

MINUTES OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 19, 2008

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Greg Northrup
Mayor Robert F. Apgar
Mayor Mike Thomas
Mayor Roland Via
Mayor Joan Duffy
Mayor Sally Mackay
Mayor Harley Strickland
Mayor Fredrick Costello
Mayor Nancy Epps
Council-member Art Giles

REPRESENTING

Daytona Beach Shores
DeLand
Edgewater
Holly Hill
Lake Helen
New Smyrna Beach
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Ponce Inlet
Volusia County

Members Absent: Commissioner Reynolds, Daytona Beach; Mayor Coleman, DeBary; Vice Mayor Carmolingo, Deltona; Mayor Lauer, Oak Hill; Mayor Sowell, Pierson; Mayor Green, Port Orange; Mayor O'Neal, South Daytona; School Board Member Lankford, Volusia County School Board

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Don Spence
Joni Hunt
Pat Kelly
Joel Ivey
Hardy Smith
Lori Grant

REPRESENTING

Soil & Water Conservation District
ERAU
Volusia County Fire Chiefs Association
VCARD
City of Daytona Beach
United Way of Volusia-Flagler

VCOG STAFF PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

At 5:00 p.m., Chairman Apgar called to order the February 25, 2008, regular meeting of the VCOG Governing Board.

The roll was called and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Apgar then led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PARTICIPATION

Mr. Don Spence, Volusia Soil & Water Conservation District, pointed out VSWCD is represented; also they are striving to have members rotate attending.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/RECOGNITION

Chairman Apgar announced he will be leaving early for another meeting but he will "pass the gavel" to the Vice Chair when that time comes.

VCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

Mary Swiderski reported she had distributed two documents to Board members:

- Report on 2008 Legislative session of bills passed/failed
- Final referendum to State Constitution from Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
 - Noted that attached to the above is News-Journal (NJ) recommendations for the TBRC's seven proposed constitutional amendments
 - NJ requested VCOG Board to forward recommendations to the Property Tax Reform Committee for review and see if it is something they could/not agree with
 - NJ also requested the VCOG Board consider taking a stance on NJ recommendations

MOTION by Mayor Strickland and **SECOND** by Mayor Epps for the VCOG Board to refer the News Journal's recommendations to the VCOG Property Tax Reform Committee for review and consideration; motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

Mary Swiderski presented a proposal of VCOG to initiate working four 10-hour days, beginning June 2; to cut costs, as well as, provide in-direct compensation for employees; that preferably all three organizations (WAV, MPO, and VCOG) would do. She gave some reasons for doing this:

- Looking at only giving a 2% cost of living increase – which is less than the CPI of 4.4%
- Most employees live approximately 30 minutes away – this will save them \$6-\$8 week in travel costs
- Will also assist in cutting costs in the offices
- Just going to do over summer to evaluate if it creates any inconvenience to members
- Discussions:
 - Mayor Costello stated preference for VCOG office to be covered Monday-Friday; with staff working alternating days
 - Mary Swiderski pointed out that members have 24/7 access to her via cell phone
 - Mayor Epps wondered, as other staff people will be working Fridays, if there will be a significant savings in office expense
 - Mayor Costello had concerns for public access to government to be maintained
 - Mayor Apgar mentioned the potential WAV 10/4 schedule – contingent on its Board approval – may be Tuesday-Friday; as they do have meetings scheduled on a Friday
 - Mr. Welzenbach reported that he has not had opportunity to discuss any such proposition with MPO staff or its Board
 - **Suggested** by County Council-member Giles that a report be made to the VCOG Board in 30 days on how new schedule is working out. Brief discussions ensued.
 - It was decided that a report be made to the VCOG Board at its August meeting
 - Chairman Apgar repeated that Mary Swiderski is available 24/7 through her cell phone

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2008

Item was deferred to the VCOG Board's June meeting as no meeting minutes were presented for approval.

APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF APRIL 2008

Treasurer Report for the period of April 1, 2008, through April 30, 2008, was mailed with Board members' agenda packets. *Note: Revenues and Expenditures were within the budget for the month.*

MOTION by Mayor Costello and **SECOND** by County Council-member Giles for approval of only the Treasurer's report, as distributed; the motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE ON VCOG PROPERTY TAX REFORM COMMITTEE – MAYOR ROBERT APGAR

Committee Chair, Mayor Apgar reported that the May Committee meeting had been cancelled. He will work with Mary Swiderski to schedule a new meeting.

- Discussion:
 - **SUGGESTED** by Mayor Costello that VCOG Board take a stance on whatever the Committee comes up with
 - It is critical that local government get information out to residents so they can make an informed decision
 - Perhaps meet with News Journal Board again – maybe promote them to print both sides, in a column of what is for and what is against
 - Chairman Apgar related having learned that in North Carolina, the State legislature authorized local governments, by referendum, to impose a local transfer tax. State has no homestead exemption; does have State income tax; and properties values are rising, so they have same issues as Florida. In the 2-3 counties that had local referendums, they all failed.

UPDATE ON VCOG SMART GROWTH COMMITTEE – MAYOR GREG NORTHRUP

In the absence of the Committee Chair, Mayor Northrup, the Committee Vice Chair, Council-member Giles reported:

- Kelli McGee and Rafael Montalvo gave presentations
- Calendar [schedule], distributed also to VCOG Board, shows timeline for VCOG Smart Growth Committee and TAC work
 - Note County Comp plan transmittal to DCA in August 2008
- Committee approval of renaming Map A to ECO Map
- Kelli McGee had reported that each municipality was also sent information of Smart Growth workshop that was provided to the County Council

NEW BUSINESS

UNITED WAY PRESENTATION

Ms. Lori Grant, United Way Director of Campaign, announced she was present to say “Thank You”

United Way campaign has been completed – results are down from expectations

- On behalf of United Way Board and its partner agencies, she expressed many Thanks to the cities and the County
- Acknowledged City of Ormond Beach for always being a tremendous supporter of United Way; in this past campaign Ormond Beach was a Pacesetter Organization
- Mentioned new United Way “Live United” movement to step up and have community understand if they just pull together they can accomplish anything
- Thanked Mary Swiderski for giving her opportunity to come before VCOG Board
- Everyone was Thanked again for their support
- Certificates were presented to Holly Hill, Orange City, and DeLand

GREEN DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE – VCARD REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Joel Ivey, land planner and the VCARD Chair, reported:

- Last fall he was asked by County Council member Northey to assist in drafting a green development ordinance
- Committee and subcommittees – Green Committee; Education Committee; Technology Committee; Drafting Committee; Incentives Committee – were established and tasked to work on developing the ordinance
- Draft ordinance was presented to County Council
- Overview was given of the draft ordinance that was distributed in VCOG board members’ packets
 - Briefly discussed incentives section of the draft
- Green Committee has not yet completed its work
- Everyone working on this is volunteering time; have had good assistance from County staff
- Currently getting input from all concerned
- Goal is to take draft to VCARD for its approval, then turn ordinance over to County Council for action

Discussion:

- CRA should have component in ordinance; they have got money for incentives [Via]
- Ensure that input on low impact development is included in ordinance [Costello]
- Hope Volusia Green Development ordinance can serve as model for surrounding counties [Osceola, Seminole, etc.] [Costello]
- Believe when ordinance is completed committee would like to know that developers would use it [Ivey]
- Although the ordinance is just for the County; municipal governments have option whether to tie into it [Apgar]
- Smart Growth should be going hand in hand with green development; need to take into consideration design, green space, and how buildings are being built for greater efficiency [Swiderski]
- Regarding CRAs – point is it cannot be that one size fits all [Apgar]
- There might be level of incentive from TDRs that DCA would approve because we are not increasing overall density in the county [Costello]
- Orange City citizens want to keep density low – they do not want to increase density – have to help people understand what an increase in density and more green space means in terms of quality of life [Strickland]
- Have begun to see developers come into Orange City that are far advanced of local government, as far as, green development [Strickland]
- Mayor Strickland is personally in favor of green development; he thinks government needs to be more informative though

Chairman Apgar thanked Mr. Ivey for coming before the VCOG Board.

APPROVAL OF VCOG RESERVE BALANCE [6 MONTHS OPERATION] – MAYOR APGAR

Chairman Apgar reported:

- VCOG Executive Committee had discussed what would be an appropriate reserve balance for VCOG
- Presently, VCOG does not have any policy statement of what its reserves should be
- Some of the current reserves will be used to reduce members' assessments
- VCOG Executive Committee recommends VCOG ought to have a reserve fund balance that equals six (6) months operating expense

MOTION by Mayor Via and **SECOND** by Mayor Epps to establish a policy that VCOG have a six (6) months operating reserve.

Discussion:

- Approximate six months operating reserve amount would be one hundred twenty-three thousand dollars
- VCOG Executive Committee needed the Board's guidance to set a reserve amount. Next year, all local governments will have budget constraints but also need to understand this organization is important to all of them. [Epps]
- Next year, VCOG will be close to the minimum [6-months] operating reserve, therefore, VCOG membership dues will be at a higher rate than this year [Budget 2008-09] [Apgar]
- The 10% credit to membership dues this year [Budget 2008-09] will be compensated through reserves this year [Via]
 - Also through reduction in budget expenses [Swiderski]

Chairman Apgar called for a voice vote on the motion and it was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

APPROVAL OF VCOG 2008-2009 BUDGET – MARY SWIDERSKI

Mary Swiderski made the following comments:

- VCOG is only including a 2% cost of living [across the board] for its staff
- Several of the Budget expenses were reduced
- VCOG is giving members a 10% credit on assessments [2008-09 fiscal year only]

MOTION by Mayor Via and **SECOND** by Mayor Epps for approval of the VCOG FY 2008-09 Budget, as presented with 10% reduction in Members' Assessments.

- Mayor Via inquired and was told, by Mary Swiderski, that the City of Daytona Beach would continue its membership in VCOG.

Chairman Apgar called for a voice vote on the motion and it was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The following item was moved forward in the order of business.

APPROVAL OF VCOG RESERVE BALANCE [6 MONTHS OPERATION] – MAYOR APGAR

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

MAYOR SALLY MACKAY

- Brought up issue of commuter rail in Central Florida
 - It is part of VCMPO long range plan for 2025
 - Need to act and convey concerns to the Governor

MOTION by Mayor Mackay that VCOG do a resolution to the Governor to find necessary funding for the commuter rail project; Mayor Via **SECONDED** motion.

- Discussion:
 - Chairman Apgar indicated if the Board approves the motion, Mary Swiderski can do a resolution and send it out. They can use the MPO's resolution as a model.
 - Mr. Welzenbach mentioned that the resolution MPO sent out was drafted by the City of Maitland's Mayor
 - He clarified that the money is there; the current agreement the State has with CSX terminates next June 2009

Chairman Apgar called for voice vote on the motion and it was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.


MAYOR GREG NORTHRUP

Reminded everyone of the Volusia League of Cities dinner meeting, hosted by Daytona Beach Shores on May 22nd.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the VCOG Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

AS SUBMITTED, THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD WERE APPROVED IN AN OPEN MEETING HELD ON JUNE 23, 2008, IN THE MPO/VCOG/WAV CONFERENCE ROOM AT 2570 W. INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 120, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.

VCOG, Inc.

Chair

ATTEST:


Recording Secretary