



Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials
August 10, 2015
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER - 12 p.m.

The Volusia Room of Daytona Beach International Airport, 800 Catalina Drive, Daytona Beach, Florida.

Those attending included the following Roundtable members: Chairman Ed Kelley, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach; Vice Chairman Doug Daniels, Volusia County Council; Oak Hill Mayor Doug Gibson; South Daytona Mayor George Locke; New Smyrna Beach Mayor James Hathaway; DeLand Mayor Robert Apgar; Holly Hill Mayor John Penny; Daytona Beach City Commissioner Paula Reed; Edgewater Mayor Michael Ignasiak; Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Harry Jennings; Pierson Mayor James Sowell; Lake Helen Mayor Buddy Snowden; Deltona Mayor John Masiarczyk; Port Orange Mayor Allen Green; Orange City Mayor Tom Laputka; Ponce Inlet Council Member Tami Lewis; and Volusia County School Board Superintendent Tom Russell.

Others attending included Daytona Beach Shores Council Member Billie Wheeler; Port Orange Public Utilities Director Andy Neff; Ormond Beach City Manager Joyce Shanahan; Daytona Beach Government Relations Administrator Hardy Smith; U.S. House of Representatives Congressional staffer Naomi D'Antonio; Volusia County Association for Responsible Development (VCARD) Chair Shailesh Patel; Cindy Finney, County Manager's Office; and Jeff Crumbley, Community Information. Taking minutes was Debbie Kelley with the County Manager's Office.

Also attending were several members of the public.

WELCOME

Ed Kelley, Roundtable Chairman and Ormond Beach Mayor, welcomed those attending. Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance. All Roundtable members introduced themselves.

DISCUSSION

Roundtable Vice Chairman and Volusia County Council Member Doug Daniels gave the Water Quality Subcommittee Report. He spoke about a meeting with staff from the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) who worked on septic tank issues and funding. The representatives said there was money available from the SJRWMD for connecting residents to sewer systems. An application for the funding must be submitted and the money would cover 30 percent of the connection fee costs. It was possible Volusia County could receive more than the 30 percent. Spreading the remaining cost over a 20-year period would make the

balance easier to manage for homeowners. A countywide program addressing the County's main water issues in Blue Spring, Gemini Springs, the North Peninsula and Oak Hill was under way. There were Florida statutes that pre-empted County regulations when it came to septic tanks near surface waters. The County and Volusia municipalities must speak as a unified voice when discussing water quality issues and improvements with members of the Florida Legislature.

Port Orange Mayor Allen Green said the County's many enclaves could make it difficult to install sewer connections. He spoke about the length of time and the process used by his community to connect to water and sewer lines. The south side of Rose Bay was the only section not connected, and the city was currently researching how to service the area. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Daniels said the County would be able to move forward once it received information from each of the municipalities. He suggested lobbyists try to get the State septic tank laws changed, if possible. Sewage needed to be pumped off the North Peninsula barrier island and water reuse should be expanded. Discussions with the City of Daytona Beach were needed on the Bethune Point plant.

In response to a question from Mayor Kelley, Roundtable members indicated most areas in the County had some septic tanks. Ormond Beach City Manager Joyce Shanahan said the County and Ormond Beach were working together on the North Peninsula line connections.

Mr. Kelley asked Ms. Shanahan for an update on the cost to connect to utility lines. Ms. Shanahan said the connection cost per unit was estimated at \$8,500 to \$11,000. Federal grants might help with the cost. Mr. Kelley noted Volusia County had the second highest number of septic tanks in the State. Mr. Green said the connection process was very expensive and time consuming. Further discussion ensued.

Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Harry Jennings said there was no report from the Beach Driving Subcommittee.

Holly Hill Mayor John Penny gave the Homelessness Subcommittee Report. Two public meetings were planned with Dr. Robert Marbut to discuss the Volusia Safe Harbor homeless facility. The meetings were scheduled for 6-8 p.m., Monday, August 10, at the Volusia County Baptist Church in Orange City, and 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12, at the Piggotte Community Center in South Daytona. Some cities had said they would support the shelter; others had said they would not support it. If all the cities did not participate, the proportional shares would have to be spread out among the remaining cities and alternative funding would be needed. A break-out session was planned at the upcoming Volusia League of Cities convention to discuss alternative funding and solutions.

Further discussion ensued on the break-out session, alternative funding, the County's role in the Safe Harbor project, and support from the Federal government.

Mr. Daniels gave the Transportation Subcommittee report, and asked Ms. Shanahan to provide an update on a proposed study on a local option sales tax for transportation projects.

Ms. Shanahan said a special meeting was held with County Manager Jim Dinneen and Deputy County Manager Mary Ann Connors on funding a study to determine the level of interest in the community for a special sales tax for transportation projects. Each city was exploring how much they were being asked to contribute to the study, and city staff members were waiting for information from the County to take to their respective councils and commission for further discussion.

Mr. Daniels said he believed the lack of infrastructure was holding Volusia County back economically. It was a big issue and must be addressed. Discussion ensued on the gas tax and how funding from this tax had decreased significantly.

Mayor Kelley asked the Roundtable members to think about other issues the group should discuss and research, such as building codes and incentives for economic development.

Mayor Green said he had attended a meeting hosted by the County about building codes. There were standard building codes that all agencies must follow; however, some parties interpreted the codes differently, which caused problems. Mayor Kelley noted the permitting process was easier in some areas than others.

Mayor Kelley said beach driving issues were not going away. Volusia residents needed to know the County had not taken away beach driving; it was done by the Federal government in response to a lawsuit filed on behalf of sea turtles by Rita Alexander and Shirley Reynolds.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Shailesh Patel with the Volusia County Association for Responsible Development (VCARD) offered the organization's assistance on the permitting process and other issues. VCARD's goal was to bring responsible development to Volusia and Flagler counties through education. VCARD membership was currently low and more members were needed. Further discussion ensued.

County resident Big John spoke about the sign issues he had encountered with the City of Ormond Beach. In response to his question, Mayor Kelley said a permit was needed to remove signs.

Ed Connor with Volusia Tax Reform spoke about property tax increases, millage rates and roll-back rates. He suggested elected officials find other ways to raise money without raising property taxes, such as a sales tax and user fees for services such as water and trash pick-up. Mayor Kelley said he thought Florida's taxing system was inadequate and spoke about how taxes were handled in other states.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Volusia County School Board Superintendent Tom Russell explained how school taxes were set by the State.

South Daytona Mayor George Locke read a newspaper article regarding EVAC's need for more paramedics and equipment.

Holly Hill Mayor John Penny said EVAC transport was working very well in his city.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.