



Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials MEETING MINUTES March 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; Deltona Mayor Heidi Herzberg; Edgewater District 1 Council Member Christine Power; Holly Hill Mayor Chris Via; Lake Helen Mayor Daisy Raisler; New Smyrna Beach Vice Mayor Randy Hartman; Oak Hill Mayor Douglas Gibson; Orange City Mayor Gary Blair; 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 James Chisholm, Daytona Beach City Manager; Michael Booker, Daytona Beach Shores 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; Kahlid Resheidat, New Smyrna Beach Assistant City Manager; Kohn Evans, Oak Hill City Administrator; Dale Arrington, City Manager, Orange City; Joyce Shanahan, Ormond Beach City Manager; Jeaneen Witt, Ponce Inlet Town Manager; Jake Johansson, Port Orange City Manager; 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; Larry Bartlett, Volusia County Property Appraiser; Carmen Rosamonda, DeBary Incoming City Manager; Phyllis Butlien, DeBary City Council, Seat 4; Samantha Bergeron, Economic Development Director, City of Edgewater; Joe Yarbrough, City of South Daytona and Chair of Volusia Managers Association; John Booker, Volusia County Government Affairs; John Angiulli, Volusia County Public Works Director; Arden Fontaine, Public Works Operations Manager; Joanne Magley, Volusia County Community Information Director; Pat Kuehn, Volusia County Marketing Specialist; Brian Rothwell, Volusia County Activity Project Manager; Dr. Kent Sharples, President and CEO, CEO Business Alliance; Keith Norden, President and CEO, Team Volusia Economic Development Corporation; Abby Johnson, Intergovernmental Coordinator, St. Johns River Water Management District; Steve Vancore, VancoreJones Communications; Cyndi Ritchey, Volusia Citizens for Better Roads and Clean Water Committee; Jim Cameron, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce; Betty Holness, County Council Liaison; Jeff Crumbley 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. After standing for the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Lisa Lewis, Supervisor of Elections, requested an *Election Ballot Collection Box* be set up in each City Hall. This would provide voters the opportunity to drop off their ballots instead of mailing them. Each day the ballots would be picked up by Elections Department staff. The collection boxes would be sealed. Elections Department staff would be the only people who could access them. A ballot box would be set up at each City Hall during business hours. The boxes need to be inside the building, preferably under a security camera where someone can physically see them.

UPDATE ON CITY MANAGERS' EFFORTS

Joe Yarbrough, City of South Daytona and Chair of Volusia Managers Association, said the managers met in February, and members are regularly in contact by phone. In March, there will be fourteen meetings. Some have already taken place, and some are going to take place later in the month. The City Managers and Mayors have worked with the Volusia Managers Association helping to schedule the *Town Hall* meetings with the Daytona Beach News-Journal. The Chambers of Commerce have helped with preparing for the *Town Hall* meetings. The *Town Hall* meetings will be a collaboration between the Daytona Beach News-Journal and the area Chambers of Commerce.

Each city has been asked to have a representative at the meeting who can explain the city's projects and the issues. Six *Town Hall* meetings will be held throughout the county, and each city has been notified which meeting to attend. Since the beginning of March, the County of Volusia has held *Zone* meetings throughout the county, with the last one being held tonight.

Various Rotary Clubs within the county have been seeking speakers. If asked, please use local identifiable elected officials who will be able to respond to questions regarding project specifics. A guest speaker from outside Volusia County may not be able to address and answer the questions. There are other civic clubs also asking for speakers.

Mr. Yarbrough will be attending all six *Town Hall* meetings. Last Friday, he learned from Cyndi Ritchey that 61 of the 67 counties in Florida have a sales tax of 7% or higher. The State of Florida sales tax is 6%. This money is sent to Tallahassee, which in turn sends the money across the state on a population basis. Volusia County is a donor county because the sales tax distribution is based on *per capita*. The money goes to the cities with the highest populations, such as Orlando, Tampa and Miami. Each county is allowed up to 2.5% local surtax. Not many people know that 2.5% can be collected locally and returned to Volusia County without being sent to other parts of the state. The Volusia County School Board took a half-percent sales tax several years ago for capital improvements on its structures. Much of that money is going toward school security. This why we are looking at the half-cent. Volusia County is one of the six counties in the Florida with a sales tax under 7%. The managers will start having weekly conference calls, which is very important. As new questions come up, they will share answers that will help them be consistent in their educational responses.

STATUS REPORT AND UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CALENDAR AND SPEAKERS BUREAU

Cyndi Ritchey, Volusia Citizens for Better Roads and Clean Water, thanked everyone for their cooperation. Contact Ms. Ritchey if help is needed to set up dates, events and/or find speakers. She is looking for people who have been affected by flooding, bad water, and/or traffic congestion to discuss their issues at various meetings and/or events. The city managers

have her contact information. Please send names of people who will be available to speak to the public on behalf of the community to Ms. Ritchey.

Dr. Kent Sharples, President and CEO, CEO Business Alliance, said a calendar was created listing all currently scheduled events. There are approximately six weeks left until the ballots are mailed out on May 1. The ballots need to be returned by May 21, when they will be counted. This leaves very little time to provide educational programs to the public, so we will need to do this quickly.

Cyndi Ritchey keeps the master calendar. If a municipality would like to schedule more events and needs a speaker, contact Ms. Ritchey. More speakers are needed. Anyone who has an interest in representing their community or the county as a whole should contact her. Things are starting to move and people are getting impatient. This is a single-issue ballot, which people need to be educated on.

Ed Kelley, Roundtable Vice Chair and Volusia County Chair, asked if printed materials were available for educational purposes. Dr. Sharples responded saying there were some PowerPoint presentations available. Also there is the document Steve Vancore sent; it will be available in a few days.

Mayor Apgar said Mr. Vancore made a presentation at the last managers meeting. He will provide an abridged version for the Elected Officials Roundtable today. After the presentation, each city will discuss what they are doing and have an opportunity to ask Mr. Vancore questions.

On behalf of everyone assembled, Mayor Apgar congratulated George Recktenwald on officially becoming County Manager.

PRESENTATION BY STEVE VANCORE ON HALF-CENT SALES TAX

Steve Vancore, Clearview Research, discussed the 2018 General Election ballot and why Amendment One failed to pass. In the 2016 General Election, Clearview Research was involved in eight different ballot items. Of those eight, only one was lost, which was St. Lucie County. After that election, Clearview Research was contacted by St. Lucie County and hired again. The following year, there was an increase of eight percentage points because there was more public speaking and the cities getting on board.

Mr. Vancore stated that there is a misconception that the public is generally opposed to taxes. He felt the public is opposed to taxes that they do not know where the money is going. If residents of Volusia County want better roads and cleaner water, this is the exact type of tax that is needed. When promoting the half-cent sales tax, use a very simple, four-part message. It is better roads, cleaner water, every dollar stays in Volusia County, and tourists pay their fair share. It is estimated between 30-50% will be paid for by tourists visiting Volusia County. Lead with the positive. This is not something to be defensive about. This will provide good things for the County.

There is an urgency about this matter. The Florida Legislature is engaged in passing a bill that will do four things:

1. Require these types of taxes pass by a supermajority of the commission voting on them.
2. Currently, the OPPAGA (Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability) report has to be online 60 days before a referendum.
3. If the bill passes, Legislation says the OPPAGA report will need to be online six months before a referendum. If it isn't, the referendum is considered *null and void*.

4. To amend the constitution, it will require 60% to add a local option sales tax. It needs to be done now and needs to be done correctly. The four messages need to be told to the public.

There are also four layers of protection. The layers will make sure the money is spent exactly the way it is supposed to be spent. The layers are:

1. It is protected in state law.
2. A local ordinance is being passed explaining how the money will be spent.
3. It will be reviewed by a Citizens advisory Committee.
4. Most importantly, elected officials are held accountable.

Mayor Apgar suggested the city managers share with their elected officials the PowerPoint presentations that were shown at the Managers Meeting. The information will be very useful when being asked questions. This will provide all cities with the same basic information. As it has been said before, all cities need to convey the same message to the public.

DISCUSSION ON COUNTY'S EFFORTS

George Recktenwald, County Manager, Volusia County, said the OPPAGA review was wrapping up. It should be done and delivered to us on March 15. County staff did hours and hours of work, involving late nights and weekends. An audit was performed that normally takes a couple of months, but it was compressed into a couple of weeks. It was a very thorough audit. The auditing staff commented that the audit was very well done. We expect everything to come out very well.

The cities requested an interactive map be placed on the County website. Staff is currently working on creating one. It could be rolled out as soon as Tuesday, March 12. A few cities have not submitted their lists to the County yet. The County will use the draft lists that are currently displayed in the Dennis McGee Room foyer. The County has been to three of the four zones, collecting data from the community. The last one is tonight in New Smyrna Beach. From the comments received, adjustments or proposed adjustments will be made. Then it will be presented to the Council at the County Council meeting, Tuesday, March 19. So far, there has not been much to change. There have been many questions on the general issues of who is going to be paying for it. We are ready; as soon as the report is received, it can be uploaded online a couple of days ahead of the deadline, which is March 21.

Mr. Kelley discussed the meetings held with large groups, at which attendees' questions were answered and positive feedback was received. Mr. Vancore's four steps will be very beneficial when discussing the proposed sales tax. All sixteen cities adopted an ordinance asking the County Council to send this to the residents to vote on. The money will be used according to the *Citizens Review Oversight Committee* recommendations. Currently, there is no other alternative to come up with revenue, which will be bonded to help pay for the immediate needs of road and water quality improvements.

STATUS REPORT BY CITIES

Mayor Apgar provided the following schedule of educational meetings that the **City of DeLand** will be hosting along with additional information:

- Monday, March 11 - First Citizens Information/Education Meeting.
- Wednesday, March 13 - Meeting with largest DeLand area HOA.
- Thursday, March 14- Speaking with the largest DeLand Rotary Club.
- Working on scheduling meetings with other two DeLand area Rotary Clubs.
- Tuesday, March 19 – Daytona Beach News-Journal/DeLand Chamber of Commerce Town Hall Meeting at Sanborn Center, 815 S. Alabama Ave., DeLand.

- Wednesday, March 20 – Meeting at Chisholm Community Center, 520 S. Clara Ave., DeLand.
- City staff went through Facebook traffic trying to identify questions that were appearing on Facebook.
- When talking to people, try to frame responses giving them reasons to vote for the proposed sales tax, not against it.

Michael Pleus, DeLand City Manager, discussed questions and statements that were posted on Facebook. Mr. Vancore provided suggestions on how everyone should respond to them:

- *On Daytona Beach News-Journal Facebook there were questions about the proposed half-cent sales tax going to SunRail and VOTRAN.* Mr. Pleus said the sales tax money will not be used for either one.
- *Why does development continue to be approved, knowing that roads and infrastructure are overburdened?* Mr. Vancore said this brings up the issue of impact fees, which many jurisdictions are increasing. Impact fees are used to pay for new development and growth. The sales tax money will be used for existing road and existing water problems/issues. By letting tourists and visitors pay a fair share, it is a great way to get improvements for our roads and our water quality. Unlike many other taxes, this sales tax does not leave Volusia County. All the money will stay here.
- *Why can't budgets be reprioritized for the share that would be gotten from the sales tax?* Mr. Vancore said each jurisdiction's budgets will not cover the road and water improvements that are needed. New ways are needed to be found to fund those issues. All sixteen cities and the County Council feel this is the best way to improve those issues. The revenue from gas taxes is not enough to pay for better roads and cleaner water. Every project will be earmarked, the County will have the information on its website so people can see the projects. The money will be shared equally among the county and cities. The *Citizens Advisory Committee* will be designed to make sure the money will be spent fairly. It is an important component of this sales tax. Unlike other taxes, this tax is protected by four layers: state law, local ordinance, elected officials, and the *Citizens Advisory Committee*.
- *Small businesses will be hurt by this tax.* Local and small businesses support this tax. They want better roads and cleaner water. People are not going to come to Volusia County if the roads are dilapidated and the water is dirty.

Dr. Sharples said since this is a local option sales tax, it only applies to the first \$5,000 spent.

Don Burnette, Mayor, **Port Orange**, said local businesses are supporting this tax and are the driving forces behind it. As elected officials, the only thing we can control is our own *ad valorem* taxes. The City of Port Orange does not have a *Plan B*. The only thing the city could do to raise money for improvements would be to increase the *ad valorem* taxes, which they do not want to do. Many small businesses realize if property taxes are raised, they will be paying the lion's share along with much higher property taxes.

When speaking to the public, the City of Port Orange will be focusing on the City's needs and projects, not the needs of other cities. There will not be discussion about larger issues from a County standpoint. The conversations will be kept as local as possible. The focus needs to be on how the sales tax will benefit each city individually. There will be some projects that will be in conjunction with the County or with other municipalities.

Mayor Burnette has been invited to participate the *Daytona Beach News-Journal Town Hall Meeting*. For the most part, the City has been as up front as possible with the public. The bottom line is the voters get to decide this, not the county or the cities.

Mr. Vancore said you have to sell the public on the referendum. You cannot threaten them with the possibility of higher property taxes. It has to be explained to the voters that if they want better roads and cleaner water, it is a yes vote. When talking to constituents about the sales tax, you should articulate what the benefits of it will be and why you support it.

Heidi Herzberg, Mayor, **City of Deltona**, said the City of Deltona will be participating in the *Daytona Beach News-Journal/West Volusia Regional Chamber of Commerce Town Hall Meeting* on Thursday, March 21, 2019. This past week, the city participated in the Volusia County Public Information Meeting that was held on Thursday, March 7, in the Deltona City Commission Chambers. The city needs to have at least two to three more town hall type meetings in the city, along with doing outreach for the communities such as Homeowner Associations (HOAs). Deltona cannot raise the *ad valorem taxes* anymore to cover any of the necessary projects. The city proposed projects total \$7.8 million. With the property values being what they are, there is no way to even say that is an option. Deltona is 85% residential.

Jane Shang, City Manager, **City of Deltona**, said there are 34,000 residents in Deltona. She wanted to know if it is okay to put a flier in the monthly water bill. The flier would provide information and education about the proposed sales tax. Mr. Vancore responded saying as long as the flier is educating the public and does not ask people to vote yes or no, it will be fine. Residents should be encouraged to vote. The higher the turnout, the more likely the referendum will pass. Encouraging people to vote is a good thing. Explaining to them exactly what the benefit of the sales tax will be is good, and saying it in positive ways is also good.

Ms. Shang said the City has messaging information on its website. They have not started using social media yet; that will probably be the next level. Mr. Vancore said to make sure you are saying the right things on social media. It should be content driven, not medium driven.

Mayor Apgar reminded everyone to be careful when using social media. The people against the sales tax will post and repost, then suddenly a waterfall of negativity will be created.

Douglas Gibson, Mayor, **Oak Hill**, will be participating in the *Daytona Beach News-Journal/Southeast Volusia Chamber of Commerce Town Hall Meeting* on Wednesday, March 20, at the Brannon Center, 105 S. Riverside Drive, New Smyrna Beach. He has been asked by several Oak Hill citizens why this half-cent sales tax is needed when there is already a road tax. Mr. Vancore said we do have a road tax, which is a gas tax. Gas taxes have gone down while the need to repair roads has gone up. The cost of repairing roads has increased while the amount of money received from the gas tax has decreased. The reason less money is received is because vehicles are more fuel efficient. As a result, there are fewer dollars to spend. The nice thing about the half-cent sales tax is that it will be paid for by out-of-town visitors. Every dollar spent will go toward improving roads and cleaning water. The money does not leave Volusia County; it stays here.

Mayor Gibson said the City of Oak Hill sent a letter to all residents explaining the need for the half-cent sales tax, where it will go, how it will be distributed, and how it is going to be used in the City of Oak Hill. The City is also going to host a *Town Hall* meeting; hopefully, many of the citizens will attend. Mr. Vancore said the more you can visualize, the better.

James Chisholm, City Manager, **Daytona Beach**, said the City has compiled its project list, which totals approximately \$88 million worth of improvements, including road drainage and related improvements. Another \$50 to \$75 million is going to be needed for drainage improvements specifically. The specifics have not been compiled for that yet. The program should be completed this week. The City of Daytona Beach will be participating in the *Daytona Beach News-Journal/Daytona Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce Town Hall Meeting* on

Wednesday, March 27. Meetings are currently being scheduled with individual neighborhood groups.

Christine Power, District 1 Council Member, **Edgewater**, asked the following questions:

- *What is the appointment process to the Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee?* She suggested creating guidelines for the process. Mr. Vancore said the committee members will be independent, private individual citizens.
- *When will the money disbursed?* Mike Pleus said the money will be disbursed monthly.
- *What is the expected of return of votes?* Mr. Vancore said there are two parts to the process. Most (90%) of the ballots will be returned in the first seven to 10 days. Usually, there is a two-week gap after that. It is not known what the actual turnout will be. On behalf of PACT, everything is going to be done to push it upward. Generally, it is a 30 to 40% turnout.
- *Is there a possibility of reaching out to databases of people who actually vote, and is there any thought of reaching out to those people?* Mr. Vancore said the County and cities should be talking to registered voters. Clearview Research is targeting two areas: 1) people who have a history of voting, and 2) people who were surveyed and said they would highly likely to vote "yes."
- *What is the best way to discuss the proposed half-cent sales tax with the public?* Ms. Power said personal one-on-ones work the best for her. She has seen negative comments on Facebook from intelligent people. Mr. Vancore suggested talking to HOAs and putting flyers in utility bills and other available vehicles of communications. Facebook is a medium you can get into, but it allows the naysayers to have a larger voice than they otherwise would have.

Mayor Apgar said no one has super high expectations of high turnouts at the *Town Hall* meetings. What is important is the County and municipalities are demonstrating transparency and openness. Hopefully, people who attended will tell other people about the good information they received at the meetings, maybe local newspapers have articles about the meetings, and the appearance will be that jurisdictions are doing everything they can to inform the public. The mailers from the PACT are another critical piece to close the deal.

Gary Blair, Mayor, **Orange City**, said his City's list of improvements has been approved. Social media will be used, directing people to the City's website, which has complete information. The City will participate in the Chamber of Commerce Forums and speak with individual citizens. Speaking engagements have been scheduled with neighborhood groups and HOAs, and informational materials have been handed out.

Karen Chasez, Mayor, **DeBary**, said City Manager Ron McLemore will be representing the City of DeBary at the *Daytona Beach News-Journal/West Volusia Regional Chamber of Commerce Town Hall* forum in Deltona. After the beginning of April, Ms. Chasez and Mr. Rosamonda will be discussing outreach to specific HOAs. There will be an informational only article in the City's Spring Newsletter. The City's project list was finalized the end of January. The City will not be doing much on social media due to the negative comments. One thing being said on social media is that this is not a half-cent sales tax, it is a half-percent increase. Mayor Chasez briefly discussed project priorities.

Carmen Rosamonda, Incoming City Manager, **DeBary**, worked for the Florida Department of Revenue for thirty-five years. Do not expect individuals to understand the sales tax. The Florida Department of Revenue's focus is on businesses. Businesses collect sales tax from consumers, then turn it over to the state on a monthly or quarterly basis. The department only deals with individuals on specific issues. Individuals do not understand the sales tax is

only charged on the first \$5,000 on large purchases. The sales tax is meant to make an even playing field among all businesses. Small businesses will have to pay on things they purchase, such as equipment, supplies, etc. Some residents are wanting guarantees that projects listed will get done. Mr. Vancore said we should emphasize to the public that the money from this sales tax is guaranteed to go only to the projects listed.

Joyce Shanahan, City Manager, **Ormond Beach**, said the City has a live website that identifies the projects and will be renamed *Better Roads, Cleaner Water*. Ormond Beach residents have a chance to vote on projects that are important to them. The City will hold a public meeting on March 14. On March 21, information will be provided to the City Commission. Mr. Vancore liked the idea of asking the residents which projects were important to them.

Randy Hartman, Vice Mayor, **New Smyrna Beach**, said the City held a local meeting on February 7 with City Planners on ideas. The City will be participating in the *Public Information Meeting* tonight at the Brannon Center, New Smyrna Beach. At the regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, March 12, there will be a slide show presentation. The current project list is on the active, live website. The City has a transportation workshop scheduled for March 19, where transportation issues will be discussed with local residents. There will be a *Local Zone Meeting* held in April, with one of the City Commissioners.

Bill Hall, Mayor, **South Daytona**, said the City will send out a newsletter. The priorities list is complete, and meetings have been scheduled. The City is doing much of what everyone else is doing.

Chris Via, Mayor, **Holly Hill**, said there was a community discussion on March 7 with their Neighborhood Watch program on infrastructure plans. There will be a meeting in April with the Chamber of Commerce.

Nancy Miller, Mayor, **Daytona Beach Shores**, will be making a presentation at the *Monthly Coffee with the Mayor*. Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council Member, District 2, will do a co-meeting this month. City Manager Booker and his group created a great presentation that is online. Copies of the presentation will be provided to the public.

Daisy Raisler, Mayor, **Lake Helen**, said like many other cities, increasing *ad valorem taxes* is not an option. When people have objections, it provides an opportunity to clarify concerns. The City provided its list of projects to the County, added its projects list to the PowerPoint presentation and has the list on the City website. At this week's City Commission meeting, there will be a discussion regarding scheduling town hall meetings, HOA meetings, and meetings with other local groups. Becky Witte, City Administrator, Lake Helen, likes the idea of having an *Election Ballot Collection Box* in City Hall for the residents to drop off ballots. She feels many residents will like being able to take their ballots to a central location to drop off. Handouts and flyers will be going out in the water bills.

Lois Paritsky, City Council Member, **Ponce Inlet**, said the City prepared the template they were encouraged to use, which will be shown at the March 21, *Town Hall* meeting. The election process will be explained. Present projects include the reconstruction of a portion of the City's sidewalks and drainage improvement, with estimated costs of \$2 million. The implementation study for sidewalks, bicycles and pedestrians is estimated at \$1.75 million. Dr. Kent Sharples and Ms. Cyndi Ritchey have been invited to the City's meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mary Anne Connors, League of Women Voters, said the League will be sponsoring two Public Information Meetings in April. The *Making Sense–Infrastructure Funding and the Sales Tax* meetings will be on April 16 at the DeLand Regional Library, and on April 27 at the Holiday Inn LPGA in Daytona Beach. The focus of the meetings will be specifically on how infrastructure is funded. After attending a number of forums, League members discovered the public does not understand how infrastructure is funded. It is thought this would be a good educational component. The League of Women Voters has not yet taken an advocacy position. They will be in a position in the month of April. The League may ask city and/or county representatives to speak at the upcoming meetings to voice how this affects the various communities.

Keith Chester, DeLand, said everyone needs to understand where the cities and the County are at today. It is the reason why many people are against the proposed sales tax. The idea of SunRail came along, and it was sold to everyone. It was going to be the best new thing for Volusia County. It was going to improve economic development. There was going to be great ridership. The County still does not know how much SunRail will cost the taxpayers, now or in the future.

The ECHO grant program is another concern. There has not been a political will to take action when ECHO grant recipients have not fulfilled their requirements. So why should the people think there is going to be a political will if the cities or the County do not do the projects they identified to be completed with the half-cent sales tax, especially when more money is wanted from the taxpayers for issues that have not been fixed from the first problems that created? There has been no plan for mitigation. In ten years, it is possible the County and cities will be asking for more money. Without a mitigation plan in place, this is not going to work.

Phyllis Butlien, DeBary City Council, Seat 4, feels elderly and disabled persons need more education about the mail-in ballots. The fact the completed ballots can be dropped off at a City Hall building or mailed in is a key point in getting their completed ballots returned.

Heather Post, Volusia County Council Member, District 4, discussed open transparency and the citizen involved process. Ms. Post questioned the dollar amount expected to be received from the proposed half-cent sales tax. Mr. Kelley responded saying the tax could bring in \$42 million per year. Mr. Vancore said it is the obligation to itemize these projects showing what they are going to cost. In County Council District 4, a bridge is needed. It will cost \$35 million, which would consume three years of the sales tax.

The *Citizen Review Committee* also adds to the distrust, which is something that really needs to be discussed. Ms. Post is very interested in speaking with people on new development and having discussions on responsible development. The public is confused about Impact Fees. There is a complete disconnect, and people are not getting the message. People are not talking about Impact Fees. They are talking about responsible development; they are not talking about what could take care of monies that are coming from the sales tax. Those are completely different issues. If government is trying to get the message out, they need to use every medium possible. Social media is the medium that people use now. We need to be working on getting messages out to the public, whatever it may be, using any medium possible. If local governments work together as a team collectively, the full message will get out jurisdictionally. Everyone would fare better in the long run.

Mr. Kelley said one of the reasons the ad valorem tax will not work is that it cannot be bonded without a bond issue to the public. The sales tax can be bonded to take care of the issues that are there. Something else that can be done is to leverage money by having money to put ourselves ahead of the game. When there is money from the federal government, from the

state government, from water projects, and from bridges, it helps move us up by having funds to leverage. Partnerships may need to be created with individuals, maybe cities, to make things happen. That is why the half-cent sales tax can make an immediate difference, which *ad valorem taxes* and impact fees cannot make immediately.

After looking at and analyzing the projects on the County website, 90% of the projects listed would not have been completed or fixed by impact fees. These fees cannot fix the clean water projects or all the intersections that need to be changed. Impact fees are designed for impacts made within a general geographic area. Over a billion dollars of revenue will be raised during the twenty-year period. The costs of road construction are going up. A billion dollars' worth of projects cannot be completed overnight. There will be money coming from the Federal Government for infrastructure. If local governments are there to request money, saying they have money to go with it, maybe these projects can be moved to the top of the list.

Mayor Apgar said the Water Management District made it clear when working on water quality projects in the past. When multiple jurisdictions work together to solve problems, those projects will get a higher priority and possibly a higher dollar match. It has been discussed many times about the ability to leverage in multiple ways, such as grants, working with your neighbors, or federal matches. All of that is unavailable if there is no revenue to share at the local level.

Mr. Kelley discussed the Tomoka Bridge and the LPGA/I-95 interchange. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) said if Volusia County and Daytona Beach come forward saying they would like to have the bridge done and there is money that can be contributed, FDOT may say "Yes, we will do that."

NEXT MEETING – APRIL 8, 2019

The next Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials will be held on Monday, April 8, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.