

# MINUTES OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD

REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

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

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Cassandra Reynolds  
Mayor Greg Northrup  
Mayor George Coleman  
Mayor Robert F. Apgar  
Vice Mayor Michael Carmolingo  
Mayor Joan Duffy  
Mayor Sally Mackay  
Mayor Harley Strickland  
Mayor Fredrick Costello  
Mayor Nancy Epps  
Mayor Allen Green  
Mayor Blaine O'Neal  
Council-member Art Giles  
School Board Member Candace Lankford

## REPRESENTING

Daytona Beach  
Daytona Beach Shores  
DeBary  
DeLand  
Deltona  
Lake Helen  
New Smyrna Beach  
Orange City  
Ormond Beach  
Ponce Inlet  
Port Orange  
South Daytona  
Volusia County  
Volusia County School Board

Members Absent: Mayor Thomas, Edgewater; Mayor Via, Holly Hill; Mayor Lauer, Oak Hill; Mayor Sowell, Pierson

## NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Mellon

## REPRESENTING

Emergency Medical Foundation/EVAC

## OTHERS PRESENT

Craig Froyen  
Joni Hunt  
Mary Anne Connors  
Jim Cameron  
Alicia Casas

## REPRESENTING

Mordecai Disaster Recovery  
ERAU  
Volusia County  
Daytona Beach/Halifax Chamber  
United Way

## 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 p.m., Chairman Robert Apgar called to order the September 22, 2008, regular meeting of the VCOG Governing Board.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS/PARTICIPATION**

No comments were expressed

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS AND/OR RECOGNITIONS**

- Reminder of Volusia League dinner in DeLand, September 25<sup>th</sup>; 6:30 PM
- Report on 9/22/08 noon meeting of VCOG Tax Reform Committee
  - Margie Patchett, Volusia Tax Reform, requested meeting re fire services and emergency medical transport
    - Volusia Tax Reform had previously talked with EVAC
  - Consensus of VCOG Tax Reform Committee
    - The managers are beginning to look at and explore unification of fire services
    - VCOG Board reps on the Committee did not consider the issue as being part of the Committee's purpose per se
    - It was suggested VCOG Board reps bring the issue to the VCOG Board to discuss if the Board wanted to create another subcommittee or expand the VCOG Tax Reform Committee for that purpose
  - Volusia Tax Reform [VTR] felt citizen input was needed during the process
    - VTR looks at it as a means to save taxpayer dollars and reduce the tax burden
  - Mary Swiderski reported on talking with Lenny Taft [one of the firefighters who put a program proposal together. He is a Lt. with City of Daytona Beach Fire Dept.]
    - If members are interested, she would invite him to the next Board meeting
    - On several Board members' suggestions and hearing no objections, Chairman Apgar directed Mary Swiderski to take the matter to the managers and say that the VCOG Board suggests they ought to include Lenny Taft at some point in their process
  - Mr. Mellon made comments:
    - He recalled having met with the Volusia Tax Reform Executive Committee
    - EVAC has publicly stated, "When fire is unified into a single countywide entity, then local government should look at rolling EMS into that component."
    - He believes there would be considerable savings by unifying fire departments within Volusia
    - Volusia Tax Reform came out in support of the City of Daytona Beach proposal
      - EVAC has reviewed the Daytona Beach application and found the proposed expenses only account for 70% of needed manpower and it has a negative cash position over 6 years
  - Chairman Apgar surmised:
    - Will discuss matter at the next VCOG Executive Committee meeting
    - To have an item on a future VCOG Board agenda
    - Based on Board members' comments, there is no desire to take action tonight
  - Mr. Mellon recalled that VCOG had contracted with Tri-Data to complete a study in 2002-03; the study supported unification of fire
  - Chairman Apgar reported:
    - Volusia Tax Reform enjoyed the relationship with VCOG Board reps [as the VCOG Tax Reform Committee]
    - Volusia Tax Reform asks that the Committee continue
    - The VCOG Committee will meet with Volusia Tax Reform on an on-call basis if that is acceptable to the VCOG Board
      - Board members did not express any objections

**United Way – Lori Grant**

Alicia Casas addressed the Board, in the place of Lori Grant:

- A United Way poster and brochure was distributed to everyone; members were asked to take the information with them
- Call 211 is the United Way information and referral service; individuals-in-need can use the service to find an agency that can help them
- Education needs to be done in the community re United Way and its services
- United Way asks that everyone take a strong leadership role this year
  - Needs are greater than ever before

Alicia Casas thanked the VCOG Board for giving her the opportunity to talk about the United Way.

## Beach Concessions – Mary Anne Connors

- Before the Beach Concessions report, Chairman Apgar recalled the earlier discussion of fire services and the suggestion that it might be good for the Managers Committee to discuss the matter. He requested Ms. Connors' comments.
- Ms. Connors responded:
  - Managers were scheduled to meet but had to cancel due to tropical storm Fay
  - Managers next scheduled meeting is September 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Purpose of meeting is collectively to come up with ideas to try and save money

### Beach Concessions

- Ms. Connors reported:
  - Task Team has met twice
    - First session was basically to determine purpose, approach, outcome
    - Second meeting focused more on process
      - Presenting process to County Council on October 2, 2008
      - Process will outline measures for seeking public input and participant input
      - Timetable – this process is to be concluded within 1 year
      - Considering an RFP process rather than bid process
- Discussions
  - RFP is a more open process – it will allow for more than one provider; however, a provider can do a proposal on one or more aspects of the process
  - There will be an “instrument” on the County’s web site for the public to provide input
  - Task Team is working with the Beach Advisory Committee
  - Task Team will directly solicit input from concessionaires, public officials, beachside property owners, general public, etc.
  - Task Team will need County Council direction on policy items
  - Need to look at location of concessions in some areas
  - County Council-member Giles reported of discussions by County Council on some issues
    - Council allowed straight one year contract effective through 9/30/09
    - Council discussed concessions for motorized vehicles, etc.
  - The County would like fewer number of people to deal with
  - Mayor Northrup related importance to concessionaires not to lose services on the beach
    - Ms. Connors commented that the Task Team will look more at what are service standards/service expectations
  - Mayor Costello expressed two concerns:
    - Address standards of what is going to be done to assure there is some flexibility for the future
    - Municipal partnership with the County to find a way to eliminate tolls and allow more access
  - There are a total of 41 approaches; 10 are in a no-drive zone; currently 18 approaches are open
  - Mayor Northrup commended County staff allowing for public input; also, that they are doing a great job in the direction they are going
  - Ms. Connors encouraged Board members to send the Task Team emails [comments, priorities, etc.] as group is trying to gather as much affirmative thought as they can
  - Mayor Apgar recalled that the VCOG Board requested for someone from the County to keep them updated on the process
  - Mayor Costello mentioned off-beach parking and suggested if there are no services in that area, to factor in having services there

## VCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

Mary Swiderski gave her briefing:

- Last month the VCOG Executive Director and Chair met with MPO and WAV Directors and Chairs
  - It was decided that each organization will take care of its own accounting needs
  - Effective October 1, 2008; that is why item "APPROVAL OF RETAINING SEPTEMBER 30 AS VCOG FISCAL YEAR END" is on VCOG's agenda
- Board directive requested whether 2 signatures or 1 signature and an alternate would be required for checks
- Need Board action on agenda item and directive now

Chairman Apgar recommended having 2 signatures; that of the Executive Director with the Chair or Vice Chair.

Motion by Mayor Costello and Second by Commissioner Reynolds for approval to retain the Fiscal Year ending September 30; and to pass a resolution that the VCOG Executive Director with the Chair or Vice Chair is authorized to sign checks.

Mayor Strickland stated his preference is that any 2 of the 3 [*designated*] people may sign.

Mayor Costello amended his motion so that any 2 of the 3 [*designees*] is authorized to sign checks. Following further discussion, Mayor Costello withdrew his motion.

**MOTION** by Mayor Strickland and **SECOND** by Commissioner Reynolds for approval that VCOG retain its Fiscal Year ending September 30; also, that any 2 of the 3 [Chair, Vice Chair, Executive Director] be authorized to execute checks; said motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

Mary Swiderski continued her briefing:

- Board members were given an envelope containing her performance evaluation
  - Members were requested to complete and return the form to VCOG
- The FESS program [Firefighters Employment Screening Service] is going on hiatus starting now through 2009
  - Hiring of firefighters has slowed; it was decided the fees for participating fire departments is not warranted
  - It was also decided, by putting the program on hold for a year, they can evaluate if it is really necessary
- Three (3) Florida League of Cities resolutions were distributed to members
  - Members were requested to take those to respective jurisdictions for consideration of doing local resolutions:
    - To require Florida Legislature to operate under Florida Sunshine Laws
    - Relating to unfunded mandates
    - Encouraging local communities to create summer employment opportunities
- Florida League of Cities summary of the 9 proposed constitutional amendments was distributed to members
  - Three (3) of the proposed constitutional amendments have already been pulled
  - Summary shows the pros/cons on each amendment; it also shows the supporters and opponents of amendments
- Calendar of Volusia County School District was distributed to each member
  - While providing services to WAV, Mary Swiderski worked with the School Board to prepare calendar which shows school children's art work re conserving water
- School Board member Lankford asked if anyone on the VCOG Board sits on the School District's Calendar Committee.
  - She expressed intention to propose to the School Board to have a VCOG Board member sit on that Calendar Committee.

- She indicated the School District needs local governments' help to get information out [e.g., in water bills, etc.] to families about when hurricane make-up days are
- County Council-member Giles commended efforts on publication of the calendar
- Mary Swiderski concluded her briefing:
  - Reminder of the Volusia League of Cities holding its bi-annual luncheon on Oct 6
    - Volusia League is doing this in conjunction with VCARD
    - There will be a discussion panel of local candidates running for the State Senate and the State House of Representatives
    - Everyone was encouraged to RSVP as soon as possible

#### CONSENT AGENDA

#### **APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2008**

Minutes of the August 25, 2008, regular meeting of the VCOG Board were mailed with the Board members' agenda packets.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING AUGUST 31, 2008**

Treasurer Report for the period of August 1, 2008, through August 31, 2008, was mailed with Board members' agenda packets. *Note: Revenues and Expenditures were within the budget for the month.*

#### **APPROVAL OF RETAINING SEPTEMBER 30 AS VCOG FISCAL YEAR END**

*Note: This consent agenda item was pulled and discussed under the "VCOG Executive Director's Briefing" and action for approval was taken on it.*

**MOTION** by County Council-member Giles and **SECOND** by Mayor Duffy for approval of two Consent Agenda items [Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report], as presented; said motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

#### OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

#### **UPDATE ON VCOG SMART GROWTH COMMITTEE – MAYOR GREG NORTHRUP**

- No meetings held of the VCOG Smart Growth Committee
  - Waiting for progress reports from the TAC [Technical Advisory Committee]
  - Mary Swiderski remarked that the TAC and Workgroups are working diligently
- County Council-member Giles reported the County has submitted its comprehensive plan which included the ECO map to DCA [Florida Department of Community Affairs] and is waiting for its response

#### NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

#### **VCOG POSITION PAPER ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS – MAYOR ROBERT APGAR**

- Chairman Apgar
  - Mary Swiderski put together VCOG's white-paper on the proposed amendments; based on suggestions from the last meetings
    - Mary Swiderski will disseminate VCOG's position paper; showing the Board's approval that the summary was fair in its actions
- School Board member Lankford announced that proposed amendments 5, 7 and 9 have been taken off the ballot
  - She offered to provide the Supreme Court ruling re rationale on each amendment
- Mary Swiderski requested the Board's directive whether or not to leave those 3 amendments on the list.
  - She thought amendments should remain on the list so whoever receives the information can see VCOG's position on them.

- Chairman Apgar thought those amendments should be removed from the list; to not lend any confusion of amendments on the ballot.
- Mayor Duffy agreed that those amendments should be removed.
- School Board member Lankford suggested if VCOG wants to do another sheet of just those amendments and have a link to the Supreme Court ruling for people wanting to look it up.
  - She concurred that it is best to not include things that people are not going to vote on.

**MOTION** by School Board member Lankford and **SECOND** by Mayor Duffy to remove proposed constitutional amendments 5, 7 and 9 from the VCOG white paper; said motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

**MOTION** by Mayor Strickland and **SECOND** by Mayor O'Neal for VCOG to disseminate the remainder of VCOG's white paper on the proposed constitutional amendments, as suggested; said motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE – MAYOR ROBERT APGAR**

Chairman Apgar appointed County Council-member Art Giles, Mayor Greg Northrup, and Mayor Joan Duffy to serve as the Committee. They confirmed willingness to serve.

#### **FEMA CLAIMS PROCESS – CRAIG FROYEN, PA OF MORDECAI CLAIM SERVICE**

Mr. Froyen provided some background information on himself; then began a PowerPoint presentation of Mordecai Disaster Recovery Consultants and of FEMA Public Assistance:

- Mordecai Disaster Recovery Consultants established in 2001 to provide expert and professional disaster recovery services.
- Common public assistance issues:
  - Biggest problem is lack of communication between applicant staff with FEMA
  - Local government [applicant] assigning staff who might not have a full understanding of the FEMA Public Assistance Program; also, of not properly completing Project Worksheets
  - Bottom line is that it can cost a local government a lot of money
- How Mordecai can assist governments [Applicant]
  - Represent Applicants at all meetings with the State and FEMA
  - Assist Applicants with damage assessment and write Project Worksheets
  - Address any issues that arise during project validation process
  - Assist Applicants to prepare for audits; attend all audits with Applicants
  - If necessary, assist Applicants in writing appeals
  - On completion of project, conduct a debriefing with Applicants
- Benefits of using a company providing FEMA Grant Management Services
  - Assisting governments' staff with Federal Disaster Assistance funding
  - Knowledge and experience of State and Federal levels of Public Assistance Management to maximize eligibility and funding
  - Their fees are reimbursable up to the Federal Cost Share
- In March 2008, FEMA passed new policy that abolished the Administrative Allowance
  - FEMA now has Direct Administrative Costs – better position for cities and counties to receive more money

#### Discussions:

- There are ways to get reimbursement for solid waste removal inside gated communities; getting reimbursement has been problematic
- FEMA prefers that a municipality or county do an RFP process that is done in a pre-disaster scenario that would be for a multi-year
- Mordecai recommends that a government entity activate the [disaster related] contract as soon as it activates its EOC [Emergency Operations Center]
- Mordecai's contracts are on a time and expense basis for disaster related services
  - Pre-disaster services are indirect costs which are ascribed to Direct Administrative Costs

- FEMA requires documentation of payment to company before reimbursement is made to municipality/county
- As a general rule, FEMA does not approve of piggy-back contracts; however, Mordecai is trying to word an RFP that specifies some countywide requirement of service [e.g., countywide debris contract]
- At this time Mordecai does not have data that shows its involvement speeds up reimbursement process [this is a new division of Mordecai Claim Services; started January 2008]

Chairman Apgar thanked Craig Froyen for his attendance and presentation to the Board.

### **“GOING GREEN” – DISCUSSION – MAYOR ROBERT APGAR**

Chairman Apgar suggested, at the last Board meeting, that VCOG members working together ought to look at to try and create, on a countywide basis, a more sustainable community.

- He had conversation with County Chair Frank Bruno and County Manager Jim Dinneen
- His understanding is the County has a committee working on development of green issues
- County Chair Bruno or Mr. Dinneen had indicated to create a sub committee of policymakers under the County’s committee to discuss what might be done jointly [e.g., abolish plastic bags in Volusia County]; some policy and standards that could be adopted
- For a program like that to be successful, it has to be done on a countywide basis
- Waiting to hear back from County Chair Bruno
- Chairman Apgar will keep the VCOG Board posted

### **BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS**

#### MAYOR GEORGE COLEMAN

Expressed appreciation for all the help DeBary received [aftermath of Fay]  
Commended FEMA on its assistance

#### MAYOR HARLEY STRICKLAND

Made comments on ongoing issue of labeling things “Green”

- Need to look at this from a variety of aspects
- Regarding notion of joint projects; maybe start with simple things such as getting businesses to collect plastic water bottles for recycling

#### SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER CANDACE LANKFORD

Mentioned “The Florida Economy and Tax Revenue” sheet she had distributed  
School District is looking at another tremendous budget deficit

- Hearing from the Florida School Board Association of 1-cent sales tax potentiality
- Going to be catastrophic
- Want to keep Volusia Tax Reform Committee together

#### MAYOR FRED COSTELLO

Accepts the premise that we need to be more sustainable

- Encouraged County Council-member Giles and Jim Dinneen, and whoever will be involved on sub-committee to include any new construction
- Urged everyone to think of more than just plastic bottles, plastic bags, etc.

#### CHAIRMAN BOB APGAR

Mentioned traffic lights going to leds, etc. - there are ways local governments can do things

- His main focus are those things that require countywide implementation

#### COUNTY COUNCIL-MEMBER ART GILES

Mentioned that Ginger Adair and Steve Kintner have staff looking into ideas; also, the County Building staff

- Pat Northey is closely monitoring progress

MAYOR COSTELLO asked what does the Board need to do to bring some "Upcoming Agenda Topics" forward.

- **SUGGESTED** by Mayor Costello that this could be brought up at the next VCOG Executive Committee meeting for discussion.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

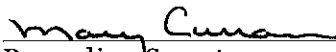
There being no further business to come before the VCOG Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

AS SUBMITTED, THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD WERE APPROVED IN AN OPEN MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 24, 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