



Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials MEETING MINUTES April 8, 2019

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: Roundtable Chair and DeLand Mayor Bob Apgar; Roundtable Vice Chair and Volusia County Council Chair Ed Kelley; Daytona Beach Mayor Derrick Henry; Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Nancy Miller; DeBary Mayor Karen Chasez; Deltona Mayor Heidi Herzberg; Edgewater Mayor Mike Thomas; Holly Hill Mayor Chris Via; Lake Helen Mayor Daisy Raisler; New Smyrna Beach Mayor Russ Owen; Oak Hill Mayor Douglas Gibson; Orange City Mayor Gary Blair; Ormond Beach Mayor Bill Partington; Pierson Town Council Chairman, Sam Bennett; Ponce Inlet City Council Member Lois Paritsky; Port Orange Mayor Don Burnette; South Daytona Mayor Bill Hall; and Volusia County School District, Board Vice Chair Ida Wright.

Others attending included Carmen Rosamonda, DeBary City Manager; Michael Pleus, DeLand City Manager; Jane Shang, Deltona City Manager; Glen Irby, Edgewater Interim City Manager; Joe Forte, Holly Hill City Manager; Becky Witte, Lake Helen City Administrator; Pam Brangaccio, New Smyrna Beach City Manager; Kohn Evans, Oak Hill City Administrator; Dale Arrington, City Manager, Orange City; Joyce Shanahan, Ormond Beach City Manager; Jake Johansson, City Manager, Port Orange; Les Gillis, South Daytona City Manager; George Recktenwald, County Manager, Volusia County; Ben Johnson, Volusia County Council Member, At-Large; Barbara Girtman, Volusia County Council Member, District 1; Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council Member, District 2; Heather Post, Volusia County Council Member, District 4; Lisa Lewis, Volusia County Supervisor of Elections; Phyllis Butlien, DeBary City Council, Seat 4; John Angiulli, Director, Volusia County Public Works; Clay Ervin, Director, Volusia County Growth and Resource Management; Joanne Magley, Director, Volusia County Community Information; Kevin Captain, Assistant Director, Volusia County Community Information; Volusia County Brian Rothwell, Activity Project Manager, Volusia County; Dr. Kent Sharples, President and CEO, CEO Business Alliance; Abby Johnson, St. Johns River Water Management District, Intergovernmental Coordinator; Cyndi Ritchey, Volusia Citizens for Better Roads and Clean Water Committee; Jim Cameron, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce; Joe Yarbrough; Betty Holness, County Council Liaison; Brian Vandell and Gary Daniels, Volusia County Community Information. Taking minutes was Debbie Kelley with the County Manager's Office.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Roundtable Chairman Bob Apgar welcomed those attending. Mayor Apgar asked for a moment of silence to remember James Sowell, Mayor, Town of Pierson; David Hood, former Ormond Beach Mayor, former State Representative, and former Judge; Hayward Eidson, former DeLand City Commissioner and DeLand businessman; and Bob Ford, former Port Orange City Council Member. After standing for the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone in attendance introduced themselves. Mayor Apgar officially recognized Michael Pleus, DeLand City Manager, who is now the Chair of the City Manager's Association.

OVERVIEW OF ANIMAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council Member, District 2, provided a brief background about how the County of Volusia *Animal Abuse Database* came about. At the end of 2018, Debbie Darino, who got *Ponce's Law* accomplished in Ponce Inlet; Tom Leek, Florida House Representative; and Lois Paritsky, Ponce Inlet City Council Member; approached Ms. Wheeler regarding creating an *Animal Abuse Registry Database* in Volusia County. The *Database* is being presented to all sixteen municipalities, each community should be involved in it. Ms. Wheeler sent it to the *Florida Association of Counties*, trying to have it created statewide.

Adam Leath, Volusia County Animal Services Director, discussed services provided by the Division. The primary focus is to ensure citizen and animal safety within the community; through public intervention, investigation, prosecution, and ending the over-population of unwanted pets. Many vulnerable citizens in communities have pets. One challenge everyone is experiencing is dealing with how to pay for sheltering of individual animals. One proactive way is to spay/neuter.

The department vision statement looks directly at continuing the development of animal safety and responsible pet ownership. It is done through public education and community outreach programs, as well as pet over-population control. It is thought of as pets being valued by society; protected by laws; and free from cruelty, pain and suffering.

The Animal Control Division is broken up into *Enforcement* and *Veterinary Services*. *Enforcement* covers the unincorporated areas of Volusia County and the City of Oak Hill. The *Veterinary Services* section provides spay/neuter services for unincorporated Volusia County and the cities of South Daytona, DeLand, and Oak Hill.

The *Veterinary Services* section works with citizens who may or may not have access to low-cost, high-volume spay/neuter services. A number of lower-income citizens may not have the ability to afford private veterinary services.

The *Enforcement* section looks directly at County Ordinance and State Statutes. The division investigates crimes involving animals. Some are single victims, some can be multiple victims, and in some cases hundreds of victims. The cases are looked at independently and are evaluated as any law enforcement agency would do, even though Animal Control Officers are not sworn.

On March 19, 2019, the Volusia County Council voted unanimously to approve the *Animal Abuse Database*. The *Database* will provide ten years of historical data about persons convicted of *Animal Crimes*, both misdemeanor and felony crimes, within the entire county. Animal Services works very closely with the *Clerk of Court* and the *County Information Technology Division*, to put the auto-generated report together. The *Database* will provide the ability to search names and will provide information regarding people who have history of any type of animal abuse. This will help discourage the placement of animals with such people.

Mr. Leath has a strong interest in working in collaborative relationships with each city. Animal Services has many resources available and wants to make those resources accessible to the citizens and law enforcement agencies. Staff has a number of years' experience in cultivating probable cause in criminal cases, involving animals. When agencies or cities run into cases involving animals, they need to be subject matter expertise. At times it can be very complicated and research intensive. Volusia County Animal Services wants to be a helpful resource during those times.

The Animal Services Division wants to expand the low cost/high volume spay/neuter services and wellness exams into the municipalities. They are not looking to take business away from

private practice veterinarians. The division has a very strict protocol for identifying eligible individuals for their services. The best chance at shelter diversion is to ensure pets do not have the ability to reproduce.

Volusia County Animal Services wants to be able to train along with the individual municipalities. As training is put together on a number of issues, it will include involving case work with animals, along with veterinary services. The division wants to ensure they can and will provide the opportunity for the municipalities to train alongside them. The County and municipalities can share and begin working collaboratively toward a common goal. Which is where animals are receiving more humane care, along with having access to low cost/high volume spay/neuter services.

Ed Kelley, Roundtable Vice Chair and Volusia County Council Chair, said several municipalities already have anti-tethering/tethering ordinances in place. At the present time, Volusia County does not have such an ordinance. He will bring it before the Volusia County Council for discussion and approval. Upon their approval, the County Manager will be asked to explore it and put it into effect. This is a very important issue, which should be checked statewide to see which counties and municipalities have similar ordinances.

A lengthy discussion continued between Mr. Leath and Roundtable members.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS UPDATE

Lisa Lewis, Volusia County Supervisor of Elections, provided an update regarding the status of the Elections Department; as to where they were in the process of getting the ballots ready to be mailed. There are 399,000 plus voters in Volusia County; 4400 voters are military or overseas. The military/overseas ballots were mailed out several weeks ago. As of 11:00 a.m. this morning, the remaining 362,000 ballots have been compiled and are ready, waiting to go. Of those, fifty-percent has the postage on them. There are 32,000 plus ballots left to be compiled. All ballots will be mailed on May 1, 2019.

Ballot Collection Boxes will be placed in City Halls and Town Halls. She thanked everyone for assisting. The Elections Department is responsible for the Ballot Collection Boxes. The cities are being asked to help monitor the boxes that will be located in their offices. City staff does not have to touch any of the envelopes or ballots. It is solely the voter's responsibility to put the ballots in the collection boxes. It is the responsibility of the Elections staff to collect them. Ballots do not have to be put in Ballot Collection Boxes, they are postage paid and can be mailed back to the Elections Department. Ballots need to be returned to the Election Department by May 21, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

Gary Blair, Mayor, City of Orange City, asked about the security of the Ballot Collection Boxes that will be placed in the Clerk's Office. For example, if the clerk takes a break and leaves, how secure will the box be? Ms. Lewis responded, asking if the clerk would be the only person there. Some cities will be putting Ballot Collections Boxes in areas where people pay utility bills. That way there will be more than one person that can see the box. She suggested the Collection Boxes be placed in areas where there is always someone present; she prefers a person seeing them, instead of a video camera. Several supervisors have put Collection Boxes at city halls and libraries during regular elections and there has never had issues with them. A lengthy discussion continued between Ms. Lewis and Roundtable members.

UPDATE ON CITY MANAGERS EFFORTS

Mayor Apgar and Michael Pleus, DeLand City Manager, along with some DeLand City Commissioners, and others went to Tallahassee. They met with our Legislative delegation and had lengthy discussions. As Steve Vancore said at the March 11, 2019, Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials meeting, this may be the best chance for the proposed half-cent sales tax to pass. The Mayor did not get the impression our legislative delegation was willing to

move off of the two-thirds majority requirement for passing sales tax referendums, having it during a general election, and the OPPAGA (Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability) requirement being six months in advance.

He encouraged everyone; elected officials and appointed officials to do as much as they can to educate the public. The ballots will be mailed out in twenty-three days. The Daytona Beach News-Journal has given their editorial support for the proposed half-cent sales tax. There is a great deal of positive support for the sales tax; but there is also a great deal of negative thoughts about it. The individual members of the CEO Business Alliance and others are spending money on behalf of this effort to aid the cities. They have an expectation that the cities are going to do their part as well.

Everyone has to do everything possible to get people to support the sales tax. A couple of suggestions were to encourage people to write letters to newspaper editors and to meet with Home Owner Associations (HOA's). The last two weeks of April, the City of DeLand, will be having more educational workshops. They will discuss what they heard from the community regarding additional projects and answer any questions. The City will be putting inserts in the water bills. We need to encourage everyone to think of every possible way to remind people to vote and to educate them on the value of the proposed half-cent sales tax.

Joe Yarbrough, said Mayor Apgar covered many of the issues he was going to discuss. He is tracking all the meetings, but has not been able to attend all of them. He has tried to attend as many as he possibly could. The people opposed to the proposed sales tax have trust issues with certain elected officials. People need to be reminded this is not a County initiative, it is a City initiative. All sixteen cities approached the County Council, asking them to place the referendum on a ballot.

Mr. Yarbrough asked Mr. Recktenwald if the *Interactive Map* was on the County website. Mr. Recktenwald said the map has been interactive for quite some time. He used it the previous weekend. Information provided by the cities has been loaded into the map.

Mr. Yarbrough said every Wednesday, a conference call is held with the CEO Business Alliance and Steve Vancore, to track the efforts of the campaign. Every Thursday, a conference call is held with the managers. During the conference calls, questions received from each individual city is shared. Along with keeping track of meetings being held, on a city by city basis. Mr. Recktenwald and Mr. Kelley, along with many County Council members have been tirelessly trying to attend all the meetings. Ms. Lewis has been at several meetings providing information regarding ballots and the voting process. He is optimistic there is going to be over fifty-percent voter turnout and he is optimistic the referendum is going to pass.

Mr. Kelley asked Mr. Recktenwald if entering a zip code was all that was needed to bring up information from the *Interactive Map*. Mr. Recktenwald responded saying the entire address; street address, city, state, and zip code needed to be typed in.

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR AND SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Dr. Kent Sharples, President and CEO, CEO Business Alliance, Ms. Lewis, for everything she has done. She has been there every time information was needed regarding the campaign or how the election would be run. He congratulated Mr. Recktenwald and said County staff did a great job with the programs they put together. The Daytona Beach News-Journal did a yeoman's job. A large amount of support was shown at the public forums. Each city has done a tremendous job providing information. This is the one chance to fix the water and road issues within the County. If it's not done this time, the chances of it getting it done later are

very slim. He also thanked Cyndi Ritchey, Volusia Citizens for Better Roads and Clean Water Committee, for all the assistance she provided helping keep track of the meetings, forums, Mr. Vancore, himself and everyone else.

People have been asking him about the lull, wanting to know why they haven't received information in the mail yet, regarding the proposed half-cent sales tax. Direct mail flyers should not be sent out too early, because people will forget about them. The strategic decision is to mail them out beginning April 25, through the first week of May. Currently, what needs to be done is to continue having local meetings, such as club meetings; they are very important.

Cyndi Ritchey, Volusia Citizens for Better Roads and Clean Water Committee, thanked Ms. Lewis for all the hard work she has done. Along with thanking her for the *Be Informed, Be Involved, Be Election Ready* flyer she created for the *Special Mail Ballot Election*, explaining how the voting process for this election works. The flyer was emailed to each of the cities. Ms. Lewis has also met with individual organizations, walking them through the *Special Mail Ballot Election* process.

The *Daytona Beach News-Journal* events were good at getting the information out to the residents. There is much more to be done, which is not the *News-Journal's* responsibility. They did a great job, there was awesome questions and amazing dialogue that was instrumental in helping get the programs put together.

All of the local newspapers had articles on the proposed sales tax initiative, which has been positive. The only negatives appear to be growth issues and trust issues. Hopefully, everyone is out in their communities alleviating those issues. The business community is doing their part. Several local businesses are holding informational meetings at their offices with their employees. That is another way to reach residents, by meeting with local businesses. The Daytona Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce, Volusia County Association of Responsible Development, the Daytona Beach News-Journal, and the Daytona Times are endorsing the proposed half-cent sales tax.

STATUS REPORT BY CITIES AND COUNTY

Don Burnette, Mayor, **Port Orange**, said they have been meeting with various groups within the city. They have been emphasizing "keep it local." Most residents want to know "what's in it for them," which is a very tangible, real question. By presenting it on a local emphasis, it could reach people.

Bill Partington, Mayor, **Ormond Beach**, said they have been reaching out to community groups, such as the Rotary Club. An active list of projects is posted on the city website, which provides residents the opportunity to register and vote on particular projects. On April 16, the City Commission will prioritize and make recommendations on sales tax projects. The Ormond Beach Chamber Legislative Committee and the full Chamber have voted affirmatively to support the sales tax referendum. The City will be sending out an educational chase mailer on May 1, to go out after the ballots have been sent out. Residents are impressed the money stays locally in the County and the cities. They are also impressed all sixteen cities and the County have been able to work together in a way to meet a very important need. The legislature is making it more and more difficult for local people to have local freedom and home rule power to meet their needs. It is getting progressively harder to obtain funding from Tallahassee.

Russ Owen, Mayor, **New Smyrna Beach**, said the City hosted a couple of Daytona Beach News-Journal events at the Brannan Center. There were also City Commission Town Hall

meetings that were held to discuss the proposed half-cent sales tax. Citizens are very interested, so the City is trying to provide as much information as possible. The project list is on the City website. What is coming out of Tallahassee is increasingly concerning.

Karen Chasez, Mayor, **DeBary**, said the City's Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 15. Depending on the turnout, there may be follow-up events. The City sent out a very extensive City letter providing details about every City project listed.

Sam Bennett, Town Council Chairman, **Pierson**, said the Town Council will be holding a meeting at the Pierson Community Center, at 7:00 pm tonight regarding the proposed half-cent sales tax. He thanked everyone who attended Mayor James Sowell's memorial service last week. Town leaders support the sales tax initiative and hopes it will pass.

Bill Hall, Mayor, **South Daytona**, said the City of South Daytona is on board.

Derrick Henry, Mayor, **Daytona Beach**, said there will be nine informational sessions throughout the City. Bethune-Cookman College, along with the City of Daytona Beach, will be hosting a forum for their students in two weeks, which is very important.

Mike Thomas, Mayor, **Edgewater**, said the City would be hosting a Town Hall on Tuesday, April 23, to explain the sales tax. They will be reaching out to home owner associations, along with utilizing social media. He thanked Lisa Lewis, for everything she has done. He acknowledged Deb Denys, Volusia County Council Member, District 2, whose is now the Chairperson for the Indian River Lagoon Council. The City received approval and funds to construct a pipeline from the Indian River Lagoon, to pump affluent waste westward.

Chris Via, Mayor, **Holly Hill**, said the City has had informational type meetings. There will be another informational meeting on Tuesday, April 16, at the *State of the City* event, being held at Bishop's Glen.

Nancy Miller, Mayor, **Daytona Beach Shores**, discussed a Power Point presentation the City created listing specific projects that will take place. Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council Member, District 2, was at the last *Coffee with the Mayor*, providing information to attendees.

Daisy Raisler, Mayor, **Lake Helen**, thanked everyone involved with the proposed half-cent sales tax project. There will be three Town Hall meetings in different locations scheduled for the end of the month. When discussing the proposed half-cent sales tax, remember to talk about water quality, along with road improvements.

Lois Paritsky, City Council Member, **Ponce Inlet**, said the sales tax discussion was at the top of the agenda at the City Council meeting, on Thursday, March 21. When the money stays local, it makes a significant difference with the residents. There will be further discussion at the next City Council meeting on Thursday, April 18.

Jane Shang, City Manager, **Deltona**, said there are going to be two public informational sessions. The first one is tonight at City Hall. The second will be on Monday, April 22, at the New Hope Baptist Church. Mayor Herzberg has been reaching out to several organizations. The City created a *Fact Sheet*, which made it more personalized, showing what the proposed half-cent sales tax could do for the City of Deltona.

Heidi Herzberg, Mayor, **Deltona**, said the residents have been information regarding non-taxable items; such as food and medicine. Some residents are saying the tax is a regressive tax. Due to some confusion, there was a need to provide an explanation of the role of the

Citizens Advisory Committee. In Deltona, the *millage* could not be raised high enough to cover what the proposed half-cent sales tax could pay for. She thanked Lisa Lewis for the *Be Informed, Be Involved, Be Election Ready* flyer.

Mr. Kelley said to emphasize the money is for the communities, it will be going towards all sixteen cities. It is not a County project, it's for each of the cities. In 2016, transportation needs and issues started being discussed among the cities.

The key selling points are going to be: it is your community, the money is for your residents, the money stays within your community, to be used on your community's projects. That is what will hit home with people. Mr. Recktenwald has done a great job being out there. Staff has done a fantastic job getting things ready.

Mayor Apgar said trust is an issue. Everyone needs to know where the money is going and what it is going to be used for. It will benefit all the cities and areas in Volusia County where there are needs for improvement. There had been talk about possible state and federal matches. As elected officials, money can only be spent on educational purposes for the sales tax referendum.

HISTORY OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT IN COUNTY OF VOLUSIA

Clay Ervin, Director, Volusia County Growth and Resource Management, provided the *Growth in Volusia County* Power Point presentation. From 2010 to 2018, there was positive growth and good income in Volusia County. From 2003 to 2005, there was a high volume of new residential construction activity. By 2010, new construction activity had drastically dropped. An upward trend has slowly developed since then. The amount of permits is equal to the number of permits in 2007. There has been a slight rebound from the *Recession*.

Every city and county in the state of Florida, is required by *Florida Statute Chapter 163.3167(2)*, to create a comprehensive plan. A comprehensive plan consists of nine elements. Each comprehensive plan has to be coordinated and consistent. By planning, that is how the quality of life issues are addressed. Other agencies, such as the *River to Sea TPO*, the *East Central Florida Regional Planning Council*, and the *Florida Department of Transportation* documents have to be incorporated into each comprehensive plan. A sustainability community is the balance of environmental, social, and economic aspects.

In 1985, when the *Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act* was created, some residents felt the State of Florida was coming down as *Moses* with fear of the tablets. Some felt it was a complete communist manifesto coming down from the state. Others saw it as a way to protect natural resources. In reality, it gets back to balance, which was the point behind the requirements. In 1972, was when action starting taking place. In 2009, when the economy was in the tank, the Governor and the Legislature started softening some of the growth management laws. It was realized that something needed to be done to spur economic development. In 2011, there were very dramatic changes to growth management. The *Florida Community Planning Act* was created. Concurrency for schools, parks and transportation are no longer mandated. Most local governments still have concurrency. Development orders cannot be held up like they were in the late 1980's, early 1990's. Currently, developers have the right to write a check to cover the cost of their impacts, then go on their merry way. That is why we are having to work through various agreements and are trying to get developers to put in improvements that will improve the overall operations.

Capital improvement planning is not as strict as in the past. At one point, comprehensive plans had to be financial feasible. That is no longer a requirement. The amount of time to

take in future land use amendments has been dramatically reduced. State agencies are looking at state issues. Processing requirements and time frames have been reduced.

A brief history of planning in Volusia County shows that in:

- 1972 – Subdivision regulations were created
- 1980 – Unified Zoning Ordinances were created
- 1990 – Comprehensive Plan was adopted
- 2003-2004 – Smart Growth Summits established
- 2004-2005 – Smart Growth Implementation Committee established
- 2013-2016 – Smart Growth Policy Review Committee established

Many of the things currently being discussed were originally discussed in 1967. This has been a long time continuum in Volusia County.

The Smart Growth Committee Mission was to seek agreement among the county, cities, and stakeholders and to be able to identify what smart is. Fifteen *keystone* recommendations were created. They are:

- Protect the environmental core
- Maximize compatibility of development and natural resources in other natural areas
- Study of Map A areas
- Study of Map B areas
- Primary water and sewer service areas
- Secondary water and sewer service areas
- Extent of water and sewer services areas, single providers
- Joint visions and planning for *Areas of Influence* and potential annexation areas
- Clustering
- Early identification of needed school sites
- Relationship of implementation to Florida Growth Management Legislation 2005-290
- City-County collaboration on implementation (SB 360)
- Heightened environmental standards for Map A lands
- Requirement for primary and secondary sewer and water areas in Charter (SB 360)
- Decision-making board in Charter (SB 360)

Mr. Ervin briefly described and discussed each *keystone* recommendation. A brief discussion ensued between Mayor Apgar and Dale Arrington, City Manager, Orange City, regarding Map A and Map B, along with the backlogged state road system.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Abby Johnson, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), Intergovernmental Coordinator, thanked everyone for supporting *Water Conservation Month*. She thanked the County of Volusia, City of Holly Hill, and Town of Ponce Inlet, for their proclamations. She also thanked the cities that submitted *Cost Share* applications to SJRWMD.

Jim Cameron, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce, said a group of people were going to Tallahassee on Tuesday, April 9. There is vote coming up in Tallahassee, regarding *House Bill 5*, the *Discretionary Surtax*. The Senate Version 336, which has an amendment, is July 1, before the Senate Rules Committee.

Big John, Holly Hill, asked Mr. Recktenwald, if all Volusia County cities were participating in the County of Volusia's *Interactive Map*. Mr. Recktenwald responded saying, there are two or three cities that have not added information to the map yet, due to formatting issues.

CLOSING COMMENTS

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Russ Owen, Mayor, New Smyrna Beach, thanked Mr. Ervin for the *Growth in Volusia County* presentation. He hopes the momentum will continue regarding discussions of growth within Volusia County. It is something the public wants to talk about.

Mr. Kelley discussed the Power Point presentation Mr. Ervin provided and the growth in Volusia County. He also discussed possible changes/improvements to Fire Services, throughout the County.

Mayor Apgar said there needs to be discussions between the County Manager and City Managers, regarding various options regarding Fire Services. There will not be a *Roundtable of the Volusia County Elected Officials* meeting in May.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.