

**MINUTES OF EMERGENCY SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
APRIL 9, 2008
(3:00 P.M.)**

Proceedings of an emergency special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, 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: Michael D. Wanchick, County Administrator
Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
Darrell Locklear, Assistant County Administrator
Terry Bulla, Deputy Clerk

(04/09/08 - 1 - 3:02 p.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Patrick McCormack, County Attorney, called the meeting to order and announced the advertised special emergency meeting pertaining to an emergency situation in St. Johns County. He explained that they had been unable to get a quorum of the Board and stated that the County Administrator was authorized under the Emergency Management Ordinance 94-25, that if a quorum was not available and the Chair and Vice Chair were not available, the County Administrator was authorized by ordinance to declare an emergency if the circumstances warranted such a declaration. He said the same ordinance described in what situations a state of local emergency may be declared. He said that it provided that "when an emergency was eminent and required immediate and expeditious action in an emergency meeting, any occurrence or threat thereof, whether natural, technological or man made....which results or may result in substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage to or loss of property." He said County staff would determine whether a state of emergency existed. He said that because the Board of County Commissioners was not present by quorum, rather than passing a resolution he had revised it into an Emergency Proclamation for approval by the County Administrator, if appropriate.

(3:05 p.m.) Andrew Ames, Assistant County Engineer, in response to questions from the County Attorney, stated that he had done a site visit at 3560 Coastal Highway and that he had seen that the coastal area behind the properties had experienced sever erosion causing a ten foot scarp behind most of the residences in that vicinity. He stated that on the photos (Exhibit A) shown on the overhead, were the houses that he had inspected. He stated that in his opinion there was an emergency situation in the area that would result in substantial injury, damage or harm to or loss of property. He said the DEP had drawn a twenty foot line to structure foot lines and the property was within that range for emergency conditions. He said the emergency was imminent and needed immediate and expeditious action. He stated the geographic extent of the property affected was approximately from 3490 to 3580 Coastal Highway.

(04/09/08 - 1 - 3:08 p.m.)
PUBLIC COMMENT

Archie Thomas, 3560 Coastal Highway, said that on the photograph shown, there were five residences involved and his was in the middle. He said the escarpment was right up to the edge of the first house and on the others there were four or five feet of sand before the house. He said yesterday there was 15 feet of sand before the foundation.

He said last night another eight feet of sand was taken, and the ocean was about ten feet away from the foundation of the residences. He stated the cliff was approximately nine feet high.

(3:13 a.m.) McCormack read the "Whereas" clauses from the proclamation as the rationale for taking action. He recommended that the affected property owners stay after the meeting to meet with Mr. Ames to determine what course of action they should follow. He said staff would get a letter into their hands as soon as possible and asked them to leave an e-mail address so the letter could be forwarded to them. He noted another copy of the letter would be forwarded via the regular mail.

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION 2008-01

**A PROCLAMATION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA,
DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY**

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Approved _____ April 29 _____, 2008

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____

Thomas G. Manuel, Chairman

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: _____

Deputy Clerk