

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
JUNE 02, 2003
(2:30 P.M.)**

Proceedings of an emergency 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
 Karen Stern, District 2, Vice Chair
 Nicholas Meiszer, District 1
 Bruce Maguire, District 4
 Ben W. Adams, Jr., County Administrator
 Daniel Bosanko, County Attorney
 Lenora Newsome, Deputy Clerk

(06/02/03 - 1 - 2:36 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bryant.

(06/02/03 - 1 - 2:36 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

Bryant stated that four Commissioners were present, with Jacalone absent.

(06/02/03 - 1 - 2:36 p.m.)

DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON, PARTICIPATION IN A TAX AMNESTY PROGRAM APPLYING TO COUNTY SELFADMINISTERED TAXES AS OUTLINED IN SENATE BILL 18A, 2003

Bosanko stated that the emergency meeting was called by the Chairman, at his request. He briefly reviewed the particulars of this item. Joe Vonasek, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, mentioned that this legislation was adopted on May 27, 2003, and they found out about it on May 29, and the deadline is this afternoon. He briefly overviewed the process that they are addressing today. Vonasek mentioned that it allows reduction in the amount of interest due on unpaid taxes of 75 percent, or 50 percent, according to which of the conditions are applicable to the specific case, it eliminates penalties that are imposed on any taxes that are paid under this program, it removes the option of the DOR to institute any criminal investigation, or prosecute participants, in the program for their failure to pay taxes in a timely manner, participation is conditioned upon a waiver of right to contest the taxes that are being reported under the program, and a waiver of right to claim a refund to protest or initiate any administrative or judicial proceedings to review any denial of a refund that might be due under this program. He briefly summed-up the program, stating that the process itself is one that the Board would have to make a decision on, as to whether they want to participate in it or not. Bryant questioned the impact that this would have on St. Johns County. Vonasek explained some of the areas that it could affect in St. Johns County. Meiszer mentioned that the only impact this could have is a negative one on the County's revenue. (2:44 p.m.) **Motion by Meiszer, seconded by Bryant, that the County not participate in this.** Maguire questioned how much money would be involved. Vonasek replied that they don't really have an estimate and it depends on who was delinquent and wanted to participate in it. Bosanko mentioned that another

uncertainty is the legal office has not had time to complete a full analysis of all the taxes that would be covered. He stated that the State appropriated \$610,000 to administer this Amnesty Program. Meiszer stated that it is a lost of revenue for the county. Stern concurred with Meiszer on the loss of revenue. (2:51 p.m.) **The motion carried 4/0, with Jacalone absent.**

(2:52 p.m.) **Motion by Maguire, seconded by Bryant, carried 4/0, with Jacalone absent, to adjourn the meeting.** With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Approved _____ June 17 _____, 2003

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: Cheryl Strickland
Deputy Clerk