

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
JULY 28, 2015
9:00 A.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 special meeting to conduct a workshop to set tentative County millage rates, was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record* on July 14, 2015.

Present: Rachael L. Bennett, District 5, Chair
Jeb Smith, District 2, Vice Chair
James K. Johns, District 1
William A. McClure, District 3
Jay Morris, District 4
Michael Wanchick, County Administrator
Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
Natasha McGee, Deputy Clerk

Also Present: Jerry Cameron, Assistant County Administrator and Regina Ross, Senior County Attorney.

(07/28/15 - 1 - 9:04 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Bennett called the meeting to order.

(07/28/15 - 1 - 9:04 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll: All Board members were present.

(07/28/15 - 1 - 9:04 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Smith gave the invocation.

(07/28/15 - 1 - 9:05 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(07/28/15 - 1 - 9:05 a.m.)
PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Reynolds, 880 A1A Beach Boulevard, commented on advancing children's safety. He also referenced an article in *The St. Augustine Record* regarding the irrigation of the County golf course and on the Developer's Debt Forgiveness Program (DDFP), *Exhibit A*.

(9:09 a.m.) Denver Cook, 266 Topsail Drive, spoke about the FY 2016 general budget and stated he had created a document/plan for financial success. He noted the financial plan could be downloaded at www.suggest-st.johns.us.

(07/28/15 - 2 - 9:12 a.m.)

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

There were none.

(07/28/15 - 2 - 9:12 a.m.)

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Bennett, seconded by Morris, carried 5/0, to approve the special meeting agenda, as submitted.

(07/28/15 - 2 - 9:12 a.m.)

1. PROPOSED FY 2016 TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES AND DATE OF FIRST PUBLIC HEARING. THE STATE OF FLORIDA, THROUGH THE TRUTH IN MILLAGE ACT (TRIM), OBLIGATES THAT THE COUNTY FOLLOW A PRECISE PROCESS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS ANNUAL BUDGET. A RECOMMENDED BUDGET WAS PREPARED AND PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BCC) ON JULY 21, 2015. FOLLOWING THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENTATION OF A RECOMMENDED BUDGET, THE COUNTY IS OBLIGATED TO PROVIDE CERTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING THAT BUDGET TO THE PROPERTY APPRAISER. THIS INFORMATION INCLUDES THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATES FOR EACH OF THE COUNTY'S DEPENDENT TAXING DISTRICTS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR MILLAGE RATE AND BUDGET ADOPTION. THIS INFORMATION IS PLACED ON DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE DR-420 FORMS AND FORWARDED TO THE PROPERTY APPRAISER. THOSE FORMS PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR THE "TRIM" NOTICE MAILED BY THE PROPERTY APPRAISER TO PROPERTY OWNERS IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY. THE BCC WILL NEED TO APPROVE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES (SEE THE ATTACHED SHEET) FOR THE COUNTY'S TRIM MAILING AND APPROVE SEPTEMBER 8, 2015, AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE COUNTY AUDITORIUM AS THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE FY 2016 ANNUAL BUDGET. FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES, ONCE THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES ARE SET, THEY CAN STILL BE DECREASED BUT NOT INCREASED. THE RECOMMENDED BUDGET LINE ITEM INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE; [HTTP://WWW.SJCFL.US/OMB/MEDIA/BUDGET2016/2016.RECOMMENDED.BUDGET.PDF](http://WWW.SJCFL.US/OMB/MEDIA/BUDGET2016/2016.RECOMMENDED.BUDGET.PDF)

Doug Timms, Director, Office of Management and Budget, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the FY 2016 tentative millage rates, *Exhibit A*. He reviewed the short-term budget strategy and the FY 2016 County property taxes. He noted that the short-term budget strategy did not address the County's long-term capital project challenge. He also noted that there was a \$4.6 million millage shift from the General Fund that redirected the funds to the Fire District Fund and the Transportation Trust Fund (pavement management).

(9:17 a.m.) Timms also gave an overview of the FY 2016 recommended budget workbook, summarizing the General Fund, *Exhibit B*. He noted the FY 2016 projected budget would be approximately \$632,000,000 with carryovers.

He also noted this was a 2% increase over last year's budget. (9:30 a.m.) Discussion ensued on the Fire District Fund and the Transportation Trust Fund (pavement management), impact fees for roads and carryovers, using reserve funds to balance the FY 2016 budget, the General Fund shortfall, including the reduced Sheriff's operations budget, deferred maintenance of the golf course, and organizational fatigue.

(9:58 a.m.) Timms continued with his PowerPoint presentation, *Exhibit A*. He reviewed the FY 2016 recommended millage rates. He noted that the aggregate millage rate had decreased. He also noted that although the Fire District and Transportation Trust Funds had increased, the General Fund had decreased to offset the increases. Discussion ensued on homeowner millage rates, taxing jurisdictions, deferment of the Parker Canal expense, Beach Services shortfall, Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) funds, and the redistribution of millage rates.

(10:08 a.m.) **Motion by McClure, seconded by Smith, carried 5/0, to approve the tentative millage rates as follows: General Fund millage rate of 5.1475, Health Department Fund millage rate of 0.0171, Transportation Trust Fund millage rate of 0.7100, Fire District Fund millage rate of 1.4625, Vilano Street Lighting District millage rate of 0.0500, St. Augustine South Street Lighting District millage rate of 0.2100, and Summerhaven MSTU millage rate of 8.5000; and to authorize the completion and execution of the FY 2016 Form DR-420s by the county administrator.**

(10:09 a.m.) **Motion by Bennett, seconded by McClure, carried 5/0, to establish September 8, 2015, at 5:30 p.m., in the County Auditorium, as the first public hearing for the adoption of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.**

(10:10 a.m.) Bennett reported that, per the request of an applicant, an item on the August 4, 2015, Board of County Commissioners meeting agenda had been tabled indefinitely. *She requested Board consensus instructing the County Attorney's office to host or present a St. Johns County Free Speech Zones workshop on August 4, 2015. Consensus was given.*

(07/28/15 - 3 - 10:12 a.m.)
ADJOURN

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Bennett adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Approved ____August 18_____, 2015

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Priscilla L. Bennett, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk