

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DECEMBER 19, 2000  
(1:30 P.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:       Mary Kohnke, District 4, Chair  
                          Marc Jacalone, District 3, Vice Chair  
                          Nicholas Meiszer, District 1  
                          John Reardon, District 2  
                          James E. Bryant, District 5  
                          Ben W. Adams, Jr., County Administrator  
                          Daniel Bosanko, Deputy County Attorney  
                          Lenora Newsome, Deputy Clerk

(12/19/2000 - 1 - 1:31 p.m.)  
CALL TO ORDER OF SPECIAL MEETING

The special meeting was called to order by Chair Kohnke.

(1:31 p.m.) **Motion by Jacalone, seconded by Reardon, carried 5/0, to recess the Special Meeting.**

Kohnke called to order the continuation of the morning meeting and started with item #8 from the morning meeting.

(2:57 p.m.) Kohnke called the Special Meeting back to order.

(12/19/2000 - 1 - 2:57 p.m.)  
ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO SPECIAL MEETING

There were no additions nor deletions to the Special Meeting.

(12/19/2000 - 1 - 2:57 p.m.)  
APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

**Motion by Reardon, seconded by Bryant, carried 5/0, to approve the Special Meeting Agenda as submitted.**

(12/19/2000 - 1 - 2:58 p.m.)  
PUBLIC HEARING – SECTION 197.3632, FLORIDA STATUTES, REQUIRES THAT THE COUNTY ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION IF THE COUNTY WISHES TO LEVY AND COLLECT GUANA BASIN DRAINAGE SYSTEMS SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS PERTAINING TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY THAT IS BENEFITTED BY THE GUANA BASIN DRAINAGE SYSTEM BY USING THE TAX COLLECTION PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTING AD VALOREM TAXES COMMENCING IN THE FALL OF 2001. THE PUBLIC HEARING THAT IS SCHEDULED FOR 1:30 P.M. DECEMBER 19, 2000 MUST BE HELD BEFORE THE RESOLUTION IS CONSIDERED

Vonasek mentioned that the purpose of this hearing is to address the funding of the maintenance of the Guana Basin Maintenance System being the drainage system

improvements through non ad valorem assessment. He stated that this meeting is being held to comply with Florida Statute 197.3632 and its requirement that a resolution of intent to assess be adopted. He mentioned that in the course of this presentation he will try to provide a description of the area to be assessed, a short project history, a description of the maintenance services to be provided, a description of the assessment process, a description of the assessment methodology, public comment will be taken and then he will ask for the Board's direction. (2:59 p.m.) Bryant left the meeting. Reardon stated that he could not support this issue today because there is so much information not given with this issue and suggested having a workshop first.

(3:15 p.m.) Gregory Kelly, 55 Ponte Vedra Blvd, spoke on the tax problem that the Board is pursuing to eliminate the drainage problem.

(3:18 p.m.) Doug Crane, 994 Ponte Vedra Blvd., voiced his concerns on the artificial water table.

(3:27 p.m.) Hutch Stevens, 239 South Roscoe Blvd., spoke in opposition of this item.

(3:32 p.m.) William Montoya, 502 Le Master Drive, spoke in opposition to this tax.

(3:35 p.m.) William Ramsey, 698 Ponte Vedra Blvd., spoke in opposition to this tax.

(3:36 p.m.) John Latshaw Jr., 158 Barberry Lane, mentioned that he was not benefitted by the Guana Drainage Basin, so if the tax passed, he expects to be excluded; or if there is to be a tax County wide, then the County should take over the drainage system in his area or he should be exempt. He stated that right now they are excluded and he wanted to make sure they stay excluded.

(3:40 p.m.) John Clegg, 827 Ponte Vedra Blvd., spoke in opposition of this tax.

(3:45 p.m.) Marcie Silkebaken, 1145 Neck Road, Ponte Vedra, spoke in favor of this item and on the positive impact the MSD sewer installation would have on maintaining the waterway draining into the Guana Preserve.

(3:46 p.m.) Virginia Simpson, 37 Ramona Street, spoke in opposition of the tax and on the area that she lives in not being covered by the MSD.

(3:50 p.m.) Don Flurry, 1576 Harbour Club Drive, spoke on the water table.

(3:55 p.m.) Ebbie Le Master, 135 Ponte Vedra Blvd., spoke on a dam that was built in the area.

(4:00 p.m.) Bob Kroner, Jr., 1298 Ponte Vedra Blvd., spoke on things being said at the meeting that were inaccurate.

(4:02 p.m.) Kohnke questioned if the Board decided not to vote on this today, what needs to be done to assess it. Vonasek replied that the primary requirements would be to re-advertise, have the agreement of the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector, and the meeting would have to be held prior to March 1. Kohnke suggested getting a hold of everyone and have a meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in January. Jacalone spoke on the dam and recommended to fund it for another year, then revisit it. Kohnke asked Adams to put together a group to try and get some answers.

(4:14 p.m.) Clegg explained the operation on the Guana that the Wildlife Commission does each year.

(4:16 p.m.) Le Master stated that the dam could not be taken out, because the dam is needed to have access to the South Florida Guana. All that is needed is to open the control structure. Meiszer stated that he would like to hear answers to some of the questions asked by the public. Kohnke directed Vonasek to get the names of the people who spoke, so the answers could be sent to them.

**Motion by Reardon, seconded by Jacalone, carried 4/0 with Bryant absent, to adjourn the Special Meeting.** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Approved: January 16, 2001

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary F. Kohnke, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

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