUMANE SOCIETY

A representative from the Humane Society requested a 3% to 5% increase over last year's budget. Discussion followed.

(07/27/00 - 9 - 4:13 p.m.)

Adams announced that on September 5, 2000, no agenda items are scheduled for the morning session, but there will be two public hearings in the afternoon.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Approved September 12, 2000

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
James E. Bryant, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

