



Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials MEETING MINUTES February 11, 2019

CALL TO ORDER - Noon

The Dennis R. 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 Chair Ed Kelley; Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Nancy Miller; DeBary Mayor Karen Chasez; 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; Ponce Inlet Town 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 James Chisholm, Daytona Beach City Manager; Ron McLemore, DeBary City Manager; Phyllis Butlien, DeBary City Council, Seat 4; Michael Pleus, DeLand City Manager; Jane Shang, Deltona City Manager; Marc-Antonie Cooper, Deltona Assistant City Manager; Samantha Bergeron, Edgewater Economic Development and Parks/Recreation Director; Joe Forte, Holly Hill City Manager; Becky Witte, Lake Helen City Administrator; Pam Brangaccio, New Smyrna Beach City Manager; Dale Arrington, City Manager, Orange City; Joyce Shanahan, Ormond Beach City Manager; Jeaneen Witt, Ponce Inlet Town Manager; Alan Rosen, Assistant City Manager, Port Orange; Les Gillis, South Daytona City Manager; George Recktenwald, Interim 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; John Booker, Volusia County Government Affairs; John Angiulli, Volusia County Public Works Director; Kendra Hively, Volusia County Solid Waste, Fiscal Resource Manager; Kevin Captain, Volusia County Community Information, Activity Project Manager; Brian Rothwell, Volusia County; Dr. Kent Sharples, President and CEO, CEO Business Alliance; Abby Johnson, Intergovernmental Coordinator, St. Johns River Water Management District; General Ernie Audino, District Director, Congressman Michael Waltz's office; Jacqueline Kerr, Financial Controller, GEL Corporation; Laura Raftery, GEL Corporation; Emily Hamel, GEL Corporation; Frank Bruno, Disabled American Veterans, Van Campaign; Don Moore, Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 84, Daytona Beach; Jim Cameron, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce; Darla Zakaluzny, Volusia County Council Administrative Aide; 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. After standing for the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone in attendance introduced themselves. Mayor Apgar said Congressman Waltz advised him that constituent service is very important to the congressman.

REMARKS BY GENERAL ERNIE AUDINO, DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL WALTZ

General Audino said Congressman Waltz wanted to attend the Elected Officials Roundtable meeting. This would have been his first real opportunity to be able to see all elected officials in Volusia County, in one room. Congressman Waltz feels we all are public servants. He is proud of that mission, as well as the effort and mission in front of all the elected officials on behalf of the citizens of Volusia County. Congressman Waltz has lived a life of service to a purpose higher than himself, which he brings to Washington, D.C. The General was pleased when Congressman Waltz asked him to stay on as the District Director. Congressman Waltz is a member of the *House Armed Services Committee, Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee*; and the *Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee*.

Florida's Sixth Congressional District and Volusia County sit between two licensed commercial launch sites. One is at Cape Canaveral, south of Volusia County, and the other is at Cecil Field Naval Air Station, near Jacksonville. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) is located in the middle and is used as the *Space Florida Next Generation Test Bed*. There are many aerospace related/oriented companies in and around this area. Volusia County is in the middle of them. If the forecast for commercial space is accurate, the commercial space industry is going to ramp up to one, possible two launches per day. The *Shiloh Site* is in this district. It is a target for Congressman Waltz, which he strongly supports. He inspired an upcoming conference at ERAU in coordination with the National Space Foundation to be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. Many of the small businesses associated with the space industry and high tech have been invited. It should be a great event and the first of many.

As one of the *House Armed Services Committee* assignments, Congressman Waltz will be touring defense related companies within the district. Next, he will be visiting Sparton Electronics in DeLeon Springs.

Veterans' matters are very important to Congressman Waltz. He has been engaged with U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie in the last week on two matters. One is the Veterans Administration (VA) Outpatient Clinic in St. Johns County, which has been delayed. The other is much closer to home. It is the Daytona Beach VA facility. The new Daytona Beach facility is projected to be more than double the size of the current facility. The Congressman discussed with Secretary Wilkie the lack of movement on the project.

Congressman Waltz is looking into the septic-to-sewer matter. He is trying to learn more about it so he can see what federal assistance might be needed to help communities struggling with this issue. He is open to good ideas and asks people to contact him with suggestions.

General Audino briefly talked about beach re-nourishment. Congressman Waltz has been engaged with some New Smyrna Beach citizens who are experiencing serious beach erosion. Earlier in the month, they attended the *Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association Conference* in St. Augustine. The Congressman has been engaged in discussions at the federal level regarding the Army Corps of Engineers' role in this matter.

Congressman Waltz recognizes there are five universities within the District. He has visited most, if not all, of them already. He will continue to engage with the institutes of higher learning and tour as many high schools as he can. The Congressman is a product of a magnet school and is a strong proponent of school choice. He is a member of the *Science, Space and Technology Committee*, which has a direct relationship to the institutions of higher learning. Research grants pass through this committee.

Congressman Waltz recently hired a staff member who was on the professional staff of the *Transportation and Infrastructure Committee*. The Congressman will be going on a listening tour across the district regarding transportation and infrastructure issues.

The Congressman and the General have both been first responders. Florida is recognized as having the highest operating template of all domestic operators in the country. That is due largely to hurricanes and Coast Guard activities. Other states in the country could learn many lessons from Florida. It is important for oversight at the national level, so continued resources are available to Florida's first responders.

The *Joint Interagency Task Force South* is located in Florida. Congressman Waltz feels the task force needs to stay in the state. The Congressman authored a letter to the Department of Defense regarding keeping the agency in Florida. The *Space Force* proposed by President Trump needs to be located in Florida as well.

Before 1947, there was a separate Air Force. The Air Force traces its roots back to 1907, to the *Army Air Division*, which was part of the *Army Signal Corp* at the time. They started with 31 airplanes; now there is a separate Air Force that has obtained air superiority since April 1953. The Congressman is strongly behind *Space Force* being a separate force, located in Florida.

UPDATE ON VETERANS BUS CAMPAIGN

Frank Bruno provided an update on the *Veterans Van Campaign* and showed photographs of the new van. The original letter sent to the municipalities was for the purchase of two vans. So far, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) organization has been able to purchase one van. The letter was sent out on July 1, 2018. The first van was purchased and dedicated by the end of November 2018. The original vans had been purchased in 2006 and 2008. The organization is continuing to work on raising money for the second van.

Last year, the upcoming 2018 elections made it difficult to obtain donations. The DAV wants as much participation as possible, along with having all the municipalities involved. The goal is to have each city's logo on the back of the current van and the new van once it is purchased. They are very close to acquiring the second van and would like to receive all donations by the end of June 2019. Once the second van is purchased, there will be another dedication for both vans. Hopefully, all the municipalities will be in attendance at the next dedication, along with local veterans.

Don Moore, Chaplain, DAV, thanked everyone for their donations. He provided a breakdown of each municipality's donation. Between the Volusia County Council and the municipalities, \$15,767.10 was raised in 2018. In 2006, the County of Volusia, the municipalities, local businesses and individuals raised enough money to purchase two vans. Gary Yeomans Ford dealership and the Daytona Auto Mall provided the wrap for the vans.

THE STATE OF RECYCLING

Kendra Hively, Fiscal Resource Manager, Volusia County Solid Waste Division, provided a PowerPoint presentation. In 1988, the Solid Waste Management Act was the guiding legislation that helped develop and maintain recycling and educational programs. It was created to reduce waste by 30 percent.

Volusia County started its curbside recycling program in 1994. Although these educational recycling programs continued throughout the state, the goal only hovered at approximately 27 percent statewide. This led to House Bill 7135 being established in 2010 with a new statewide recycling goal of 75 percent by the year 2020. The legislation required large counties to have recycling programs. There are 36 large counties, including Volusia County,

in Florida. All 36 counties contribute to that goal. This led many governments to go to single-stream recycling because they wanted to increase volumes. Although it did increase volumes, it also increased contamination and processing costs, such as what is currently being seen.

Recycling challenges have grown nationally over the past few years. Available export markets have drastically decreased and contaminated bins have led to increased costs. Now jurisdictions are facing economic reality versus environmental benefits. They must rethink and re-educate their residents. This is done by having them go back to the basics. Cleaner material is needed. Residents need to be reminded to rinse items to remove all food debris. Also, when in doubt, throw it out. If an item can be recycled, it doesn't mean it should be recycled. For instance, pizza boxes are cardboard, but there is grease on the boxes that leaves contamination, so they should be thrown out. Lastly, reducing, reusing, repurposing and recycling saves landfill space.

Jacqueline Kerr, Financial Controller, GEL Corporation, said the company is a small family-owned business that has processed unincorporated Volusia County materials since the inception of the recycling program. They also process materials for some Volusia County municipalities. There are 115 employees who process the materials.

In 2017, China decided to ban mixed paper and mixed plastic from coming into their country. The ban was set in place due to environmental concerns. The ban has increased commodities in the United States and has dropped the price materials are able to be sold at. The ban has added more materials in America, which is now selling for less money. The change in China does not mean that materials are being thrown away, or there are warehouses filled with materials. What has changed is the price the materials can be sold for. There has been a drastic drop in prices. In 2017, paper was selling for \$100 a ton. For eight months in 2018, paper was trading at \$0. That meant the process had to be changed. The materials needed to be cleaner and there was a need to change the way things were done in order to get the materials processed. In December 2018, the price went up to \$5, which was a good thing. This is a positive sign; prices are slowly increasing.

Recycling is not free, and it has never been free. In the past, there was the ability to offset the costs by what the materials sold for. GEL Corporation shared with the municipalities so they would have a revenue stream and GEL could run its entire business on selling these materials. Now that materials are sold at a lesser amount, if the municipalities are still interested in doing this, they have to share in the processing costs to get the material processed. It doesn't mean GEL is charging municipalities to throw materials away; it just means prices are lower now. Currently, GEL has to be looked at as a service to the municipalities – just like trash pickup, fire services and police departments. Municipalities will have to decide if they want to recycle.

As a recap, what has changed is that China has enforced new rules regarding not accepting mixed material; because of that, operation costs have increased. The process of getting materials to where the markets need has changed. What has not changed is that people still want to recycle; they want to do the right thing. The State of Florida has a 75 percent recycling goal it is trying to obtain by 2020. The "Right Thing" needs to be educating people as to what is recyclable and what is not. One thing that has not changed is that recycling is a process. If the cycle is broken, then landfills will fill up more quickly. In 2018, GEL Corporation processed unincorporated Volusia County, Deltona, DeBary, DeLand and Port Orange. From those cities alone, 17,000 tons of materials were recycled. Florida is known for its beautiful beaches and environment. Filling the state up with landfills is not the way to go.

Recycling programs need to be reset. There is a need to look at what materials have a better environmental benefit and consider waste reduction. It is not if there is recycling or not, it is looking at what is being wasted by Americans. Plastic bags can shut down a recycling plant

for an entire day by getting stuck in the sorting equipment. It is important to educate residents on which materials are recyclable and which ones should not be put in recycling bins.

Recycling creates secondary feedstocks, makes environmental sense, and creates jobs. It is a large industry in America. Just because a material is put in a bin does not mean it is recyclable. The only material that is recyclable is something there is a market for. If a material is not a recyclable product, it has to be thrown away. Recycled materials from Volusia County were never sent to China. The materials were sold to local mills. China impacted prices, but that does not mean recycling is over.

Recycling education programs need to be simplified. Recycling often and recycling correctly need to be reinforced. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection advertises "*Back to the Basics*" and "*When in Doubt, Throw it Out.*"

The United States can no longer depend on China. China made its decision for its environment; we need to make good decisions for our environment. People need to be encouraged to use recycled content and review materials being placed in recycle bins. GEL Corporation is committed to recycling. China has not ended the market or industry. It helped open everyone's eyes to the fact the environment is something that can't be bought, it is something that is created.

A very lengthy discussion ensued among Ms. Kerr, many Roundtable members, city managers, council members and the public.

UPDATE ON HALF-CENT SALES TAX

Mr. Kelley said at the February 5, 2019, County Council meeting, all 16 municipalities presented a resolution requesting the Volusia County Council place the request for the half-cent sales tax on a ballot for May 21, 2019. The request was passed by the County Council.

George Recktenwald, Interim County Manager, Volusia County, said the OPPAGA (Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability) audit has started. The auditors arrived at the Volusia County TCK Administration Center this morning and will be here for the remainder of the week.

Mr. Kelley said there is criticism on social media. People are saying project lists have not been created, which is incorrect. Several years ago, the request for some form of a sales tax to offset issues the County and municipalities had been facing for many years was generated at the Elected Officials Roundtable. The revenue will go directly to each municipality. It will not go to the County of Volusia first, then get dispersed to the municipalities. There will be an oversight committee involved. The funds will only be used on what is allowed. The County would like to have all projects from the County and municipalities listed on the County website. Now the educational process needs to begin, showing citizens what the money will be used for.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jim Cameron, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce, reminded everyone about Volusia Days February 19 and 20 in Tallahassee. There will be separate meetings with the Florida Department of Emergency Management to discuss FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) reimbursements to the municipalities and counties. Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and Enterprise Florida representatives will also be present.

In partnership with the River to Sea TPO (Transportation Planning Organization), the Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce will be hosting *Transportation in the Local Economy* at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University on February 25. Rusty Roberts with Brightline-Virgin train service will discuss the future plans for Brightline-Virgin in Florida. Mr. Roberts needs to be made aware that a stop is wanted/needed in Volusia County. The next *Eggs and Issues* breakfast will be held on March 14.

Mr. Kelley said the County will be developing a PowerPoint presentation that will include everything, along with some visuals (maps, etc.). It is important for the County to receive information from the municipalities as quickly as possible. It will be very beneficial when doing presentations.

George Recktenwald said the County will be doing zone meetings throughout the county. They will consist of infrastructure and transportation issues/concerns. It would be great if cities could discuss their projects during the meetings in their areas.

Abby Johnson, Intergovernmental Coordinator, St. Johns River Water Management District, reminded everyone *Cost Share Funding* applications are due by Friday, February 15, 2019. The District is encouraging everyone to participate in the *Skip a Week* campaign during the cooler months. By watering lawns every other week in the cooler months, 1 billion gallons of water can be saved. April is *Water Conservation Month*, and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Linda Smiley, Daytona Beach, is curious about the *Citizen Oversight Committee* and when the committee members will be appointed. Mr. Kelley said if the referendum passes, committee members will be appointed after the election.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Apgar stated the next Elected Officials Roundtable meeting would be held in March.

MEMBER CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Kelley said if \$10,000 is spent on taxable items during the course of a year, \$50 of that will go toward the half-cent sales tax. The Volusia County School Board received \$42 million last year from the half-cent sales tax it adopted.

Mr. Recktenwald said he is looking forward to working with city staffs. This is a great opportunity and everyone should work hard to take advantage of it. Time is of the essence.

Chris Via, Mayor, Holly Hill, thanked all the speakers for their presentations. The *Veterans' Van Campaign* will be brought before the city commission for discussion. The city is in the process of completing and updating its priorities list. A public meeting has been scheduled pertaining to the proposed half-cent sales tax.

Daisy Raisler, Mayor, Lake Helen, said she is honored to be among the Roundtable members and city managers today. Getting to this point and being a part of the process where an issue can be discussed civilly and be brought it up for discussion is very important. She likes the *Home Rule* concept, in which local people have the opportunity to make local decisions. Also, she likes how the County and municipalities work together to bring a unified message, not just for the half-cent sales, but also about recycling. The School Board being a part of this by bringing the messages through the children to the parents is a very good concept.

Mike Thomas, Mayor, Edgewater, is proud to announce the city has hired an Interim City Manager. The City received a \$1.46 million check from the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the City Council approved \$4 million for a contract to ship the city's treated wastewater out west, not into the Indian River Lagoon.

Bill Hall, Mayor, South Daytona, said on January 14, 2019, the city started its septic-to-sewer project. When completed, approximately 100 homes will be converted at no cost to the homeowners through grants provided by the SJRWMD.

Ida Wright, Board Vice Chair, Volusia County School District, said recycling information can be placed on the School District Parent Portal. She asked Abby Johnson, Intergovernmental Coordinator, SJRWMD, to provide the School District with a *Skip a Week* campaign flier, which can also be placed on the Parent Portal.

Russ Owen, Mayor, New Smyrna Beach, congratulated Mr. Recktenwald and said he is looking forward to working with him in his new position. It is good news to hear what the City of Edgewater is doing with its treated wastewater. The City Commission will be discussing the *Veterans' Van Campaign* at its next meeting. He suggested discussing responsible development at a future Roundtable meeting.

Karen Chasez, Mayor, DeBary, said the city held a meeting regarding its project list. There is a consensus with the City Council that they have their cost estimates and are ready to go.

Ron McLemore, City Manager, DeBary, enjoyed working with everyone the past three years and is looking forward to his third retirement. It is unbelievable what everyone has gone through pertaining to the gas tax. The fact that everyone has come together on the sales tax is amazing.

Don Burnette, Mayor, Port Orange, appreciates the efforts of everyone present. It affects everyone, maybe not the same way, but everyone has something to gain. It is good to be working with everyone on this endeavor.

Mayor Apgar asked that requests for topics of discussion be forwarded to Betty Holness, County Council Liaison. He liked hearing about the success stories of what can happen when money is leveraged with SJRWMD. On behalf of the municipalities, thank you to the County Council for heeding the request to give residents of Volusia County the opportunity to vote on the sales tax referendum.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.