



**Round Table of Volusia County Elected Officials
MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER - 12 p.m.

The Dennis McGee Room of Daytona Beach International Airport, 700 Catalina Dr., Daytona Beach, Florida.

Those attending included the following Roundtable members: DeLand Mayor and Roundtable Chair Bob Apgar; Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Harry Jennings; South Daytona Mayor William Hall; New Smyrna Beach Mayor James Hathaway; Ormond Beach Mayor Bill Partington; Pierson Mayor James Sowell; Ponce Inlet Council Member Lois Paritsky; Daytona Beach Commissioner Ruth Trager; Lake Helen Mayor Buddy Snowden; Oak Hill Mayor Douglas Gibson; DeBary Vice Mayor Lita Handy-Peters; Holly Hill Mayor John Penny; Port Orange Mayor Don Burnette; Deltona Mayor John Masiarczyk; Orange City Mayor Gary Blair; Volusia County Council Chair Ed Kelley; and Volusia County School Board Chair Melody Johnson.

Others attending included James Dinneen, Volusia County Manager; George Recktenwald, Volusia County Deputy County Manager; Deborah Denys, Volusia County Council Member, District 3; Heather Post, Volusia County Council Member, District 4; Michael Pleus, DeLand City Manager; Kohn Evans, Oak Hill City Administrator; John McKinney, Edgewater Assistant City Manager; Jeaneen Witt, Ponce Inlet Town Manager; Jim Chisholm, Daytona Beach City Manager; Joe Forte, Holly Hill City Manager; Joe Yarbrough, South Daytona City Manager; Pam Brangaccio, New Smyrna Beach City Manager; Jake Sachs, New Smyrna Beach Vice Mayor; Anna Hackett, New Smyrna Beach Public Information Officer; Dale Arrington, City Manager of Orange City; Jane Shang, Deltona City Commissioner; Jake Johansson, Port Orange City Manager; Jason Yarbrough, Lake Helen City Administrator; Tom Russell, Volusia County School Board Superintendent; Nancy Christman, St. Johns River Water Management District Intergovernmental Coordinator; Abby Johnson, St. Johns River Water Management District Intergovernmental Coordinator; Jim Cameron, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President of Government Relations; Joanne Magley, Volusia County Community Information Director; and Jeff Crumbley, Volusia County Community Information. Taking minutes was Debbie Kelley with the County Manager's Office.

WELCOME

Roundtable Chairman Bob Apgar welcomed those attending. Everyone introduced themselves, then stood to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Homelessness Subcommittee: Mayor Apgar provided an update on the West Volusia Homeless Plan. At the January 19, 2017, Volusia County Council meeting, the City of DeLand presented the proposed plan for a \$1.13 million construction grant for facility construction, which was unanimously approved by the County Council. The plan received numerous, various positive comments from both County Council and county staff. The City of DeLand agreed that the facility would operate for five years. The County would not be

responsible for operating expenses, which are estimated to be approximately \$315,000 per year. The City of DeLand has undertaken the lead and met with several West Volusia cities seeking their financial support. They continue to meet with the faith-based community, as well as the business community. They believe one reason the plan will be very successful, is the fact it will be a community wide plan. There is support from neighboring cities, faith-based and business communities. The City of DeLand has committed \$50 thousand per year for five years.

Ed Kelley, Volusia County Council Chair, said the County wants to use the DeLand Plan as a model moving forward, to help reach out to other parts of the county. The Hope Place project in Daytona Beach will fill a great need for homeless families. He met with Daytona Beach Mayor Derrick Henry a month ago regarding homelessness issues.

Water Quality and Water Quantity Subcommittee: Mayor Apgar said the subcommittee had not met recently. The 2017 Volusia Water Resources Compact Summit that was held Saturday, February 11, and hosted by the City Port Orange was a very successful event.

Don Burnette, Port Orange Mayor discussed the Water Resources Compact Summit saying there was a large amount of positive energy from many of the participants and that most of them wanted to work together. Many people agreed there were common problems in each community. Volusia League of Cities member, Heidi Herzberg, will be working on getting everyone together within the next four months to take the next step.

Jake Johansson, Port Orange City Manager discussed the Water Compact that was signed last year by many of the municipalities. There are some action steps in Section 2, that have not been clearly defined as to who will take those steps. A decision needs to be made regarding who will be responsible for taking charge of those steps, so the Water Compact can continue on.

Mayor Apgar said the work being done there needs to be translated into the Water Subcommittee. There is a need to figure out where to go, to implement the needs. Some of the issues are county wide, but there are some that are sub-regional and would require different approaches.

Nancy Christman, St. Johns River Water Management District Intergovernmental Coordinator, discussed the upcoming district wide cost share program which opens in mid-March and closes in mid-April. She said the four values the SJRWMD looks for are water conservation, water supply, water quality and flood protection. If approved by the governing board, there will be \$25 million available for this round. She introduced Abby Johnson, Area 3, St. Johns River Water Management District Intergovernmental Coordinator, whose office is located in Palm Bay.

Mayor Apgar recommended the SJRWMD provide elected officials with a list of all money available through the district, so they would know what project money was out there. Ms. Christman responded saying the upcoming program was the main cost share for the year along with other programs coming up throughout the year. She would provide information about all the available programs to the elected officials.

There was further discussion among members and Ms. Christman regarding SJRWMD project information and available money being distributed equitably. Ms. Christman said the

projects were not a first-come, first-serve. The projects come in as a group, then they are ranked by district priorities, which is a very intense ranking system.

Beach Driving Subcommittee: No report.

ORGANIZATIONAL DISCUSSION REGARDING TRANSPORTATION

Mayor Apgar discussed the Volusia County 2016 Road Program, which was presented to the Elected Officials Roundtable, at the January 9, 2017 meeting. There is significant unmet needs in the road system and overall transportation throughout the county. Each city needs to determine what their transportation needs are. The city managers are in the process of creating a tentative map of what they perceive as needed projects throughout the county. The first thing that needs to be done is to determine what the needs are. The public and the business communities need to be convinced that there are unmet transportation needs in each municipality and the county. For this to be successful, the private sector, the business community, and the non-elected leaders have to be satisfied there are unmet needs. They need to be willing to take a leadership role in helping identify the needs and priorities.

Volusia County Council Chair Kelley has been invited to speak at the April 2017, Chamber of Commerce Eggs and Issues meeting, where there will be discussion about the unmet transportation needs within Volusia County. Last week, DeLand City Manager Michael Pleus and Mayor Apgar met with Pat Rice about DeLand related issues, along with discussing transportation unmet needs. A transportation needs summit might need to be held to bring in the business community to help identify specific needs. A steering committee with county wide representation may need to be established.

Mr. Kelley said he had been approached by many people wanting information about a proposed gas tax. Transportation needs have to be determined, along with deciding what approach should be used. The county and municipalities need to figure out how to rank each communities issues. He provided an example of a road concern in DeLand, near the intersection of Highway 44 and Kepler Road.

Volusia County Manager James Dinneen said many of the issues involved with transportation deal with public safety. There is a big push for economic development within the county and infrastructure is very important. Currently, there is no readily available money source, so the private sector and the business communities need to become involved. Every community has transportation issues that need to be made known.

Harry Jennings, Daytona Beach Shores Mayor, suggested having members of Team Volusia and the CEO Alliance on the proposed steering committee. Both would be an asset when working with the business communities.

Further discussion continued among several members and guests regarding transportation issues.

Jim Cameron, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President of Government Relations, said transportation issues have been discussed for many years. A transportation summit would be a great idea. It would enable the general public, area businesses, community stakeholders throughout the county and representatives from the entire county to discuss transportation issues and concerns. He could get the area chambers of commerce involved.

MEMBER CLOSING COMMENTS

Douglas Gibson, Mayor of Oak Hill said the city was moving forward on plans for the removal of septic tanks near Mosquito Lagoon. He thanked county staff and county council members for their assistance. The county did not provide monetary money to the city. The project is being done solely with grants and with help from Beth Lemke with Planning Solutions Corporation with support from their legislative delegation. Letters of support have been obtained from Team Volusia, CEO Business Alliance and Burns Science Tech Charter School, which is located in Oak Hill.

John Penny, Mayor of Holly Hill discussed the eastside homelessness problem, suggested roundtable members attended meetings of other organizations regarding the issue. He suggested the Elected Officials Roundtable change the meeting schedule to every other month, saying he felt it would be more productive.

Mr. Kelley agreed with Mr. Penny regarding changing the roundtable meeting schedule to every other month. It would give members more time to obtain information to present to the roundtable members. The State of the County will be held April 18 at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach. Information will be provided to each of the municipalities and he requested each one have a representative present.

John Masiarczyk, and Don Burnette, Mayors of Deltona and Port Orange, respectively, said they too preferred meetings that were held every other month. They felt the extra month would allow staff members time to research various issues to be discussed at upcoming roundtable meetings.

Mayor Apgar said there was a consensus, so the meeting schedule would be changed to every other month with the next meeting being held on April 10, 2017.

Melody Johnson, Volusia County School Board Chair discussed wall-to-wall academies, half-cents school sales tax, upcoming school board events, real-time video now being on school buses and the fact drivers licenses of everyone entering school property are now being scanned.

Ruth Trager, Daytona Beach Commissioner discussed economic development and the need for public transportation to Tanger Outlet Mall.

James Sowell, Mayor of Pierson discussed St. Johns River, Lake George, Lake Woodruff and lagoon problems, which included chemical spraying that was killing more than weeds. He requested having someone check into the chemical spraying at the areas to see if something else can be done to control the weed issue.

Mayor Apgar said the next roundtable meeting will be held on April 10, 2017 and the next Chamber of Commerce Eggs and Issues meeting will be April 13, 2017. He suggested inviting newly elected Sheriff Chitwood, Clerk of Court Laura Roth, Elections Supervisor Lisa Lewis and Property Appraiser Larry Bartlett to the next several meetings. He pointed out a chairperson is needed for the Water Subcommittee, to which Mayor Gibson volunteered. He volunteered to speak with members of Team Volusia and the CEO Business Alliance regarding transportation issues, between now and the next roundtable meeting in April.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jim Cameron advised everyone wanting to attend the Chamber of Commerce Eggs and Issues meetings to contact him directly.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.