

# MINUTES OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD

REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 23, 2006

MPO/VCOG/WAV CONFERENCE ROOM  
2570 W. INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BLVD., SUITE 120  
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Greg Northrup  
Mayor George Coleman  
Mayor Robert F. Apgar  
Mayor Dennis Mulder  
Mayor Mike Thomas  
Mayor Roland Via  
Commissioner Lewis Long  
Mayor James Vandergriff  
Mayor Albert Erwin  
Mayor Fredrick Costello  
Mayor James Sowell  
Councilman Anthony Goudie  
Council-member Joie Alexander  
Judy Andersen

## REPRESENTING

Daytona Beach Shores  
DeBary  
DeLand  
Deltona  
Edgewater  
Holly Hill  
Mayor Shuttleworth, Lake Helen  
New Smyrna Beach  
Orange City  
Ormond Beach  
Pierson  
Mayor Epps, Ponce Inlet  
Council-mbr. Giles, Volusia County  
Volusia County School Board

Members Absent: Commissioner Cassandra Reynolds, Daytona Beach; Mayor Michael Thompson, Oak Hill; Mayor Allen Green, Port Orange; Mayor Blaine O'Neal, South Daytona

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Mellon, Emergency Medical Foundation/EVAC

## OTHERS PRESENT

Patrick Kelly, Fire Chief  
Matt Greeson  
Janet Miller  
Mike Knievel  
Jim Ryan  
Greg France  
Jim Cameron

## REPRESENTING

Vo. Co. Fire Chiefs Assoc./City of DeLand  
Volusia County  
ACT Corp.  
Volusia County Community Services  
Volusia County Emergency Mgmt. Div.  
Builders Care Program  
Daytona Beach/Halifax Area Chamber

## VCOG STAFF PRESENT

Mary Swiderski, VCOG Executive Director  
Herbert M. Seely, Chief Financial Officer  
Mary Curran, Recording Secretary

## **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

At 5:00 Chairman Northrup called the October 23, 2006, regular VCOG Governing Board meeting to order.

The Roll was called and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Northrup led the Pledge to the Flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/PARTICIPATION**

No comments were expressed.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS/RECOGNITION**

The Chair made no additional comments nor were any recognitions presented.

**VCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING**

Mary Swiderski referenced a couple attachments distributed with her report to members:

- The Volusia County MPO Summary Report on the 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan;
- VCOG and VLC calendar for 2007.

Mary Swiderski also mentioned:

- The VCOG Executive Director's Performance Evaluation summary sheet attached to the Agenda item of "Approval on Renewal of Annual Contract with Mary Swiderski." She wanted members to see the overall evaluation outcome.
- What members' preference is regarding refreshments for future meetings because staff wanted to get things members will like; she made a note of their responses.
- The memorial service held (10/23/06) for long-time DeLand Parks & Recreation Director, Tom Sperling.

## CONSENT AGENDA

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 25, 2006**

Minutes of the September 26, 2006, regular meeting of the VCOG Board had been mailed with Board members' agenda packets.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT - MONTH ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2006**

The Treasurer's report for the month ending September 30, 2006, had been mailed with Board members' agenda packets. *Note: Revenues and Expenditures were within the VCOG budget for the month.*

**APPROVAL ON RENEWAL OF ANNUAL CONTRACT (OCTOBER 2006 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2007) WITH MARY SWIDERSKI**

A copy of Mary Swiderski's Annual Contract had been mailed with Board members' agenda packets.

**MOTION** by Mayor Costello and **SECOND** by Ms. Andersen for approval of all Consent Agenda items, as presented; motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

## Old Business

**REVIEW/MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE CHARTER REVIEW PROCESS - MAYOR APGAR**

Chairman Northrup reported on a recent debate of Charter Amendments he had with County Chair Bruno at Ponce Inlet; he recalled telling attendees, "When these fail VCOG will take a lead role in making sure that these same things are brought back up again but with some teeth that includes the cities in them from the school right on down the line." Chairman Northrup stressed that VCOG members will need to get together and formulate some action because Volusia residents do want protection of the environment, etc. Mayor

Costello commented that whether or not they pass, the VCOG Board ought to champion reciprocity and follow through on the Smart Growth Implementation Committee's recommendations. Ms. Andersen added, "It needs to be more fair and equitable." Mary Swiderski mentioned that one of the things included in her Director's Report packet is a document entitled, "This Is Smart Growth."

Mayor Apgar reflected that based on a number of comments he had heard about the charter review process, he wondered how they could make the process better (more constructive). He recalled a concern expressed by Mayor Via that recommendations had gone from the Charter Review Commission (CRC) onto the ballot. He offered three ideas:

- For the next charter review, maybe have an 18 month process (ie 12 months for the Charter Review Commission/Subcommittees to draft recommendations and a 6 month period so tentative recommendations can be tested and discussed and issues settled);
- Have better representation of current or recent city elected officials to provide cities' perspective;
- Ability to engage independent consultants to assist with planning/other questions and counsel for legal advice on wording (i.e. provision of a budget so Charter Review Committee could hire these people).

**RECOMMENDATION** made by Mayor Apgar that VCOG send a letter to County Council incorporating his three ideas and any ideas of other VCOG Board members for improving the CRC process.

County Council-member Alexander conveyed County Council members are willing to listen to the thoughts of others; however, in the current County Charter, she recalled it stipulates a 1 year timeline (12 months) for a Charter review process. Mayor Apgar repeated the concept is there needs to be a little time between finalization of the recommendations and recommendations going onto the ballot, so things can be discussed. Mayor Costello offered, as an add-on to the 12 month timeline, that the Charter Review Commission have 9 months for review/recommendation and following a 3-month period during which all stakeholders would have opportunity for discussion/support/opposition, etc. then the CRC would come back together to finalize recommendations with whatever input they get. Mayor Via emphasized there will be a lesson learned for the County and that is, to get any Charter amendment properly passed in this County that they need the power of the cities and must make cities a part of the process. Mayor Via complimented current County Council and School Board members; he also conveyed a hope that the Volusia League of Cities will also come back to the table to put together an action plan with the reciprocity. Mayor Apgar asked if anybody else had thoughts or ideas of how the process could be improved.

Mayor Costello offered a **SECOND** - essentially asking the Board to consider Mayor Apgar's recommendation as a **MOTION** - and he recapped that VCOG pass a resolution letter, incorporating the three ideas that Mayor Apgar had presented; on a voice vote, the motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

New Business

**ACT CORPORATION - JANET MILLER**

Mr. Greeson, Deputy County Manager, introduced Janet Miller, Interim President and CEO of Act Corp., and Mike Knievel, Acting Director of Volusia County Community Services Division. Mr. Greeson provided the two-fold purpose of this presentation: (1) to educate community leaders of the crisis that mental health services are facing; and (2) to provide Act a venue to request assistance from municipalities. Act has appealed to Volusia County and the State of Florida for funding to offset a shortfall of approximately \$400,000 and also for up-front money to deal with its cash flow problems.

Ms. Miller provided a general perspective of the services Act Corp. provides (an Access Center-Suicide Prevention line; Crisis Unit called "Pinegrove"; managing the Florida Hospital in DeLand Psych unit; out-patient clinics in Volusia and Flagler counties; indigent drug program; Crisis Intervention training to all law enforcement officers; out-reach services to all communities; and Drug Court services). As a result of the Medicaid reform, Act had to close or cut-back on its services delivery of its clinics/case management. Ms. Miller was seeking acknowledgement from elected officials that Act Corp. has a funding crisis; she reported that Volusia County has offered to provide \$200,000 funding assistance on a match basis contingent on the 16 municipalities' allocations of \$12,500 each (e.g. Orange City and DeLand have committed to proportionate funding). Members' discussions ensued on how funds will be expended; length of time funding covers; what can VCOG Board do to influence State legislators to increase funding for Act Corp.

**RECOMMENDATION** made by Mayor Via that the Act Corp. funding issue be undertaken also by the Volusia League.

Mayor Apgar and Mayor Erwin both gave clarification re Ms. Miller's statement regarding their respective cities and that a final commitment of funding has not yet been voted on.

**RECOMMENDATION** made by Mayor Costello that information ought to also be transmitted to the tax reform group(s) that as a result of Medicaid cuts, mental health services have funding crisis, and appeals are made to local governments for funding of those shortfalls from the State.

**RECOMMENDATION** made by Chairman Northrup to Matt Greeson that maybe the County and Act Corp. look at revising the funding request from an equal allocation to a per capita basis from each municipality.

**REQUEST** made by Councilman Goudie that Janet Miller make a presentation to the Ponce Inlet Town Council members.

**CURRENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ITEMS OF INTEREST PRESENTED BY JIM RYAN, DIRECTOR OF VOLUSIA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Ryan, Director of Volusia County Emergency Management, referenced the information list that was distributed to members; he mentioned that this information has already been provided to their jurisdictions' managers, also to some fire chiefs and police chiefs. Mr. Ryan thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak before them. Mr. Ryan provided a brief update of several items:

- Fuel Management in Disasters - County has had fairly good cooperation and participation from all the cities to look at contracting and operational coordination of the availability of fuel. SB7121 was recently passed that contained several items that pertain to retail fuel outlets incentives - County will research and incorporate into its emergency plan.
- Volusia IT Network for Emergency Management - County is trying to provide better information flow throughout the County (between counties, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, and between County Emergency Operations Center and the cities). County has gotten a grant to fund initial portion; estimated completion is within 5 years.
- Pet Shelters - This is now an element of Federal law. The issue is the County needs ability to staff the pet shelter operation at each of the general purpose pet shelters. County has provided staffing for each of the 6 special needs shelters.
- Home Inspection and Matching Grant Program – State Legislature has allocated \$250 million for assistance to homeowners to install shutters, strengthen roofs, and

have more stable home environment so they won't have to evacuate. Each jurisdiction has been encouraged to participate; the deadline is October 31, 2006.

- Volusia Regional Live Weather Data - County has been trying to get a weather network; it is together to assist whoever has responsibility of emergency coordinator, in cities, to access live weather for information regarding wind conditions over bridges, suspension of emergency services, and re-entry, etc.
- Tsunami Plan Development – Each of the coastal cities will be involved in this type of planning with the County.
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding & Projects - Governments within Volusia County have been granted through contracts almost \$11 million for hazard mitigation projects, however, these projects were result of damages from 2004 storms.
- Emergency Management Coordination with Municipalities - This is County and cities working together on coordination.
- Pandemic Planning - There is a potential for significant impact to any community that would experience any type of a pandemic; it's a concern with any government as anybody can be directly or indirectly impacted. It's a "top-down" planning process between Center for Disease Control, Federal Health Department, HRS, Florida Department of Health and Volusia County Health Department. Volusia County Health Department recently held a session for elected officials about the impact of Pandemic Planning; Mr. Ryan encouraged elected officials to attend if another session is held.
- Specific Integrated Emergency Management Course for Volusia County - In December, representatives from Speedway, City of Daytona Beach, other County agencies and other State agencies will go to Emmitsburg, Maryland; purpose is to allow us to review our plans for large venue events and have the team that usually participates in the management of those events learn more about how they can improve the process.

Chairman Northrup thanked Mr. Ryan for coming and doing his presentation to VCOG.

**REQUEST** made by Mayor Costello, to Mr. Ryan, if another session on Pandemic Planning is scheduled to make sure that it's held either at 5:00 PM or on a Saturday morning. Mary Swiderski requested information be sent to her and she will forward it to elected officials.

### **BUILDERS CARE PROGRAM - GREG FRANCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. France introduced himself and provided a video presentation of the Builders Care Program, a non-profit agency in Volusia & Flagler that provides no-cost construction services to low-income elderly and disabled people in the community. Builders Care receives funding through donations of Volusia Home Building Association, businesses, private individuals, clubs and churches, in addition to government grants. Mr. France mentioned projects that Builders Care will be doing lined up (Edgewater-Florida room for disabled man; Lake Helen-handicap ramp for cerebral palsy victim; Holly Hill-roof for elderly woman; DeLand-water heater & sink for elderly woman; Ormond Beach has 1 project; South Daytona has 3 projects). A number of building industries are providing in-kind contributions of labor and materials. Mr. France explained benefit to local governments; Builders Care will do projects with very little money from local governments. Builders Care is going to fix houses in communities through efforts of volunteers and home building industry, banks, etc.

Mayor Costello made comments in reference to the Home Inspection and Matching Grant Program (that Mr. Ryan talked about earlier); he thought the Builders Care Program may benefit from that grant program. Mayor Vandergriff expressed a hope that cities will give the Builders Care Program some relief in the permitting process; to which Mr. France reported on having met with the Unified Code Committee members and had requested they work with Builders Care regarding the same. Mr. France stated the Builders Care's mission is doing rehabilitation of houses as compared to Habitat for Humanity which builds houses. Mr. France requested members to "pass the word" and added that he may

be also appearing before their respective councils/commissions. Chairman Northrup thanked Mr. France for his presentation.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO SELECT 2007 SLATE OF VCOG BOARD OFFICERS**

Chairman Northrup announced members to serve as the Nominating Committee to select the 2007 slate of officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer). The Committee Members are: Mayor Bob Apgar, Mayor Greg Northrup, Mayor Nancy Epps, Mayor Jim Vandergriff, and Mayor Roland Via. The Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday morning, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

**ANIMAL CONTROL STUDY – VCOG BOARD DISCUSSION**

Due to VCOG Board members' time constraints, this item was deferred to November.

**BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

MS. JUDY ANDERSEN

Ms. Andersen announced this was her last meeting as she will be out of office after the November 7<sup>th</sup> election. She thanked the VCOG Board for allowing the Volusia County School District to become a voting member.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being nothing further, the VCOG Board meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

AS SUBMITTED, THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD WERE APPROVED IN AN OPEN MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 27, 2006, IN THE MPO/VCOG/WAV CONFERENCE ROOM AT 2570 W. INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 120, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.

**VCOG, INC.**

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Chair

ATTEST:

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Recording Secretary