

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 29, 2010
(5:30 P.M.)**

Proceedings of a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, held in the auditorium at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida.

Proof of publication of the notice of a special meeting for the purpose of discussing and taking action on adoption of the St. Johns County Fiscal Year 2011 Final Millage and Budget was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record* on September 23, 2010.

Present were: Ron Sanchez, District 2, Chair
 Ken Bryan, District 5, Vice Chair
 Cyndi Stevenson, District 1
 Ray Quinn, District 3
 Phillip Mays, District 4
 Michael D. Wanchick, County Administrator
 Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
 Terry Bulla, Deputy Clerk

(5:28 p.m.) Sanchez noted that Mays was not present but was on his way.

(09/29/10 - 1 - 5:29 p.m.)

Quinn gave the Invocation and Bryan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(09/29/10 - 1 - 5:30 p.m.)

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO SPECIAL AGENDA

Wanchick asked to add Item 1A and 2A, Suspension of Water Rates for the Ponte Vedra and Main water systems.

(09/29/10 - 1 - 5:31 p.m.)

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL AGENDA

Motion by Stevenson, seconded by Bryan, carried 4/0 with Mays absent, to approve the Special Agenda as amended.

(09/29/10 - 1 - 5:31 p.m.)

1. ADOPTION OF FINAL MILLAGE RATES & BUDGET FOR FY 2011

Doug Timms, Director Office of Management and Budget, gave the presentation and explained the millage rate proposal.

(09/29/10 - 1 - 5:33 p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Clyde Ricketts, 800 Manchester Court South, commented on the good work that the Board had done on keeping the millage rate constant and lowering the budget. He added that they had done a good job of making the budget transparent to the public.

(5:36 p.m.) Commissioner Mays arrived.

(5:36 p.m.) Carol Gladstone, 913 Windward Way, spoke as a supporter of the arts and as an active member of the Cultural Council. She noted that the arts had not been recognized as a place to visit and stressed the impact that it had on the economy. She encouraged strengthened communication between the TDC, the County and the arts community.

(5:39 p.m.) Stetson Kennedy, 1523 SR 13, Fruitcove, said he would be celebrating his 94th birthday next week and joked that he did not want to lose any more time before thanking the Commission for all their support over recent years. He noted that his homestead was going to become a museum at Beluthahatchee Park. He also commented on the Southern Exposure Festival and said it had become a culminating factor in his life and was very gratifying. He informed the Board that he had posted an \$8,000 surety bond with Wachovia Bank in St. Augustine, to offset any loss during the forthcoming festival. He said there was great potential for sponsorship in St. Johns County and in Jacksonville, and he hoped the festival would become self supporting in the future.

(5:42 p.m.) Sandra Parks, 71 Valencia St., St. Augustine, said she had worked with two festivals in St. Johns County during the past year; the Southern Exposure Festival in the Julington Creek area and the Potato and Cabbage Festival in Hastings. She said they had received wonderful technical assistance from the Recreation Department's Cultural Affairs Division, and they taught them so much about booking acts, compliance with food safety and public safety, about marketing and more importantly, how to put on a festival. She thanked them and said that with the "how to do it manual for festivals" they had been given, that in the future they would probably be able to do it on their own. She thanked them for helping them to get a start and for their creative input.

(5:45 p.m.) Charles Ellis, 725 Willow Wood Place, said he was there on behalf of the Lincolnville Festival and thanked the Commission for their support over the years. He said that year was their 30th Anniversary, and they were looking at an outstanding festival that year with attendance from all over Florida and Georgia. He said it would be an asset to the County. Bryan noted some of those who would be performing included: Percy Sledge, Cool and the Gang, and The Five Blind Boys. Ellis thanked them again for their support.

(5:47 p.m.) Sanchez mentioned there had been a comment about the Airport Authority. He stated that the Airport Authority was not controlled by St. Johns County and they came off the tax roll independently. He said it was entirely their efforts that resulted in their being removed from the tax rolls.

(5:48 p.m.) Timms noted that final millage rate had to be adopted first. He announced that the taxing authority was St. Johns County, the rolled back rate was 7.5381 mills, the percentage decrease in property taxes from the rolled back rate was -11.47% and the final aggregate millage rate was 6.6737 mills. He read the resolution into the record.

(5:50 p.m.) **Motion by Stevenson, seconded by Bryan, carried 5/0, to adopt Resolution No 2010-210, establishing the final millage rate for FY 2011.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-210

RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING FINAL 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, 2010

General Fund	4.9000
County Transportation Trust Fund	.6300
County Health Unit Trust Fund	.0171
Fire District, Countywide Except City of St. Augustine	1.2000
Vilano Street Lighting District	.0500
St. Augustine South Street Lighting District	.2100
Summerhaven M.S.T.U.	10.000
AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE	6.6737
Rolled-back Rate	7.5381
Percentage decrease in Property Taxes from rolled-back rate:	-11.47%

Timms read the following budget resolution into the record. He added that reconciliation to the final budget had been added to recognize the FCT of a boat ramp grant for just over \$1 million that was adopted at the September 21, 2010 meeting last week.

(5:52 p.m.) **Motion by Bryan, seconded by Mays, carried 5/0, to adopt Resolution No. 2010-211, establishing the final budget for FY 2011.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-211

RESOLVED, that the following **FISCAL YEAR 2011 FINAL BUDGET** of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, developed using the certified taxable value of \$18,363,373,855, generating an estimated \$122,551,910 in taxes, is hereby adopted, resulting in a total budget of \$582,191,369 as follows:

General Fund	\$157,365,603
Special Revenue Funds	
Alcohol & Drug Abuse Trust Fund	\$7,885
Beach Fund	\$1,407,257
Building Services Fund	\$3,617,809
CH Arnold Rd Grading MSBU Fund	\$12,866
Communication Surcharge Fund	\$1,699,132
Community Based Care Fund	\$5,636,423
County Cultural Center Fund	\$4,926,879
County Health Unit Trust Fund	\$327,797
Transportation Trust Fund	\$57,478,864
Court Facilities Trust Fund	\$1,207,530
Court Innovation Fund	\$138,227
Crimes Prevention Trust Fund	\$81,925
Court Technology Trust Fund	\$3,892,646
Deerwood Lane ROW MSBU Fund	\$10,269
Driver Ed Safety Fund	\$168,105
E-911 Communications Fund	\$1,216,503
Elkton Drainage District Fund	\$39,793
Fire District Fund	\$36,606,014
Fire/EMS Impact Fees Fund	\$1,083,478
Florida Boating Improvement Fund	\$448,130
Flagler Estates CRA Fund	\$256,606

Juvenile Alternative Programs Fund	\$38,000
Law Enforcement Trust Fund	\$114,013
Law Library Fund	\$94,115
Legal Aid Fund	\$308,119
Mental Health Services Fund	\$3,899,133
Northwest Spec. Rev. Fund	\$121,621
Parks Zone-A Impact Fees Fund	\$651,240
Parks Zone-B Impact Fees Fund	\$246,385
Parks Zone-C Impact Fees Fund	\$351,975
Parks Zone-D Impact Fees Fund	\$389,118
Pier Fund	\$261,616
Police Svc Impact Fees	\$1,395,070
Public Bldg Impact Fees	\$635,347
Roads Zone-A Impact Fees Fund	\$3,697,552
Roads Zone-B Impact Fees Fund	\$11,753,830
Roads Zone-C Impact Fees Fund	\$4,158,590
Roads Zone-D Impact Fees Fund	\$1,600,201
Rusty Anchor/Wendover Rd MSBU Fund	\$1,567
Sidewalk Fund	\$5,736
Choose Life Specialty License Plate Fund	\$16,827
St. Augustine South Lighting District Fund	\$45,786
State Housing Initiative Program Fund	\$1,455,811
Summerhaven MSTU Fund	\$1,622,987
Tourist Development Tax Fund	\$7,778,306
Tree Bank Spec Rev Fund	\$3,410,080
Vilano CRA Fund	\$213,738
Vilano Street Lighting District Fund	\$19,522
West Augustine CRA Fund	\$292,500
World Commerce Center DRI Fund	\$67,462
Debt Service Funds	
03 Transportation Improvement Debt Service	\$2,097,130
04 Flagler Estates CRA Debt Service	\$910,630
04 Sales Tax Bonds Debt Service	\$2,102,837
05 Revenue Sharing Debt Service	\$1,228,423
06 Sales Tax Bonds Debt Service	\$2,990,350
06 Transportation Improvement Debt Service	\$1,836,288
09 Sales Tax Bonds Debt Service	\$3,831,528
09A Sales Tax Refunding Bonds Debt Service	\$525,819
Commercial Paper Program Debt Service	\$1,511,405
Fannie Mae Loan Debt Service	\$1,128,446
GE Capital Note Debt Service	\$174,337
Ponte Vedra MSD Debt Service	\$1,647,836
Refunded Courthouse Debt Service	\$966,556
Capital Improvement Funds	
06 Sales Tax Bonds Fund	\$1,872,543
06 Transportation Improvement Fund	\$4,348,969
09 Sales Tax Bonds Fund	\$8,593,539
Beach Renourishment Fund	\$2,602,679
Northwest Road Project Fund	\$26,437
Recreation Parks Projects Fund	\$121,158
SR 207 CIG Development Agreement Fund	\$2,055,115
Transit System Fund	\$3,111,709
Enterprise Funds	
Convention Center Fund	\$2,760,232
Ponte Vedra Utility Services Fund	\$16,537,265
Solid Waste Fund	\$31,337,786
St. Johns County Utility Services Fund	\$126,909,546
St. Johns Golf Club Fund	\$2,175,320
Internal Service/Trust & Agency Funds	
FSA - Dependent Fund	\$105,392

FSA - Medical Fund	\$470,032
Group Health Insurance Fund	\$27,767,154
OPEB Trust Fund	\$4,704,328
Worker Compensation Fund	\$3,464,592

(09/29/10 - 5 - 5:53 p.m.)

Darrell Locklear, Assistant County Administrator, gave the overview for the next two items. He explained that per the existing ordinance, the unit connection fees and the water and sewer rates in both the main utility and the Ponte Vedra utility district areas would increase annually per the CPI. In order for that not to happen, the Board would have to take action, and this item was for that purpose. He noted there was a resolution for each system so that the rates would remain the same and would not increase on October 1. He added that they were undergoing a rate study currently, and they did not want any increase to overlap with what they were considering in the rate study.

(09/29/10 - 5 - 5:55 p.m.)

A1. SUSPENSION OF AUTOMATIC INDEXING OF WATER AND SEWER RATES - PONTE VEDRA

(5:54 p.m.) **Motion by Mays, seconded by Quinn, carried 5/0, suspending the automatic indexing of water and sewer rates and unit connection fees for Fiscal Year 2011 for the Ponte Vedra system.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-212

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUSPENDING THE AUTOMATIC INDEXING OF WATER AND SEWER RATES AND UNIT CONNECTION FEES FOR THE PONTE VEDRA SYSTEM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011, DUE TO AN ONGOING RATE STUDY; PROVIDING A DATE FOR THE RATES AND FEES TO RESUME INDEXING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

(09/29/10 - 5 - 5:55 p.m.)

A2. SUSPENSION OF AUTOMATIC INDEXING OF WATER AND SEWER RATES - MAIN SYSTEM

(5:55 p.m.) **Motion by Bryan, seconded by Mays, carried 5/0, suspending the automatic indexing of water and sewer rates and unit connection fees for Fiscal Year 2011 for the Main System.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-213

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUSPENDING THE AUTOMATIC INDEXING OF WATER AND SEWER RATES AND UNIT CONNECTION FEES FOR THE MAIN SYSTEM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 DUE TO AN ONGOING RATE STUDY; PROVIDING A DATE FOR THE RATES AND FEES TO RESUME INDEXING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

(09/29/10 - 6 - 5:55 p.m.)
COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Stevenson:

Stevenson said she would be preparing a report from the Florida Association of Counties legislative meeting for the Board and for Administration. She noted the final legislative meeting would occur in November. She thanked County and Budget staff for their hard work on the budget. She said it represented a lot of sacrifice and a lot of hard work. She said they really appreciated their work and on-going efforts. She added that she also appreciated the support of the Board to keep everything in a fiscally straight manner.

(5:57 p.m.)

Commissioner Mays:

Mays thanked Timms for his hard work on the budget and said that he and his staff had done a very good job. He also thanked Administration for their hard work as well. He said it was proud to have been a part of the past two budgets and hoped they would have a similar decrease next year, when he would no longer be there.

(5:57 p.m.)

Commissioner Bryan:

Bryan thanked staff, the County Administrator, Assistant County Administrators, and the County Attorneys Office for their hard work in order to hold the budget to the line. He said their hard work was noticed and appreciated. He also thanked the public for their input on the budget. He expressed disappointment with the Fire Union for not cooperating more, as far as taking some leniency with their cost of living or their raise, and for not working with the rest of the County on budget cuts. He thanked Utilities for doing a great job.

(5:59 p.m.)

Commissioner Quinn:

Quinn emphasized the importance and the gravity of the budget process and said its passage was no small accomplishment. He said it began with every single employee of St. Johns County. He said every employee deserved recognition for the sacrifices that they had made and the cost savings that they have suggested and the efforts they have put into the process. He said other counties were having significant struggles with their budgets and that was not happening here, and it was result of a great deal of teamwork. He expressed appreciation to the Office of Management and Budget and said they had done a tremendous job and it was hats off to everyone involved.

(6:00 p.m.)

Commissioner Sanchez:

Sanchez thanked the staff for the great job they were doing, and said the County had great staff in every department who had sacrificed and put up with a lot as they went through the tough times. He said he really appreciated staff's attitudes during the rough times and it was refreshing to know that he was part of a team like that.

(09/29/10 - 7 - 6:01 p.m.)
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Wanchick stressed how difficult it was to get to that point with revenues falling to have the staff, the Commission, the community all coming together. He said it was commendable across the board and started with the transparency with which the Board wanted the County to operate. He spoke of the Town Hall meetings which brought a lot of people into the process and how things were worked out during that process. He said there was a lot of sacrifice on behalf of the employees, and they had had no raises or cost of living increases over the past two years and furloughs. He said the next opportunity they got, hopefully next year, they would be able to do some things for employees. He said the organization was no better than its employees.

(09/29/10 - 7 - 6:03 p.m.)
COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

McCormack stated that Resolution number 212 had been skipped and reread the motions of the last two business items in order to correct the Resolution numbers. He asked the Board to do a voice vote.

(6:05 p.m.) Motion by Sanchez, seconded by Bryan, carried 5/0, to adopt Resolution 2010-212, suspending the automatic indexing of water and sewer rates and unit connection fees for fiscal year 2011 for the Ponte Vedra system.

(6:05 p.m.) Motion by Sanchez, seconded by Bryan, carried 5/0, to adopt Resolution 2010-213, suspending the automatic indexing of water and sewer rate and unit connection fees for fiscal year 2011 for the Main system.

(The corrective changes are reflected in the complete Resolutions above.)

(6:06 p.m.) McCormack said he was honored to work with Administration, OMB and all the County staff. He noted that to have a collegial Board was greatly appreciated by the public, that public business was moving forward, and that he appreciated that.

(09/29/10 - 7 - 6:06 p.m.)
CLERK OF COURT'S REPORT

There was none.

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Approved _____ October 19 _____, 2010

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: *Ron Sanchez*
Ron Sanchez, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: *Cheryl Strickland*
Deputy Clerk

