

1 ST. AUGUSTINE - ST. JOHNS COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

2 Budget Meeting

3 held at 4796 U.S. 1 North

4 St. Augustine, Florida

5 on Monday, September 15, 2008

6 from 5:01 p.m. to 5:29 p.m.

7 * * * * *

8 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 9 RANDY BRUNSON
- JOHN "JACK" GORMAN, Secretary-Treasurer
- 10 KELLY BARRERA

11 BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

- 12 WAYNE GEORGE
- SUZANNE GREEN, Chairman

13 * * * * *

14 ALSO PRESENT:

15 DOUGLAS N. BURNETT, Esquire, Rogers, Towers, Bailey,
16 Jones & Gay, P.A., 170 Malaga Street, St. Augustine,
FL, 32084, Attorney for Airport Authority.

17 EDWARD WUELLNER, A.A.E., Executive Director.

18 BRYAN COOPER, Assistant Airport Director.

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JANET M. BEASON, RPR, RMR, CRR, FPR

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Okay. Let's -- let's call
3 to order the final public hearing of the financial
4 year 2008-2009 annual budget for the
5 St. Augustine-St. Johns County Airport Authority.
6 And opening remarks are mine.

7 MR. WUELLNER: In theory.

8 OPENING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN

9 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Oh, boy. Here we go. We
10 have a roll-back rate, and you can hang these open
11 forever, and it's .1697. And that -- and I can be
12 corrected easily, because I'm bringing these
13 figures right off the top of my head.

14 We have \$2.3 million in reserve. And feel
15 free, Mr. Wuellner, to correct me. And we have
16 projects which are going to come up to about two
17 and a half million. And the rest is going to be
18 in reserve.

19 And I feel that Mr. Wuellner wants to keep

20 that rate at .1697. I feel we could go not
21 dramatically less than that, but substantially
22 less than that to, again, incrementally remove
23 ourselves from the tax roll, as we are going into
24 this year with \$2.3 million.

25 It -- I refuse to pick apart Mr. Wuellner's

1 budget because he worked so hard at it and I think
2 it's a good budget. I mean, you could probably,
3 you know, pinch it here and move it there and get
4 less money spent, but it's the reserve amount I'm
5 questioning, is the only thing I'm questioning.
6 And the reserve amount, I feel could be brought
7 back, maybe as far as point -- just to round it
8 off, .145. In other words, that far.

9 If you were going to spit out some numbers,
10 we've done them before -- if you'll bear with me
11 with my eyeglasses. .1697 generates approximately
12 \$4 million. .12 generates approximately \$2.8
13 million. And again, we've got \$2.3 million in
14 reserve on hand in-house.

15 And without agonizing over the entire thing,
16 remember that we do have a line of credit, and a
17 substantial line of credit available to us should
18 we run out of reserves. We have that substantial
19 line of credit.

20 Do we want to spend it and incur the -- the

21 cost of interest? No. But do we have to spend

22 it? Well, we wouldn't have to spend it, as long

23 as we don't deplete our reserves completely.

24 So I wonder if the reserve amount is not

25 something we could cut on -- cut down. And that

1 is open -- that's my discussion point and probably
2 the only thing I'd really like to discuss. I'm
3 going to refuse to actually try to pick the budget
4 apart. I don't think that's necessary, myself.

5 So, is there any -- we move on to --

6 MR. WUELLNER: That's your comments?

7 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: That's my comments, yes.

8 DISCUSSION OF MILLAGE RATE

9 MR. WUELLNER: The first order of business
10 that we need to talk to from a statute perspective
11 is the millage.

12 Just to refresh your memory, proposed millage
13 rate for this budget is .1697 mills. So about 16,
14 almost 17/100ths of a mill. That generates
15 approximately \$4 million, as Mr. Gorman spoke of.
16 That's about \$540,000 less ad valorem proceeds to
17 the Airport Authority than last year. That's what
18 that millage rate would generate.

19 And at this point, that concludes my

20 presentation as to what the millage rate is. That
21 represented -- let me see if I can find my note
22 real quick. I believe it was 14, actually it was
23 about 12.4 percent less than the rolled-back rate
24 over last year.

25 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: So, in order, we should

1 call for public comment now.

2 MR. WUELLNER: Uh-huh.

3 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Mr. Lopinto?

4 MR. LOPINTO: While I have an appreciation of

5 the Chairman's comments with respect to the

6 millage rate reduction and how it affects the

7 reserves, I think he has to bear in mind that

8 while today's action can be viewed in light of

9 today's budget, the reserves are really necessary

10 for going forward.

11 And by reducing it today, the millage rate,

12 would there be a saddling of successive boards

13 that are going to have to use other means or

14 reduce services in order to preserve the contents

15 of the reserves themselves? Using a line of

16 credit, in my opinion, should be the last

17 resort --

18 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Correct.

19 MR. LOPINTO: -- that an entity or a GSE

20 should use to fund capital projects. So, by
21 taking a very short-term action today, are we
22 strapping succeeding boards with a lesser amount
23 of having reserve fuel on board? And I would be
24 happy to answer any comments that you've got.
25 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Good. My only question

1 would be, remember in 2010, October, we're
2 supposed to be off the tax rolls.

3 MR. LOPINTO: Correct. And by reducing --

4 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: And we're going to be
5 rolling with the -- at .1697 -- and, Mr. Wuellner,
6 please correct me if I'm wrong, we're still going
7 to be rolling into that with a healthy reserve,
8 tax reserve.

9 MR. LOPINTO: But if you reduce the millage
10 rate today, you're continuing to push down that
11 reserve that's going to be there in 2010.

12 We're projected to have a reserve of just
13 over -- and if the Executive Director would
14 correct me on this, slightly over \$4 million in
15 2010 fiscal year when we come off the ad valorem
16 tax; is that correct?

17 MR. WUELLNER: It's a little over \$3 million,
18 yes.

19 MR. LOPINTO: A little over \$3 million. So

20 if you reduce it today by \$150- or \$500,000,
21 whatever that number is, you don't have that much
22 in 2010 when we come off.

23 So, what I'm suggesting to you is, why strap
24 the board in fiscal year 2010 with a lesser amount
25 of reserves by reducing the millage today?

1 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: And my answer to that would
2 be we've got to end up with zero tax load. And to
3 do that, we may have a run a bit leaner and we may
4 have to get a little closer to the bone.

5 And I'm, like I said, not going to pick apart
6 a budget, but what the exact millage necessary to
7 go to zero-zero on the tax load of the public is,
8 that's a discussible item and that's why I threw
9 it out for discussion.

10 MR. LOPINTO: Well, I think that the
11 projected budgets that you and I and everybody
12 have seen shows that it is very doable to be off
13 the tax rolls by fiscal year 2010 with a healthy
14 reserve of slightly over \$3 million, given the
15 plan that you've committed to, which is
16 continually reducing the millage rate, which is
17 evidenced by this year's, fiscal year's millage
18 rate and will probably be reduced again in fiscal
19 year 2009.

20 So, my comment is, if you continue to reduce
21 this further, you're going to impact two and three
22 years from now.

23 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Right. And my question to
24 you would be, do you feel 12 percent is a
25 substantial reduction?

1 MR. LOPINTO: I feel 12 percent in today's
2 environment is a good reduction. Whether that's
3 substantial or not, you also have to continue to
4 look going forward.

5 I believe in the long term -- I can take a
6 lot of short-term impacts, but long term, you're
7 going to be -- be putting a chokepoint in the
8 budgetary process that's going to continue with
9 some of the projects that you'd like to continue
10 to have.

11 The concept was that the operating budget
12 going forward would fund a -- a pull-down on the
13 reserves which were being used for matching funds
14 on the grant monies.

15 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Right.

16 MR. LOPINTO: But if you start off with a
17 lower amount in your pocket, you're going to have
18 to go into that line of credit, which I think is
19 just a math --

20 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: I would agree the line of
21 credit is certainly the last ditch. What you're
22 trying to do is --

23 MR. LOPINTO: You're yelling Mayday at that
24 time.

25 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: -- is squeeze, squeeze it

1 down so that you're not using it, but don't have
2 any reserves that you don't need. And that's why
3 I brought out the entire thing, just for
4 discussion. I wanted to see if -- what other, the
5 board had and what the public had to say.

6 MR. LOPINTO: Okay.

7 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: That was brought out for a
8 discussion point and I appreciate your comments.

9 MR. LOPINTO: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Is there any other public
11 comment?

12 MR. JONES: Yeah, I would like.

13 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Mr. Jones.

14 MR. JONES: Joe Jones, 4672 5th Avenue.

15 You know, when you first started to get off
16 the taxes and everything -- that was four or five
17 years ago, about five years ago, I think -- you
18 had a plan at that time. You was going to have
19 those same reserves you already have now, or

20 that -- and you were going to get off the taxes.

21 But at that time, you were only bringing in \$2.5

22 million in taxes.

23 So, for the last three years, you've enjoyed

24 an extra one and a half to two million dollars in

25 taxes. So either your reserves should be way up

1 or you're spending way too much. And you could
2 always keep spending too much no matter what you
3 do.

4 So you might as well either decide you're
5 either going to lower the taxes, lower the millage
6 and bring down the taxes, or you're just going to
7 start saving some money. Because it don't seem
8 like you're doing either one. You just -- you
9 didn't lower the millage. You didn't gain extra
10 on your reserves. So you've just got to -- you're
11 just -- you're bringing in more, but you're
12 spending more.

13 So, is that what you're going to keep doing
14 for the next two years and you're still going to
15 be right back at the same spot talking about the
16 same thing again. You know, we need the reserves.
17 We need to keep with the millage, or whatever
18 we're going to do.

19 Because, like I said, five years ago when you

20 first started deciding this, you were only
21 bringing in two and a half million dollars. So
22 you should have an extra \$6 million in reserves
23 somewhere.

24 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Can I make a comment? I'm
25 going to defend Mr. Wuellner to a certain extent.

1 In other words, the fact that --

2 MR. JONES: Well, I'm not trying to -- all

3 I'm saying is you're spending --

4 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: We've -- this is
5 developmental projects, are what we're spending

6 this money on, in other words. So --

7 MR. JONES: Correct.

8 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: -- I'm with you, I want the
9 reserve to get lower and lower and lower, but I
10 don't want to strangle the projects to the point
11 where we are not, you know --

12 MR. JONES: No, no. These projects are --

13 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: -- accomplishing the goal.

14 MR. JONES: -- you're just finishing up the
15 projects that you started with. I mean, this was
16 your plan.

17 Actually you were planning on building more
18 than what you've built so far. So you haven't
19 even built as much as you planned on. So it

20 seemed like somewhere you should have some money,
21 better reserve or, you know, one of the two should
22 have been happening.

23 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: I understand your point.

24 MR. WUELLNER: Continually for the last
25 several years, the millage rate has been reduced.

1 MR. JONES: Right. But I'm just talking
2 about amounts of money. I don't really care what
3 the millage says, I'm saying how much money you
4 have.

5 MR. WUELLNER: And this represents about a
6 half a million dollars less total dollars as well
7 as a reduction in millage this year.

8 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Any further public comment?
9 Yes, sir. Would you state your name? And I would
10 do it for you, but I would rather have you do it.

11 MR. YOUMAN: Carl Youman, 132 Turtle Cove
12 Court.

13 I've been looking at the general
14 administrative expenses, and it appears that in
15 2006, they were about \$800,000, and there's a big
16 jump to \$1,358,000 and now we're going to
17 \$1,115,000.

18 In there, there's got to be some numbers that
19 are out of whack. There's some expenditures that

20 are just -- there's something out there, and I --

21 I need to see the operating expense account to --

22 subaccount for 2006-2007 to compare all three

23 years.

24 But if we don't control the general

25 administrative expenses and they keep going up

1 faster than revenues, reserves or no reserves,

2 we're going to be dead.

3 MR. WUELLNER: Well, just -- just for

4 clarification because we did this at the --

5 MS. BARRERA: Budget workshop.

6 MR. WUELLNER: -- at the workshop and the

7 first public hearing, and I would be happy to

8 point it out again, but the -- you are correct.

9 You're seeing about a 300 -- round numbers,

10 300-plus thousand dollar increase in -- in the --

11 actually, it's \$260-, right about \$260,000

12 increase in the operating budget this year over

13 last year.

14 And the two items are essentially placeholder

15 items. And I need to explain what the two

16 placeholders are. The one is a placeholder --

17 there's a matching revenue line item that matches

18 \$135,000 of the \$260- exactly, and it is the --

19 related to U.S. Customs.

20 There is a revenue line item that's a new
21 revenue line item for this year that is the
22 collection of user fees. It shows up in the
23 revenue side, and then the matching expenditure,
24 because this is a reimbursement of the federal
25 contract to run U.S. Customs. So it's a --

1 literally a pass-through. So it shows up as
2 \$135,000 additional revenue this year, but it also
3 shows up as \$135,000 exactly as a matching
4 expenditure for the year. So \$135,000 right away
5 is in that number.

6 The other \$135,000 was a placeholder item.
7 It's related to reestablishing the law
8 enforcement -- scheduled airline service. It's a
9 placeholder line item for the cost of law
10 enforcement officers as well as the airport fire
11 and rescue expenditures that come only with
12 scheduled airline service.

13 It's there only in the event airline service
14 is reestablished. It would only be expended then.
15 Otherwise, that \$135,000 ends up extra, call it
16 extra revenue, which ends up rolling into reserves
17 into next year.

18 They're two placeholders. Currently neither
19 one is a -- obviously one has a matching

20 expenditure revenue, the other has a proposed
21 expenditure, but that expenditure is tied to --
22 specifically to an activity on the airport, which
23 also would have a -- sort of matching revenues to
24 go with it, as it would impact dramatically rental
25 car fees, parking, fuel revenues, things of that

1 nature, should airline service reestablish.

2 MR. YOUMAN: Could these -- could these items
3 be put somewhere else in the accounting framework
4 instead of the general administrative expenses --

5 MR. WUELLNER: We actually had some
6 discussions about whether to even roll them into
7 reserves and then create the items later and pull
8 them out of reserves.

9 MR. YOUMAN: So it gives a true picture of
10 general administrative for the current year versus
11 current revenues.

12 MR. WUELLNER: Yes.

13 MS. BARRERA: We discussed that --

14 MR. YOUMAN: That's all I've got to say.

15 MR. WUELLNER: It's one of those I could
16 support either way.

17 MR. YOUMAN: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Okay. Well, thank you for
19 your comments. Let's see. Any further public

20 comment?

21 (No further public comment.)

22 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: No further public comment.

23 Ah, board comment. No board comment?

24 MS. BARRERA: The reserve that we have is

25 equal to one time our operating expenses.

1 MR. WUELLNER: Before we get too deep in
2 that. We need to deal with the millage issue
3 before we talk about the --

4 MS. BARRERA: Okay. Per statute.

5 MR. WUELLNER: -- budget impacts related to
6 it. You've got to deal with the millage first
7 before we get into detailed discussions on the
8 budget itself.

9 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Shouldn't, I mean --

10 MR. WUELLNER: That's the way the law is
11 written.

12 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: -- without being --

13 MR. WUELLNER: You can keep it generalized --

14 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: This would be --

15 MR. WUELLNER: -- but you can't detail into
16 the budget.

17 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: I mean, we talk about
18 budgets, so we can talk about how much money we're
19 going to charge the public ahead of time.

20 MR. WUELLNER: I know, but that's the way the
21 law is written. It's not me. I'm not making it
22 up. It says your first sub -- substantive issue
23 must be the millage.

24 MS. BARRERA: We've discussed a lot of the
25 budget over the different meetings.

1 MR. WUELLNER: You have to adopt the millage
2 before you're allowed to do the budget.

3 MS. BARRERA: We talked about the budget over
4 the different meetings. I mean, this is --

5 MR. WUELLNER: Again, high level, I think
6 you're fine. Just --

7 MS. BARRERA: We have a plan that was put
8 into place in 2004 of what we needed for a reserve
9 in order to be off the tax rolls and stay off.

10 I'm afraid -- I very much want to run the
11 airport as lean as possible, but I don't want to
12 cut that reserve amount that was established to do
13 that. Because once we're off, I want to stay off.
14 That's vitally important to me.

15 I want to support the plan that was put into
16 place so that once we're off, we're
17 self-sufficient for good, that we don't have to
18 ever come back to taxpayers of this county and ask
19 them to dish out more money for us.

20 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: So you're saying you feel

21 that the .1697 is --

22 MS. BARRERA: I support that as a part of --

23 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: -- is a good business

24 decision and is not excessive. Okay.

25 MS. BARRERA: As a part of the plan.

1 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: That's why I brought it
2 out, for discussion of the whole thing.

3 MS. BARRERA: I'm happy that we keep moving
4 towards our objective of reducing the millage rate
5 and -- and investing the money that we're using in
6 capital improvement projects that will produce
7 revenue and that's -- that's the plan we've been
8 following. And I want to continue with that. So
9 I want to -- I support the .167 (sic) millage
10 rate.

11 MR. BRUNSON: Just a real quick comment. I
12 want to say that using a line of credit is not a
13 bad thing, and in 2010, that that's where we're
14 going to be able to get our capital improvements
15 and we'll make sure we got the return on
16 investment, and we've always said we want to run
17 this like a business and that's what we're going
18 to do.

19 For the last almost four years, we've been

20 sitting here, as Kelly said, month after month
21 after month, looking at the budgets, critiquing.
22 And if you're not here at every board meeting, you
23 do not know what has transpired on each operating
24 expense and revenue.
25 We have committed as a board and as the

1 executive director, to be off the tax roll. And
2 we did it on the assumption of -- of these millage
3 rates. Even though we're cutting this 12 percent,
4 we as a group still think we can -- we can have
5 that objective met. So, I'm going to support the
6 roll-back rate of .1697.

7 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: So, Mr. Wuellner, would you
8 like a motion, ask for a motion to --

9 MR. WUELLNER: To ratify that, you would need
10 to.

11 MR. BRUNSON: Adopt the resolution.

12 MR. WUELLNER: Adopt the resolution, which
13 adopts a final millage.

14 MR. BRUNSON: And I made the motion last
15 public meeting to adopt the resolution of the --
16 Resolution 2008-08. This is not tentative, right,
17 Doug?

18 MR. BURNETT: That's correct.

19 MR. WUELLNER: Correct.

20 MR. BRUNSON: This is it.

21 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: This is final.

22 MR. BRUNSON: To accept the 0.1697 as our

23 millage rate for the St. Johns County.

24 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: So we have a motion on the

25 floor. Do we have a second?

1 MS. BARRERA: I'll second if you don't want

2 to.

3 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: So we have a -- we have a
4 motion and a second. All in favor?

5 MR. BRUNSON: Aye.

6 MS. BARRERA: Aye.

7 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: All opposed? Nay. Now
8 what happens?

9 MR. WUELLNER: It's majority. You're fine.

10 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: That's fine.

11 MR. WUELLNER: Move on.

12 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: The motion carries.

13 MR. WUELLNER: And therein, Resolution
14 2008-08 is adopted by the Airport Authority.

15 MR. BURNETT: That's true. And just for
16 clarification, under the Airport's charter, it's a
17 majority of the members present when you have a
18 quorum. So it's a valid vote.

19 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: That's why I said what

20 happens now. Just for your comment, thank you.

21 MR. BURNETT: So the next thing is the

22 budget.

23 DISCUSSION OF BUDGET

24 MR. WUELLNER: Yeah. Next is the budget

25 itself. And just to walk through the highlights

1 of the budget, the left side of the screen
2 represents the revenue, general revenue
3 collections for the Airport Authority. The right
4 side of the screen represents the expenses side.

5 Lease-related revenues and fees are expected
6 to generate \$2,193,567 this year. We are bringing
7 forward \$353,187 in cash. We are bringing \$2.3
8 million in reserves forward this year. We expect
9 to generate \$60,000 in interest-related revenues
10 this year as a minimum. We expect \$941,250 in
11 state grant proceeds. Another \$1,567,500 in
12 federal grants this year. We are proposing a \$4
13 million ad valorem as previously approved at the
14 millage rate of .1697. Bringing the total
15 operating -- or, excuse me, total revenues to
16 \$11,415,504.

17 On the expenditure side, personnel and
18 related expenditures including taxes, statutes
19 as well as benefits equals \$760,422. That's for

20 12 1/2 employees. An operating budget proposed at
21 \$1,371,082. Bringing the operating budget
22 subtotal to \$2,131,504. Carrying forward the \$2.3
23 million in reserves through the year. Capital
24 equipment expenditures of \$139,000. Capital
25 construction projects of \$6,845,000. Bringing the

1 total expenditure budget to \$11,415,504, which
2 matches the revenue side of the budget.

3 And that's the budget that was tentatively
4 adopted at your previous public hearing last
5 month. Your proposed budget again is \$11,415,504.

6 At this point, it would be appropriate to solicit
7 public comment on the budget itself.

8 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Yes. And along those
9 lines, do we have public comment?

10 (No public comment.)

11 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Hearing no public comment,
12 do we have board comment? I'll make it brief. I
13 mean, I have great faith in Mr. Wuellner's
14 accounting ability and I was trying to squeeze him
15 a bit.

16 He has gotten the money he wants to and has
17 promised us to be off the tax rolls, so myself, I
18 know that along those faithful lines, we'll go
19 forward with it. I don't think it's possible to

20 pick this budget apart properly, I really don't.

21 Having just sat and watched what goes on. I mean,

22 it is -- it's just that difficult.

23 Nothing is written in stone as to costs, and

24 I watch the cost overruns happen and I watch some

25 things come in under budget. So, it's -- I don't

1 think there's a lot of padding or anything going
2 on here. I think it's -- it's very professionally
3 done. And again, my only squawk was the reserves
4 left over at the end of the year. So I have faith
5 that he will vary through. Any other board
6 comment?

7 MS. BARRERA: Should any other additional
8 revenues be realized, I would very much want to,
9 and I know this would happen anyway, but I want to
10 state that I would want to see those put towards
11 reserve, to build up the reserve going into the
12 next budget cycle.

13 Further, I know just two years ago, we didn't
14 have reserve and that was frightening. And I
15 would like to be able to build it up with any
16 additional reserves that we haven't -- unexpected
17 to go in that area.

18 MR. BRUNSON: I have no comment.

19 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Let's see.

20 MR. WUELLNER: Adopting the budget requires
21 the adoption of Resolution 2008-09, which would be
22 for the adopting the final budget.

23 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: So --

24 MR. WUELLNER: A copy of it for you --

25 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: -- we can call for a motion

1 to adopt the final budget, which is Resolution

2 2008-09?

3 MR. BRUNSON: And I make a motion we adopt

4 the Resolution 2008-09 as submitted.

5 MS. BARRERA: Go ahead.

6 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: I'll second it. All in

7 favor?

8 MR. BRUNSON: Aye.

9 MS. BARRERA: Aye.

10 MR. GORMAN: Aye. And opposed.

11 (No opposition.)

12 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: And it carries. The motion

13 is adopted. Any final comments? We have final --

14 we should ask for final if -- let's ask for

15 final -- ask for final public comment.

16 MR. BRUNSON: Why? I listen to Joe everyday.

17 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Because they're paying the

18 bills. Mr. Rippe has a comment.

19 MR. RIPPE: My only comment is -- Herb Rippe,

20 324 Village Drive.

21 I'd like to see us get some credit for

22 reducing this millage rate 12 percent. As I went

23 through my TRIM notice, I think there was one

24 other entity that may have been in the 14 percent

25 area as a reduction, and I would encourage this

1 board to craft a press release and kind of get
2 this out broadly to the public.

3 MR. WUELLNER: That's a good idea.

4 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: That's a good comment.

5 Thank you. Any further public comment? Strangely
6 silent public here.

7 (No further public comment.)

8 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Any board comment?

9 MS. BARRERA: I think as a board, from my
10 time here, I think everybody is committed to
11 getting off the tax rolls and everybody is
12 committed to staying on task, and I think that
13 we've worked hard at that and we worked strong
14 with that.

15 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Thank you. Myself, I think
16 that -- I mean, it's nice to see this board be a
17 model for what hopefully other government entities
18 could do.

19 I think that some of the expenditures of some

20 other entities in St. Johns County have been a bit
21 excessive, to say the least. And hopefully we can
22 set an example. So I appreciate it.

23 MR. WUELLNER: You'll need to adjourn the
24 public hearing and then we'll reconvene the other
25 meeting.

1 CHAIRMAN GORMAN: Thank you. Yeah, I was
2 confused as to that because we're doing two
3 things. We are now going to adjourn the final
4 public hearing for the 2008-2009 annual budget and
5 reconvene the general board meeting.

6 (Budget meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.)

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2

3 STATE OF FLORIDA)

4 COUNTY OF ST. JOHNS)

5

6 I, JANET M. BEASON, RPR-CP, RMR, CRR, FPR,

7 certify that I was authorized to and did

8 stenographically report the foregoing proceedings

9 and that the transcript is a true record of my

10 stenographic notes.

11

12 Dated this 18th day of September, 2008.

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JANET M. BEASON, RPR-CP, RMR, CRR, FPR

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