



**Round Table of Volusia County Elected Officials  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 9, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER - 12 p.m.**

The Dennis McGee Room of Daytona Beach International Airport (DBIA), 700 Catalina Drive, Daytona Beach, Florida.

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

Others attending included guest speaker Dr. D. Kent Sharples, CEO Business Alliance President; Ron McLemore, DeBary City Manager; Michael Pleus, DeLand City Manager; Tracy Barlow, Edgewater City Manager; Joe Forte, Holly Hill City Manager; Pam Brangaccio, New Smyrna Beach City Manager; Kohn Evans, Oak Hill City Administrator; Christine Davis, Orange City Director of Finance; Joyce Shanahan; Ormond Beach City Manager; Jeaneen Witt, Ponce Inlet City Manager; Joe Yarbrough, South Daytona City Manager; George Recktenwald, Volusia County Deputy County Manager; Larry Bartlett, Volusia County Property Appraiser; Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council Member, District 2; Tom Russell, Volusia County School Board Superintendent; Jim Cameron, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President of Government Relations; Lois Bollenback, River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization Executive Director; Abby Johnson, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) Intergovernmental Coordinator; Ben F. Johnson, Volusia County At-Large Candidate; Betty Holness, County Council Liaison; and Gary Daniels, Volusia County Community Information. Taking minutes was Debbie Kelley with the County Manager's Office.

**WELCOME**

Roundtable Chairman Bob Apgar welcomed those attending. He introduced Larry Bartlett, Volusia County Property Appraiser; Billie Wheeler, Volusia County District 2 Council Member; and Abby Johnson, St. Johns River Water Management District Intergovernmental Coordinator. Mayor Apgar thanked outgoing Lake Helen Mayor Buddy Snowden for his 16 years of service to the community. After standing for the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone introduced themselves.

CEO Business Alliance representative, former Daytona Beach Mayor Glenn Ritchey was unable to attend today's meeting as scheduled. Mayor Apgar said Mr. and Mrs. Ritchey have offered a \$100,000 challenge to help raise money for the Council on Aging (COA). The money will be used to help the organization get re-established, due to the severe storm damage to their facility caused by Hurricane Irma.

Sarah Gurtis, Council on Aging (COA) CEO said the Beach Street offices in Daytona were completely destroyed. There was over three feet of sewage tainted water in the building. They lost \$100,000 in leased equipment alone. Most furniture was lost. Anything that could be disinfected as it was removed from the building was salvaged. Most equipment such as computers, servers, and phones were saved; but according to their technical group, the life span of the items has been severely shortened. The COA will be displaced for a very long time. The organization went from working in a 12,000 square feet space to working in a 2200 square feet space. Thanks to Halifax Health, they are currently able to work out of two small buildings. The staff has been phenomenal and the disruption of services for clients was minimal. The Thursday before the hurricane, the Meals on Wheels program distributed five days' worth of shelf stable food packages to in-home meal clients. The Friday before the storm, the COA stayed open to serve hot meals and closed at 2:30 p.m. On the Tuesday immediately after the hurricane, many in-home aides were back in clients homes. Also on Tuesday, the Meals on Wheels program sent out another three-pack of shelf stable food to their in-home meal clients. By Thursday, hot meals were being served again.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Ritchey have offered to match dollar for dollar up to \$100,000 for every dollar donated to the COA during the month of October. The COA has services in every city in Volusia County, and this year they will be celebrating 50 years of service. Mayor Apgar emphasized that most of the seniors helped are low income and in need of services and/or assistance. He asked everyone to support the COA either personally or from a governmental perspective.

#### **STATUS UPDATE ON SALES TAX SURVEY BY CEO BUSINESS ALLIANCE**

Dr. Kent Sharples, CEO Business Alliance President provided information about the organization. It is 100% funded by private sector funds and no public funds are used. The sole mission of the organization is economic development. Infrastructure is the number one concern with future prospects. Infrastructure starts with highways, then goes to airports, water and sewer. The second test is manpower. Clearview Research was chosen to create a survey, which was 100% funded by the private sector. There was a total of 600 research participants from throughout the County. The number one concern voiced by survey participants was infrastructure. CEO Business Alliance members said the issue is very critical and they are committed to moving forward.

Joe Yarbrough, South Daytona City Manager said Mr. Steve Vancore, Clearview Research President will be providing a presentation to the Elected Officials Roundtable after the first of the year. The survey involved only a sampling of registered voters and had a 4% margin of error. It is very clear that a one-cent sales tax will not pass, but a half-cent sales tax could pass. Survey participants consisted of people from all age groups. There is high support for environmental and water quality issues; along with road improvements and transportation needs. Mr. Vancore said the focus needed to be on environmental and child safety. Much work still needs to be done. Before it can be put on the general election ballot, the cities need to come to an agreement as to what they want.

Mayor Apgar said that Mr. Vancore would be invited to the January meeting. Information about the sales tax initiative needs to be provided to the public. The Cities need to make recommendations and the Managers need to have discussions before the January meeting. By Spring 2018, the County Council will have to put the referendum on the ballot.

#### **DISASTER RECOVERY UPDATE REGARDING HURRICANE IRMA**

Mayor Apgar discussed the meeting Senator Nelson had arranged for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives to come speak with City Managers. He felt the meeting was incomprehensible, that each representative only had knowledge about their

section and nothing else. There was no transparency, no way for a city to find out the status of their project. Mayor Apgar sent a message to Congressman DeSantis regarding his issues and concerns, who in turn, sent an email to his legislative aide about them.

The Speaker of the House appointed a special committee to look into Hurricane Irma issues. The President of the Senate is using the normal Senate committees to address these issues. House of Representatives Kristin Jacobs is a member of the special committee and also worked on the Water Compact. She reached out to former Volusia League of Cities President Heidi Herzberg from Deltona and expressed a willingness to listen to the concerns.

Mayor Apgar suggested letters be drafted by both the City Managers and the Roundtable members and sent to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House and a copy to the Legislative Delegation. The letters should provide information regarding Volusia County and its municipality's problems and concerns, pertaining to the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Mayor Apgar feels the issues need to be addressed at the legislative level.

Jim Judge, Emergency Management Director said the FEMA contact for Volusia County is Douglas Samms. Volusia County was granted a fourth extension of the Local State of Emergency which was enacted on October 5, 2017, for an additional seven days. An applicant briefing was conducted on October 3, which is part of the process with FEMA. City Managers were sent an email regarding other opportunities for FEMA programs. Approval has been received for permanent work on Categories C-G. Procurement Disaster Assistance training was held at the Emergency Operations Center on Friday, October 6.

A temporary FEMA Disaster Recovery Center was opened at the Volusia County Health Department on 1845 Holsonback Drive in Daytona Beach. The Recovery Center will be there through Wednesday, October 11. The Small Business Administration has representatives at the same location to offer assistance with their disaster loan programs. The libraries are doing an incredible job helping residents register for assistance. So far, 55,000 people in Volusia County have registered for individual assistance, with approximately \$16 million being disbursed.

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 15, the volunteer coordination group, is headed up by Dona DeMarsh Butler, Volusia County Community Services Director and Frank Bruno with Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD). The AmeriCorps disaster assistance organization still has fifteen team members in Volusia County providing assistance until October 18. The County is working with the organization to reach out to local universities to provide training to students on how to properly tarp a roof. The objective is to train college students so they will be able to provide assistance once AmeriCorps members leave. The Crisis Cleanup Program has closed 250 different requests for assistance, but there are still 183 that need to be completed. The State of Florida Division of Children and Families Food for Florida Disaster Food Assistance Program (DSNAP) was at the Volusia County Fairgrounds from Wednesday, October 4 through Sunday, October 8. More information regarding available services can be found at [Volusia.org/PIN](http://Volusia.org/PIN). The County is still monitoring the St. Johns River for rising water levels.

The Volusia County Emergency Management Division has an emergency app which can be found at *Volusia County EM*, it contains a wealth of information. The app can be purchased at any app store. The Emergency Management Division is beginning to amass the after action items. They will be reaching out to the cities and the emergency support functions to capture the things that were done well and find out what areas need to be improved. George Recktenwald, Volusia County Deputy County Manager said the County takes all input and suggestions very seriously. The County and the municipalities communicated better

than they ever had before. Some municipalities provided very good input on better ways to organize information, which the County has started using.

Discussion ensued regarding debris issues. As a community, we are fortunate that most of the disasters were vegetative debris. Our County has not seen a construction type debris disaster, like in the Florida Keys. Currently, it is estimated there is 1.6 million cubic yards of vegetative debris on the ground in Volusia County. For perspective, there were 3.5 to 4 million cubic yards of debris from Hurricane Matthew that hit Volusia County in October 2016. Hurricane Irma was a lessor storm, but some parts of the county received more damage than others.

Everyone working together when there is limited resources is a great help for the entire county. FEMA said we would be reimbursed. It is very important that everyone work together taking each step methodically. The biggest challenge is getting disaster recovery contractors to work in Volusia County. Everyone needs to work together and follow the rules.

The Legislature and Federal government need to hear about the problems that were encountered due to the hurricane. When people are trying to make decisions on things, FEMA would say “forget they are in the picture and make a decision.” That makes it nearly impossible to make decisions. When this type of money is on the line, government agencies have to know if there is a reasonable chance of receiving money when it comes to things like Homeowner Associations (HOA’s) and private roads.

Sometimes the County has to use their own forces, which is still an expense. The County already used its forces to pick up over 20,000 cubic yards. Most local governments are in the situation where they had to use their cash reserves for Hurricane Matthew and now Hurricane Irma expenditures.

Even though Hurricane Irma was not as big, it was still very large. It is estimated there is still more than 600,000 cubic yards of hurricane debris throughout the unincorporated areas of the County, along County right-of-ways. To date there has been an estimated 90,000 cubic yards of debris picked up within the unincorporated areas; 20,000 of that was picked up by County employees, 65,000 by a contractor, and 5,000 was taken to County citizen drop-off sites.

The citizen drop-off sites have been very beneficial. There are three drop-off sites. They are located next to the Tomoka Landfill, at the Plymouth Avenue site in Deland, and at the Rhode Island Avenue site in Orange City. Citizens and yard maintenance workers can drop off debris at these sites. Identification is required and a form must be completed. Some of the municipalities have also set up citizen drop-off sites for their residents.

Going forward there should be Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) in place for these types of situations. Currently, the County has several MOU’s and there are several pending. The County invited the municipalities to join with the County on MOU’s. Currently, the County does not have an agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and they have been very reluctant to have one with the County.

The FDOT has agreed to make one pass through to pick up debris on state roadways within Volusia County. Any debris set out after the state has picked up debris on their roadways will become the responsibility of the local jurisdiction. The issue with that will be with FEMA. In a few years, FEMA will want to know why debris was picked up by the County or municipality and not the underlying owner (FDOT). Without an agreement, in a couple of

years, the County will be at risk for losing money. The County needs something from a state legislative level.

Location of debris reduction sites are critical for the County and each municipality. A lot more can be accomplished with less equipment, if a big haul time does not have to be made. As a community, when planning for the future, consideration may be necessary when designing areas such as parks, ball fields and other outside facilities. Designs may have to incorporate areas for temporary debris drop sites to help provide more locations for debris, so streets can be cleaned up in an expeditious manner.

The more the County and municipalities try to become self-sufficient the better off they will be. Securing contractors can be very difficult. It will depend on whether or not other areas have gotten hit and if so, how severe. It will also depend on which communities have better contracts. Mr. Recktenwald was proud that the County and municipalities worked together. As a result, there was no stealing subcontractors and no bidding wars.

At the September 21, 2017 County Council meeting, the issue regarding disaster recovery removal contractors was discussed. The County received a phone call from their major contractor who did not perform according to their contract. The contractor called to ask if there was some way his company could help. The County directed him to honor the city contracts.

The County is working with a third of the resources after Hurricane Irma, compared to the resources available after Hurricane Matthew; which is causing a slow cleanup process. The County does have some subcontractors available and if any of the municipalities need to use them they are welcome to use cooperative purchasing of the contract. There is room for improvement from the state, federal and local levels. Between the County and municipalities main roads were cleared in less than 36 hours, which was an achievement. To date there has not been any major injuries. With approximately 1.6 million cubic yards to be picked up county wide, the amount of debris being picked up each day by the County and municipalities is equivalent to what is disposed of in the landfill in a year.

Larry Bartlett, Volusia County Property Appraiser explained the process his department follows after a hurricane. Once the all-clear is given, employees from his department travel throughout the county to assess appraised damages. He thanked the municipalities for their assistance in helping appraise the damage in their individual communities. He wanted to know when FEMA money reimbursements will be paid back to the County and municipalities.

Joe Yarbrough, South Daytona City Manager asked Mr. Recktenwald about the possibility of municipalities piggybacking on county issued hauling contracts. He questioned, in light of the poor response received by disaster recovery contractors after this hurricane; if the County will be looking at rebidding the contracts and will try to do a title contract with penalties.

Mr. Recktenwald responded saying yes the County will be checking into those issues. Because of the problems that occurred after the hurricane, the county is going to change the way they do business in the future. Provisions may need to be added and things zoned out in the future. At the September 7, 2017 County Council meeting, the Council tightened up the contract. It was a surprise the County was able to get the services they did, due to many companies going to the southern part of Florida; where the damages were more severe and the contractors could make more money. It would help if the County knew what other communities the recovery companies had contracts with.

Mr. Yarbrough was not aware of any counties or municipalities within the state having received money for Hurricane Matthew. He felt the County and municipalities were not getting definitive answers and felt the State needed to hear from Volusia County about problems that occurred after Hurricane Irma. Local governments have not been able to get a definitive response of when monies will be released by the State. The state needs to hear from Volusia County and understand this is unbelievably unfair. He said the City of South Daytona has not received state funds for Hurricane Matthew which occurred last year.

Ed Kelley, Volusia County Council Chair met with the Assistant Director for Reimbursements in Washington, D.C., when he was invited by the Intergovernmental Agency of the White House. It was his understanding that funds were going to be dispersed within three weeks of the date he had met with FEMA, which had been a couple of months ago. Mr. Kelley thought it would be a good idea to send letters to State officials explaining Volusia County's issues and frustrations from the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. He suggested sending a letter to President Trump about the same issues. It is frustrating to the County and the municipalities that funding reimbursements have not been received for Hurricane Matthew. Daytona Beach Shores finally received reimbursement money from the 2005 hurricane damages, a few months before Hurricane Matthew hit the area.

James Hathaway, New Smyrna Beach Mayor suggested the Mayors and/or City Managers attending the Volusia County Legislative Delegation meeting on Friday, November 3, 2017 in Ormond Beach should ban together to express their feelings to the Delegation about the reimbursement time frame. The County and municipalities need to be reimbursed in a timelier manner. In 2004 and 2005, three hurricanes passed through Florida each year in a very short period of time. The City of New Smyrna Beach determined if they had a 90-day cash reserve, that would be enough before FEMA kicked in and they would be reimbursed. It has been one year since Hurricane Matthew and the City has not received a single dollar of FEMA money. The money was promised back in August, then the middle of September and now it is October and still no money. Mayor Hathaway discussed the situation with Governor Scott when he was in Volusia County. The Mayor is disgusted with FEMA for not reimbursing the County and municipalities for previous disasters. Everyone needs to come together as a group to say this is a problem and the money needs to be reimbursed. Cities and the County cannot continue to borrow money and expect the taxpayers to be happy with the fact their tax dollars have not been reimbursed.

Michael Pleus, DeLand City Manager asked the City Managers to send him and Mr. Yarbrough a list of their issues that should be included in the letters sent to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Legislative Delegation.

Ron McLemore, DeBary City Manager said 90% of the available funds are with the state and not the federal government and have been for some time. The City of DeBary had to hire an additional contractor at a higher rate to help with debris cleanup after the hurricane. Mr. McLemore wanted to know if FEMA would reimburse the city at the higher rate that they had to pay out. He also had concerns related to FEMA in regards to debris removal contractors and how this process works.

Mr. Recktenwald responded saying there is a section in the Stafford Act, that has a provision which discusses market conditions, and it could allow for some flexibility in that type situation. The County checked into it regarding the issue with the major contractor saying it would be months before any contractors would be available or the County would have to be willing to pay more for the services. The issue is now being investigated by the State. A letter came from the former emergency manager for the State of Florida that further confused the issue. There is no guarantee of reimbursement. You must make sure there is

thorough documentation on everything that was done and all expenditures are listed. Disaster recovery contractors are going to the counties and municipalities that pay more for the services.

Don Burnette, Port Orange Mayor said he heard some conflicting information on one of the Governor's conference calls with FEMA representatives, about whether or not areas would be reimbursed if their contract had been piggy backed. No one was able to give a clear answer on the matter. Moving forward in the process of renewing contracts and piggybacking, it is important that everyone receives the correct answers.

Mr. Recktenwald responded, saying basically whatever is legal in an individual state is legal for FEMA. He will research it, but piggy backing on contracts is done a lot in Florida. As it stands today, as long as you're procuring on what the local ordinances say you are okay. The County and municipalities like to work together often and share information. The municipalities might want to have their own contracts, because if the county makes a mistake it becomes a mistake for both entities. The municipalities might want to tailor contracts differently to fit their individual needs. When cleaning up the county, there is an abundant amount of cubic yards of debris, which is spread out among 1200 square miles. Municipalities might have to pay a little more for services if companies make an offer directly to the city; especially if the company knows a city is contained and has good debris reduction sites, which can provide a better turnaround time. The County can help any city that wants to tailor a contract specifically for their needs. Usually, it is the same eight-nine contractors, so there would still be a situation where we want to know what each other is doing.

Tom Russell, Volusia County School Board Superintendent said the School Board is having the same problems with FEMA. The School Board did not receive FEMA reimbursements for the tornadoes of 2009 that went through DeLand, until 2015. They have not received any payment whatsoever for Hurricane Matthew. The community is in for a long wait.

Melody Johnson, Volusia County School Board Chair started Tweeting and Facebooking all the federal legislatures. Senator Marco Rubio's office did reach out. The school district had to sign a contract allowing information to be released. The School Board is still owed \$3 million from the last hurricane. It will be at least half that this time, because they cleaned up so well the first time. It is frustrating, not knowing where the money is.

Mayor Apgar felt there could be better coordination between the School Board and the local governments. He gave an example when the school board closed on Thursday and all cities were still open. It creates an issue when that happens all of a sudden. A lot of single parents still have to be at work. The City of DeLand tried to make accommodations due to the situation without punishing the employees. It is understood that the School Board is a much larger operation than the cities.

Mr. Russell said he tried to stay 48 hours ahead of the hurricane. The School Board was closed on Friday and Monday, with Thursday being the last official day of school before the hurricane. They were ready to reopen on the Thursday after the storm, but not all schools had electricity. At certain areas around the County, there was a lack of power and a lack of food; so they wanted to get children back in school as quickly as possible. The policy is to be 48 hours in front of every decision.

Mayor Apgar felt the School Board needed to work more closely with the County and municipalities, to find out what their plans are before finalizing their own decisions and

shutting down their facilities. He agreed the safety of the children is paramount, but felt some awkward positions had been created for many single parent families.

Mr. Russell said the School Board works very closely with the Emergency Operations Center. Another reason the School District had to close their facilities on Friday was due to the fact the School District opens and runs emergency shelters at many of the schools. They are run by School Board employees; not outside agencies, like in other counties. Volusia County is one of the only counties in Florida that the school district opens and runs emergency shelters. The shelters are run by school board cafeteria, custodial, administrative, and transportation employees. They are the shelters of last resort. As soon as the shelters open, they are already preparing to close the shelters once a storm passes. The schools need to be closed in advance to set up and prepare for the incoming evacuees; along with providing employees at least 24 hours to take care of their own families and properties. After the hurricane, they need time to clean the facilities and prepare for the students to return. In the future, the School Board will work more closely with the County Emergency Operations Center and communicate better with the municipalities.

Mr. Yarbrough thanked Mr. Russell for keeping the schools closed a few extra days. That provided time to get the sidewalks open and safe for the children. That has been a problem in the past since many students walk to and from school. The resources for clearing debris was not readily available this year like it has been in the past. Even if the schools had electricity, it was also necessary that the students have a safe place to walk so they don't have to walk in the streets.

Mr. Russell said as soon as the storm passes, the School Board continually sends their transportation employees to check the conditions of all the walkways and bus stops. They communicate with the County about what needs to be cleared and if bus stops need to be moved. He felt the School Board and County worked together much better after Hurricane Irma, compared to Hurricane Matthew. He appreciated the City Managers calling every other day so he could listen to their concerns. As a community, we are working on it, but we aren't quite there yet.

Mayor Apgar said after going through five hurricanes and one tornado unfortunately they had been great teachers. None of the comments made were meant to be criticisms, they provide insight on ways to continue improving things. Mayor Apgar wants to improve relationships and also wants a better solution regarding County and municipality curfews. The curfew schedule was different for the County and the municipalities. It makes good sense to have area-wide, county-wide curfews, but it doesn't always work in every instance.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Homelessness:** Mayor Apgar provided an update on the DeLand Homeless Shelter. They are within \$23,000 of the \$315,000 and the five-year commitments needed to move forward. They are getting very close. Bill Partington, Ormond Beach Mayor briefly discussed the First Step Shelter.

**Transportation:** Nothing to report.

**Water:** Nothing to report.

**Beach driving:** No report until further notice.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Big John discussed debris removal, the gas sales tax, and distribution of it; along with having questions regarding it. Mr. Yarbrough provided a brief update.

#### **MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Russell said there will be an influx of Puerto Rican students and elderly citizens moving to all areas of Volusia County. The School Board has started making preparations for the incoming students at all Volusia County schools.

Ms. Johnson discussed the State of Florida funding formula for the District Cost Differential. When a district sends a dollar to Tallahassee, they in turn, send back only ninety-six cents. It may not sound like a big deal, but it equates to \$11 million dollars taken from the classrooms and the children; for a total of \$140 million since the formula's inception. She traveled to other School Districts across the state and discussed the issue with them. In the State of Florida, 55 out of 67 counties are being negatively impacted by the formula. Recipient counties are very powerful both politically and financially. When the formula started, the Volusia County School Board was at 40% free and reduced, now it is at 67%. She discussed this with the City of Deltona and they created a supporting resolution. Ms. Johnson is encouraging the County and other municipalities to also create a resolution, which will be sent to Tallahassee. She found out it was wrong for the schools to apply for to constitutional revision commission, because it is considered political. The School Board wants to make a statement saying every dollar they send to Tallahassee they want sent back. Orange City and Ponce Inlet have also created supporting resolutions. She spoke to five legislatures, and they are all on board because they are being negatively impacted.

Mayor Apgar said the Volusia League of Cities added the issue as part of their legislation. Lois Paritsky, Ponce Inlet Council Member wanted information on what the financial impact will be if the additional property exemption amendment passes. Larry Bartlett responded saying the Property Appraisers office has an estimate as to how it will affect each city in Volusia County as well as the County in general and he will forward her the information.

Harry Jennings, Daytona Beach Shores Mayor told outgoing Lake Helen Mayor Buddy Snowden he enjoyed working with him and that he will be missed.

Mayor Hathaway requested a sample of the School Board resolution Ms. Johnson had discussed. He wants to bring it before the New Smyrna Beach City Commission at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Johnson said she would forward an updated version.

Bill Partington, Ormond Beach Mayor thanked Lake Helen Mayor Buddy Snowden for his great legacy of service to the community and his many years of service to his constituents. The City of Ormond Beach also passed a resolution pertaining to schools. Over \$140 million have been lost over the last several years and he feels strongly the District Cost Differential (DCD) needs to be revisited. He thinks Ormond Beach will make FEMA reimbursement their number one legislative priority at the Volusia County Legislative Delegation meeting on November 3 when they speak to the Delegation. He hopes everyone would consider doing the same.

Mr. Kelley said everyone banded together in 2006 or 2008 when the number one objective/priority for state legislature was the District Cost Differential. It was the number one and only priority for the year. Everyone joined together and tried to fight it. It was later found out that this idea had come from a study done by University of Florida. The cities that have it are the ones that have the power in the legislature, which is where the decision is going to be made. As Mayor Partington said, we can add it to our priorities for the upcoming session which begins in three months.

Ms. Johnson said that the legislature has decided to do a study, which is what has gotten us to this point. She is not interested in a government agency studying a government. What she wants to do with the Constitutional Revision Commission is to let the people decide. If

they can't change it in Tallahassee, let the 83% of the counties that are being negatively impacted stand up and vote together.

Gary Blair, Orange City Mayor wished outgoing Mayor Snowden good luck on his future endeavors.

Buddy Snowden, Lake Helen Mayor said it had been a privilege and a pleasure to have been in public office for 16 years. He felt the Elected Officials Roundtable is a fellowship as much as it is an organization of government officials; and he enjoyed all the experiences he has had with everyone. He has listened very intently at all the meetings going way back to Volusia Council of Governments (VCOG). Often times he didn't say very much, but he listened. The City of Lake Helen has not had all the failures the other municipalities have experienced; that is because he took notice of what the others were doing and did not follow since he did not think it would work for Lake Helen. Many things that were partnered on were very successful. He hopes the committee will treat his replacement with respect and dignity. He invited everyone to his final farewell on November 4, 2017, at 7 p.m., at Historic Hopkins Hall in Lake Helen.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.