

From: "Costello, Fred" <costello@ormondbeach.org>
To: "Betty Holness" <bjholness@co.volusia.fl.us>
Date: 9/3/2005 2:04:17 PM
Subject: RE: Charter Review Comments

Betty ... and Charter Review Committee members:

Thanks for coming to Ormond Beach to allow interested folks to share their thoughts about the form and direction our County government should take so as to best provide for our future needs.

I am of the opinion that it is up to the Charter Review Committee to make recommendations to the County Council that you think will improve the quality of life for all Volusia County residents. I ask you to be visionary, be proactive, and be bold!

I have copied parts of an email I sent to VCOG on 6/26 below in small print italics. We will be discussing these items and those submitted by other VCOG representatives at our September meeting. I tell you this so you will know these comments aren't "new" or in response to recent articles and comments about consolidation or City/County relationships and that they were sent prior to Cindy Coto's recent decision to resign as County Manager. I have added some current comments to my previous comments to clarify my positions.

Please understand that these views are mine alone, and I am not representing these views as being those of the Ormond Beach City Commission.

Hi Mary!

RE VCOG and Charter Amendments:

Consolidation of EVAC, Emergency Medical and Fire Services It is up to the Charter Review Committee to make recommendations to the County Council for what/if any public safety services can best be consolidated. I will encourage VCOG to support appropriate functional consolidation of emergency and public safety services that can be provided at the same or increased levels of service at reduced cost to our residents. The battle for "municipal buy in" in many minds will be based upon the perceived failure of the County's take over of our beaches. The battle can be won.

1 As you may recall, I have long advocated that we better coordinate our Fire Services with EVAC to improve our Emergency Medical services and reduce duplication. I am often amazed at how many units show up for any incident (Fire or Emergency Medical)... and they all count it as a response even if it is already stabilized prior to their arrival. I'd like to spread out our resources to shorten response time and eliminate over-response. I had a good meeting with Matt Zavadsky Friday about this issue.

I believe that throughout Volusia County 80-85% of our Fire

calls are Emergency Medical but we plan our staffing primarily for Fire. Just for the record, though the unions will scream, I am not advocating eliminating any current employees, only repositioning them for better Emergency Medical results. We should plan for Emergency Medical so we can save more lives and coordinate Fire so that Fire Paramedics and EMTs are in field closer to where statistics show they will be needed. They would go to fire scene from their deployment in the field to meet up with fire truck at scene. (We would leave one driver in station to bring truck.)

I favor a VCOG study investigating how to improve level of Emergency Medical service (including reducing response time) for all of Volusia County, specifically breaking out the Halifax area as a potential separate unit. This study should include designing a protocol for the most effective/efficient use of all available resources (EVAC, Fire Dept Paramedics and EMTs, and determine advantage of including all Police trained in CPR and equipped with AEDs) and how to best coordinate scheduling, positioning and deployment of these resources. My suspicion is that a single dispatch coordinating all resources with no jurisdictional boundaries would be best. I further suspect that the best positioning of some of our Fire Paramedics and EMTs will be outside of the Fire Stations.

For the record, I have already supported consolidated dispatch and am hopeful Ormond Beach will join that effort once one (of more) of our Commissioners who voted against consolidated dispatch get additional information they need to ask for reconsideration. If the study shows that in addition to consolidated dispatch, a Halifax area or County wide consolidated Fire and Emergency Medical Department would give better service (at same or hopefully reduced cost) I will also support that model. I have not advocated consolidating of our Police and Sheriff Depts. If I ever see info that leads me to believe a consolidated Police/Sheriff dept is better, I may be willing to look at that model, but to date, I have not seen any factual info that leads me to believe bigger is better in the Police arena. (In spite of what you may have read in NJ lately, Ormond Beach has an outstanding Police Department!)

Replace Growth Management Commission Growth is at the top of most lists of concerns. If City/ City or City/County can't work things out, we must find a way to make sure we all work together for the benefit of all. My hope would be that no issues would ever have to be brought to the revamped and strengthened GMC because the respective bodies would work things out.

2 I recommend VCOG discuss the suggestion brought up at the Smart Growth Implementation Committee that Volusia County consider having a Charter Amendment to replace the GMC with a new Commission made up of 3 VCOG members (acceptable to the County Council) and 3 County Council members (acceptable to VCOG) and 1 Volusia County School Board member. This body would serve as the BINDING mediator for disputes between City and City and between City and County.

Annexation Policy It's not about jurisdiction, it's about land use. Let's focus on how we can preserve our environment, not argue about what jurisdiction controls the land use.

3 I have recommended at Smart Growth Implementation Committee that Volusia County support annexing all land within Volusia County into existing (and possibly one or two new) jurisdictions except for land that is part of Environmental Corridor in public ownership. I am trying to help shift the disagreements from annexation to Land Use and Comp Plan designations. My vision is that land which is currently in County and is annexed under this plan would require a vote of both the City and County to change any existing zoning, density, land use or Comp Plan. That way, we could focus on the issues that really matter.

Creation of defined urban services areas There should be only one provider of urban services for any area in Volusia County regardless of jurisdiction. I am tired of developers negotiating the "best deal" for them amongst multiple providers which often results in the lowest standards for the community.

4 Additionally, I have recommended we have only one utility provider for each area. This would avoid the negotiations that often pit one governmental entity against another...

Volusia County focuses on providing County services and terminates providing urban services If we are serious about protecting our rural core by directing development into areas more suited for growth, there will be increased costs incurred by the municipalities.

5 I have recommended County "give" up all utilities. This would be as a form of "compensation" for cities accepting the "smart growth" principle that we should encourage additional density in our urban core so as to preserve our rural heart. In other words, cities will incur additional costs due to smart growth initiatives and the County will help cover those costs by giving up their utilities.

Future Annexation and Urban Service Boundaries Let's actually plan our future. The Smart Growth Implementation Committee has recommended many of these concepts.

6 Bottom line... all mayors and County Chairman should go into a locked room with press... :-)) and divide up County into primary and secondary service areas, and determine into which city all nonpublic lands will be annexed. It should be determined which lands will need dual approvals for zoning, density, land use and Comp Plan changes; it should also be specifically determined for all annexed lands whether the City will process any potential changes with the County having "veto" power via supermajority and for which lands (if any) the County will allow the City to process any changes without their having "veto" authority. Additionally, it should be determined where development buffers need located so as to protect communities having different

visions than their neighbors and an additional "veto" power requiring a supermajority of said adjacent community could be placed upon any requested changes for that (rare and unique) land. After mayors agree, they will go to their respective Commissions and then the Charter should be amended to reflect the results.

Strong Mayor Most folks think of a Mayor as the community leader and the Chairman as the committee or council leader. We need a community (County) leader folks recognize as our leader... we need a Mayor. I support a "strong Mayor" including changing our Charter to create a well compensated "strong Mayor" along with a Chief Operating Officer (instead of a County Manager) who reports to the Mayor and requiring a super majority to overturn a veto by the Mayor.

7 I'd like to see County Chairman renamed to Mayor.

Six Districts Elimination of single remaining County-wide elected position will reduce confusion with Chairman/Mayor position.

8 I'd like to see six County districts instead of five districts and one County wide and Chairman/Mayor.

Beach Ormond Beach has been the "sacrificial lamb" for Volusia County residents as we have given up our beach so other Volusia County residents can enjoy their beach. Ormond Beach needs beach access, beach front park and permanent off beach parking.

9 You'll notice I "separated" this one from others as it is a more parochial issue to Ormond Beach. Ormond Beach "gave" up our beach north of Granada so all Volusia County beaches could continue to allow driving, and in my view more importantly have on beach parking. Due to soft sand, our entire beach is essentially closed. We need the County to set aside \$10 Million to purchase land for off beach parking and park area or open up north of Granada and close somebody else's beach for the turtles. We have "willingly" (at least we didn't complain too loudly) given up half our beach (north of Granada) to protect all of Volusia County beaches, but now we need VCOG to recommend to Volusia County that they invest a minimum of \$10 Million in an effort to provide some off beach parking and park area as an offset to the area we sacrificed north of Granada for all of Volusia County.

Though there are other things about which I'd probably like to comment if I could remember them, you'll be pleased to know my brain is fried trying to put some of this down so I'll quit now.

I hope all other VCOG members will have even better ideas as to how we can jointly improve Volusia County.

Fred

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Swiderski [mailto:mwidewski@co.volusia.fl.us]

Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2005 12:41 PM

To: Mayor Masiarczyk; terwin@ci.orange-city.fl.us;
mayor@cityofedgewater.org; Mayor Vandergriff; Dwight D. Lewis;
YordonD@CODB.US; Mayor Northrup; rgunter@debary.org; paivac@deland.org;
longlc@earthlink.net; mayor@hollyhillfl.org; citylh@hotmail.com;
billhoakpifl@msn.com; evansd@oakhillfl.com; Costello, Fred;
agreen@port-orange.org; Mayor O'Neal; Mayor Sowell

Cc: Mary Curran

Subject: Heads up on VCOG New Business for 6/27/05 meeting

Dear Board Members,

New business for the 6/27/05 meeting will encompass discussion in two different areas:

1. Suggested questions for Charter Review committee from VCOG 2. VCOG legislative priorities to VLC.

This advance notice will allow you time to gather your thoughts for the meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

Mary Swiderski

322-5160 ext 26