



**Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials
June 8, 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 Pam Woods; Edgewater Mayor Michael Ignasiak; Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Harry Jennings; Pierson Mayor James Sowell; Lake Helen Mayor Buddy Snowden; Deltona Vice Mayor Nancy Schleicher; Port Orange Mayor Allen Green; Orange City Mayor Tom Laputka; and Ponce Inlet Council Member Tami Lewis.

Others attending included Volusia County Manager James Dinneen; Volusia County Deputy County Manager Mary Anne Connors; Holly Hill City Manager Joe Forte; Daytona Beach Shores Council Member Billie Wheeler; Port Orange Interim City Manager David Harden; Ormond Beach City Manager Joyce Shanahan; Nancy Christman, St. Johns River Water Management District; Keith Norden, Team Volusia; John Booker, Florida Department of Transportation; 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

Chairman Ed Kelley welcomed those attending. Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION

Daytona Beach City Commissioner Pam Woods provided the Homelessness Subcommittee report. She distributed a copy of the Volusia County School District's *Identified Homeless Children and Youth by City* report. The report was a "point in time" count for the 2014-2015 school year and not a final count. As of May 26, 2015, the number of homeless schoolchildren in Volusia County totaled 2,190. The number did not include parents or pre-school age children; it only included pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students. The final report would not come out until after the 2014-2015 school year had ended. Ms. Woods spoke about the homeless student population of each city and the lack of shelters throughout the County for

homeless families. She described in detail the process used to transport homeless students from shelters to various schools around the County.

Deltona Vice Mayor Nancy Schleicher wanted to know how many of the students lived in a home with other relatives, such as grandparents. Ms. Woods explained the federal definition of homelessness that all school districts in the United States had to follow was “did a family lack fixed adequate and affordable housing at that moment in time.” If the answer was yes, the family was considered homeless. A lack of available shelter beds for homeless citizens was a national issue.

Questions were raised about the number of homeless students and residents in unincorporated areas of the County, and whether they were considered to be city or County residents. New Smyrna Beach Mayor James Hathaway said he believed the Volusia Safe Harbor shelter project would not work unless all the cities participated. Chairman Kelley said some cities may have more homeless residents than others, but this was a countywide issue.

A discussion ensued on the need for nonprofit agencies that worked with the homeless to be involved with Safe Harbor; the money saved if homeless offenders were placed in a shelter instead of jail, and the effect the Windward Behavioral Care facility’s closing had on funding for other agencies.

Ms. Woods said Windward had received federal and state monies to assist specific populations, such as homeless people, people with addiction problems and/or mental health issues. The Volusia/Flagler Coalition for the Homeless and Continuum of Care were trying to help other nonprofits obtain some of this funding.

Ms. Woods said Dr. Robert Marbut, the Safe Harbor consultant, and Daytona Beach staff would give an update on the project at the next City Manager’s meeting. The Roundtable Homelessness Subcommittee was looking at other funding sources in addition to what would be contributed by the cities. In other communities such as Orlando, nonprofit agencies, churches, and faith groups as well as corporations contributed to homeless shelter operations.

DeLand Mayor Robert Apgar noted that none of the cities knew what their share of the shelter cost was going to be yet because no funding formula had been established. Until there were some meaningful discussions, he was not sure if there would be a total buy-in from all parties to solve this problem.

In response to his questions regarding funding from the County, County Council member Doug Daniels said he assumed the \$4 million to build the facility would come from the County’s general fund. The exact costs for the facility must be determined in order to apply for federal grants. Corporate grants also were available and should be considered as possible funding sources. A comprehensive plan to get all Volusia municipalities on board was needed, along with a dedicated funding source.

Chairman Kelley said he was concerned the effort would become fragmented without a leader to bring together the volunteers and various groups and unify the cities. He suggested County government take charge of the effort, because it had the resources. Ms. Woods said a Board of Governments should be established to lead the effort which would involve the County, the cities and the various groups.

Mr. Apgar said he wanted to be sure the homeless service providers were in attendance when presentations were made to the cities. Ms. Woods said some of the service providers were part of the homelessness workgroup.

A discussion ensued on a workshop with the homeless service providers and whether a funding commitment by the cities could be overturned by future elected officials.

Ponce Inlet Council Member Tami Lewis said Ms. Woods was indentifying faith based groups and other organizations involved with the homeless to find out the services they provided and their funding sources. This should be done before presentations were made to the cities and the public.

In response to a question from Ms. Schleicher about the type of low cost housing that would be provided for people once they left the shelter, Ms. Woods said some may go to addiction treatment or mental health programs. Some may be able to transition to their own home and others might have to go into subsidized and other supportive types of housing.

Mr. Daniels gave the Water Quality Subcommittee report. The Subcommittee wanted to meet with the representatives from the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) who handled Volusia County water issues, including Mosquito Lagoon, the Halifax River and the freshwater springs in West Volusia. The goal was to find out about any available assistance and funding. The Subcommittee members also had discussed leaking sewer lines and septic tanks. He said an email would be sent to Roundtable members asking them to contact their state legislators to request funding for springs restoration

Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Harry Jennings gave the Beach Driving Subcommittee report. The Subcommittee had reviewed the decisions made by the Volusia County Council regarding beach driving. He spoke about his meeting with New Smyrna Beach Mayor Hathaway and the challenges there.

Mr. Daniels gave the Transportation Subcommittee report. The City Managers in Volusia County would be meeting to discuss hiring a consultant to develop an overall transportation plan. There were serious infrastructure problems in the County, such as not having sufficient interstate entrances, exits, and nearby roads to accommodate a heavy volume of trucks. This had caused the County to lose economic development projects. He suggested Seminole County's local option sales tax, which was used to pay for infrastructure, be the model for Volusia County.

Chair Kelley noted the City of Daytona Beach's success in attracting businesses and growth to its area. If there had been infrastructures in place, the Ormond Crossing's project could have attracted some significant development near the I-95 and U.S. 1 interchange. Both transportation and infrastructure were crucial for future development.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In response to a question from Big John, Mr. Daniels said the County and the City Managers were meeting to discuss how to pay for a study to develop a plan for promoting a sales tax and the transportation projects it would fund. Discussion ensued on how the sales tax money would be distributed.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chairman Kelley said there would not be a Roundtable meeting in July. Lake Helen Mayor Buddy Snowden reminded the group of the West Volusia Summit being held on Saturday in Lake Helen.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.