

MINUTES OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD

REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 23, 2006

VCOG BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM
1190 PELICAN BAY DRIVE, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Cassandra Reynolds
Mayor Greg Northrup
Mayor Robert F. Apgar
Mayor Dennis Mulder
Mayor Mike Thomas
Mayor Roland Via
Mayor Mark Shuttleworth
Mayor James Vandergriff
Mayor Albert Erwin
Mayor Fredrick Costello
Mayor James Sowell
Mayor Nancy Epps
Mayor Allen Green
Mayor Blaine O'Neal
Councilmember Art Giles
Mrs. Judy Andersen

REPRESENTING

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor George Coleman, DeBary; Mayor Mike Thompson, Oak Hill

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Michael Mellon

REPRESENTING

Emergency Medical Foundation/EVAC

OTHERS PRESENT

Barry Baker, Fire Chief
Debbie L. Smith
William Whitson
Don Vancini
Pat Kelly, Fire Chief
Tom Weber, Fire Chief
Larry Taft, Fire Chief
Jim Ryan
Jim Cameron
Matt Zavadsky
Dwight Lewis
Don Shinnamon, Chief

REPRESENTING

Ormond Beach/Vo. Fire Chiefs Association
Vo.Co. Emergency Communications Center
City of Port Orange
Volusia County/Unified Code Committee
DeLand Fire Dept/Vo. Fire Chiefs Association
Port Orange Fire Dept/Vo. Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Daytona Beach Fire Department
Volusia County Emergency Management
Daytona Beach/Halifax Chamber
Volusia County EMS
Volusia County Council
Holly Hill Public Safety/Vo. Fire Chiefs Assoc.

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 PM, Chairman Northrup called to order the January 23, 2006, regular meeting of the VCOG Governing Board.

The roll was called a quorum of voting members was declared present. Chairman Northrup then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PARTICIPATION

No comments were expressed.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/RECOGNITION

Chairman Northrup gave recognition to outgoing Board member County Councilmember Dwight Lewis and he read, in its entirety, VCOG Resolution 2006-01 which was engraved on a plaque:

**VCOG, Inc.
RESOLUTION 06-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE VCOG, INC. GOVERNING BOARD TO COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER DWIGHT D. LEWIS IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF THE VCOG, INC. GOVERNING BOARD.

WHEREAS, VCOG, Inc. a Volusia Council of Governments, was established in January 1970, to develop coordinated plans, programs and policies of mutual interest for all participating jurisdictions in Volusia County; and

WHEREAS, VCOG, Inc. Governing Board consists of representatives from the Cities of Daytona Beach, Daytona Beach Shores, DeBary, DeLand, Deltona, Edgewater, Holly Hill, Lake Helen, New Smyrna Beach, Oak Hill, Orange City, Ormond Beach, Pierson, Ponce Inlet, Port Orange, South Daytona and the County of Volusia; and

WHEREAS, VCOG, Inc. is dependant upon the interest, wisdom, guidance and dedication of its member representatives and recognizes their contribution to this Governing Board; and

WHEREAS, Dwight D. Lewis joined the VCOG, Inc. Board in January 2003 and has served this Governing Board as a representative for the County of Volusia for three (3) years with dedication, dignity and distinction. His years of service have been marked by exemplary and energetic participation in the vital accomplishments of this Board; and

WHEREAS, Dwight D. Lewis served as Secretary/Treasurer for VCOG, Inc. Governing Board in 2004 and as Chair in 2005 and whose leadership quality guided this Board toward a more fiscally responsible future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting held January 23, 2006.

Councilmember Lewis said it had been a privilege to serve on the VCOG Board and work with members; he expressed how much he enjoyed it. He emphasized the importance for members to build relationships and trust, and work together for a better community. Councilmember Lewis stated he would miss being on the Board and he wished members all the best of luck. He expressed appreciation to the Board for allowing him to serve and for giving him this recognition. Chairman Northrup thanked Councilmember Lewis for everything.

Chairman Northrup acknowledged three new representatives on the Board – Cassandra Reynolds, Daytona Beach Commissioner; Dennis Mulder, Mayor of Deltona; and Art Giles, Volusia County Councilmember. He commented that it's good to have all three serving on the Board.

Chairman Northrup recalled, from the November meeting, that the Board appointed him to serve as its representative on the TDC (Tourist Development Council). He mentioned having thought that Daytona Beach had its own representative on the TDC so he was willing to do it but he found out that Daytona Beach doesn't have representation and he thought they needed it.

Request by Chairman Northrup for a motion to appoint Commissioner Cassandra Reynolds to represent the VCOG Board on the TDC.

MOTION by Mayor Via and **SECOND** by Mayor Green to appoint Commissioner Reynolds as the VCOG Board's representative to serve on the Tourist Development Council (TDC); the motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

VCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

Mary Swiderski mentioned that the written copy of her briefing was submitted in the Board's Agenda packet; she said if members had any questions from it she would gladly respond.

Request by Mary Swiderski for Board members to complete their contact information on a sheet that she circulated, in order to assure that staff records are up-to-date; she stated the information would also be shared among the Board members.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 28, 2005, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**APPROVAL OF PRIOR YEAR JUNE 2004 AND AUGUST 2004 MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the November 28, 2005, regular meeting of the VCOG Board were distributed with Board members' agenda packets.

Minutes of the June 2004 and August 2004, regular meetings of the VCOG Board were distributed with Board members' agenda packets.

APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 2005 AND DECEMBER 2005

Treasurer's reports for November 2005 and December 2005 were distributed with Board members' agenda packets. Revenues and Expenditures were within the budget for the two months.

AUTHORIZE ADDITION OF ROBERT F. APGAR AS A SIGNATORY ON THE VCOG**CHECKING ACCOUNT AND SAFE DEPOSIT BOX**

Authorizing Mayor Apgar as a signatory on the VCOG checking account and safe deposit box should assure availability of two signatories required for signing checks.

MOTION by Mayor Via and **SECOND** by Councilmember Giles for approval of all Consent Agenda items as presented; the motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

[NOTE: FOLLOWING ITEMS UNDER OLD BUSINESS WERE MOVED FURTHER BACK IN THE ORDER]

OLD BUSINESS

REVIEW/SELECTION OF PROPOSED VCOG LOGO – MARY SWIDERSKI**UPDATE OF THE WORKING WATERFRONT ISSUE – MAYOR NANCY EPPS**

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATES FROM VCOG SERVICE COMMITTEES:

VOLUSIA/FLAGLER UNIFIED CODE COMMITTEE – DON VANCINI, CHAIR

Mr. Vancini, Chair of the Unified Code Committee (UCC), stated that the UCC consists of building officials from cities and counties of Volusia and Flagler; Committee meets once a month in the VCOG building Conference Room; Ms. Curran assists the UCC as Secretary. The Committee reviews new code issues and code issues brought up by industry representatives [we have industry participation from the swimming pool, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and roofing]. In 2005, the UCC worked on a number of things (early-power discussions; termite treatment "Bora-Care" presentations; updating roofing guidelines; developed uniform application for generators; discussed drafting of a local mutual aid agreement; distributed the BOAF model Chapter 1 to all jurisdictions as they are required to adopt a new Chapter 1 when a new version of the FBC is adopted; compiled an emergency contact list for building officials to use in emergency situations). Mr. Vancini stated another item, not directly a part of the UCC but discussed and verbally supported, is a Building Safety Academy [because all jurisdictions have problems getting qualified people for inspector positions]; he announced this evening the building safety committee is holding its first class at the Fire College in Ocala [class runs all week] and these classes will help qualified people take state exams. The UCC was established in 1994 by the VCOG Board; in early 2000, Flagler cities and county government started participating on the UCC. Mr. Vancini extended an invitation to anybody interested in attending the monthly meeting. He asked if anyone had questions but there were none. Chairman Northrup thanked Mr. Vancini for the update on the Volusia/Flagler Unified Code Committee. County Councilmember Giles commended the

work of the UCC and said “they do make the construction industry’s job a whole lot easier by the fact that they have agreed to get together and they make it work.” Mr. Vancini mentioned when contractors try to get something done at other jurisdictions, all over the State, they always reference Volusia and ask other jurisdictions to consider putting a committee together like Volusia’s so they can meet in one spot with all those building officials; he ended by saying “it’s a good organization and working well.” Mayor Green added the UCC is an excellent idea and it works very well.

VCOG FIRE-EMS COMMITTEE & SUBCOMMITTEES

Chief Taft, Fire Chief of Daytona Beach and liaison for the Volusia County Fire Chiefs Association and to VCOG, stated that he and other “panel” members are present, as requested by Mary Swiderski, to give the VCOG Board a “thumbnail sketch” of four central committees [that they have been involved with through VCOG] that were subcommittees of the VCOG Fire-EMS Committee. The committees are: (1) the Communications Committee which was designed to handle communications within Volusia, in part by diminishing the number of PSAPs (Public Service Answering Points) and a kind of consolidating by regional districts; (2) the Service Delivery Committee had a specific mission [when it started at VCOG] to develop a remuneration stipend for service delivery between municipalities, and once that was accomplished the Committee sort of sunsetted at VCOG and went to the Volusia County Fire Chiefs Association [where they have been dealing with risk assessment issues in operation and performance]; (3) the Purchasing Committee dealt with economies of scale and how fire departments could purchase things cheaper and also standardize their equipment for interoperability; and (4) the Employment Standards & Training Committee deals with standardized hiring and training mechanics throughout Volusia County. Chief Taft introduced the “panel members” who will speak: William Whitson, Deputy City Manager of Port Orange; Don Shinnamon, Public Safety Director of Holly Hill; Barry Baker, Fire Chief of Ormond Beach. Chief Taft acknowledged the presence of Tom Weber, Fire Chief of Port Orange and newly installed President of Volusia County Fire Chiefs Association; Patrick Kelly, Fire Chief of DeLand; and Matt Zavadsky, Director of Volusia County EMS and “who has been very instrumental in lot of these activities.”

COMMUNICATIONS/DISPATCH

Mr. Whitson reviewed for new VCOG Board members, the background of the VCOG Fire-EMS project: (1) the Tri-Data study that VCOG contracted because of conflicts between various entities delivering fire and ems service in the County [study was an independent, neutral evaluation of what was going on in the system and see if there are some ways jurisdictions could work together]; (2) when the Tri-Data study report came out, pretty much the cities and the County hated it [there were things in the study that upset some of the cities, there were some things in the study that upset the County]; (3) VCOG had already formed the basic Fire-EMS Committee and it was tasked to look at what could be done to follow-up [Mr. Whitson and Mike Mellon were on the Committee, as well as, many of the gentlemen in attendance tonight] and the members wrestled with it on behalf of jurisdictions; and (4) the Fire-EMS Committee formed four [sub] committees. Mr. Whitson related of his and Mr. Mellon having had differences of opinion. Mr. Mellon recalled that they had agreed to disagree; to which Mr. Whitson concurred and said that they did rise above that level of disagreement. Mr. Whitson continued relating background of the Fire-EMS project; the Committee looked at areas where they could agree there were some inefficiencies and through better communication mechanisms, etc. that there are some ways to maybe make some modifications to the system and maybe make some headway on implementing some of TriData’s recommendations. Mr. Whitson remarked that he’s very pleased to be a part of that effort because they have made some significant headway. He mentioned the four [sub] committees are Communications, Purchasing, Employment Standards, and Service Delivery. Mr. Whitson stated in regards to the Communications [Committee] that Matt Zavadsky and he co-chair that effort and they have been working now for some time on some things; he commented that as the “other groups worked ahead”, the Communications group took a little bit longer because of some of the consolidation efforts that were “naturally” going forward. He noted that consolidation was one of the discussions that came out of TriData; he reported that PSAPs or “command and control points in terms of communication in fire dispatch,” etc. have been consolidated in the County. Mr. Whitson stated the Communications group has been looking at how jurisdictions can use the existing [800 mhz] system much more efficiently, how can the channels be used more efficiently, what kind of procedures can they put in place and make it work better for everybody in the system. The Communications group took a look at response systems – tweaking the procedures for when personnel is dispatched – and because of some of the dialog, things have

improved; Mr. Whitson stated they have some statistics if anyone is interested, that show they have been able to reduce the numbers of emergency calls. The Committee has done things like synchronize the CAD clocks for the dispatch; they have also taken a look at using talk-around groups a lot more efficiently in terms of how jurisdictions get communication with EVAC on the scene. Mr. Whitson remarked that the Communications Committee is beginning to make some progress in a lot of very technical areas and that there will be more opportunities with advances in technology. He stated they would be happy to answer any questions. Mr. Whitson declared that he was tired of hearing that VCOG hasn't accomplished anything as he knew, just from the one committee he served on, that they had done several things – "maybe it's not a big headline in the News Journal" – that have made a difference in how money is spent, how resources are allocated and how people communicate within the system and "that's very important in the long run."

[NOTE: THE FOLLOWING TWO ITEMS WERE MOVED FURTHER BACK IN THE ORDER]

DISPATCH CONSOLIDATION – MAYOR FRED COSTELLO

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS & TRAINING\FESS

SERVICE DELIVERY

Chief Shinnamon, Director of Public Safety for the City of Holly Hill and Chair of the Service Delivery Committee, stated they are principally dealing with what has traditionally been a very contentious issue in Volusia - that is, minimum staffing levels on fire engines. In the TriData report ["buried in the fine print"] there actually were minimum staffing recommendations for fire apparatus; it began with rural engine companies with a call volume of 350 and went up to high-density urban areas with a recommendation of five firefighters per Engine Company; that was 2002. In 2004, seven east coast Volusia cities entered into an automatic, closest unit response agreement [functional consolidation of those fire departments that were dispatched as if they were one fire department]; the seven cities all provide service to "what essentially is a homogeneous, urban community" and they all agreed to a minimum staffing level of three firefighters per engine. Since 2004, Daytona Beach Shores has entered into that agreement and County Fire Station 11 has joined in that agreement as part of Holly Hill Fire-Rescue; Ponce Inlet is looking to join as they increase staffing, as are individual County Fire Stations. Chief Shinnamon stated that the fire chiefs recognize there are circumstances when three firefighters may not be needed on an engine and they formed a group to study the issue and are looking at three factors to consider; TriData considered only one factor and that was call volume but the Service Delivery Committee added two other factors [population density as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, and occupancy/hazard as defined by the National Fire Protection Association] and Chief Shinnamon gave an example how that would work. Chief Shinnamon reported that the group built a formula that considers the three factors and he said they are at the point now where they have developed a staffing model that will have a minimum acceptable staffing level and recommended staffing level but that's in the discussion phase right now. Chief Shinnamon commented the Committee has a lot of "spirited" discussion, a lot of issues to consider, a lot of people having very strong opinions but they are moving forward with the staffing model; after they complete that phase of it, the Committee is going to look at special units [ladder/truck companies, heavy rescue, etc.] and it will probably be to examine the County to see if there are any areas where perhaps fire station placement could be better [they have already generated some maps that show fire station response times]; that will probably be the final phase of the Committee's effort. Chief Shinnamon repeated that right now the Committee is focused on the issue of fire staffing of fire engine companies.

PURCHASING COMMITTEE

Chief Taft recalled when the Purchasing Committee was first created it was designed to enhance levels of interoperability through purchasing the same type of equipment, as well as, affect the economies of scale that we get from purchases, and "coat-tailing" different state contracts. Once we formulated this Committee, two major developments arose that kind of self-corrected matters; we had the evolution of the assisted firefighters grant which if you want to access equipment through that grant process the letter has to be standardized (e.g. for chemical/biological breathing apparatus or airpack has to meet certain standards for interoperability) to obtain particular supplies from this grant program [that helped do a lot of standardization]; but primarily, the Florida Fire Chiefs Association

adopted the Sheriff's Office State contract pricing mechanism as their own purchasing standard [for purchasing apparatus and equipment] and in doing that, fire departments can purchase apparatus at very, very reduced rates, as well as, "coat-tailing" others in bids [not only for equipment but supplies too, etc.]. The Fire-EMS Committee disbanded the Purchasing Committee and the actual bulk purchasing of apparatus took care of itself and so the matter of interoperability with equipment is now being taken care of at the Volusia County Fire Chiefs Association level through their Training Committee and Operations Committee.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS & TRAINING\FESS

Chief Baker recalled there were four recommendations by TriData regarding training but he would only talk about three because two of the four recommendations really mean the same thing. Chief Baker related that: (1) TriData recommended fire chiefs get together and develop a training committee but the Volusia County Fire Chiefs Association already had one, (2) the second recommendation was how we could share training with others that we respond with and he reported "we've done that", and TriData recommended doing that once a year but he stated "we're doing that quarterly right now and that's taking place in three different sections of the County so everybody can participate in that drill"; and (3) the third recommendation was about officer training and he announced "we're beginning an officer training series, we've already had two officer-like training series, we're bringing in a consultant in a few weeks to talk to us about officer training" [particularly promotional opportunities, i.e. what kind of things this particular vendor has found that's important for those officers to have to be able to be successful in this position as they advance]. Chief Baker remarked that the fire chiefs have taken that very seriously; he reported the training sessions are well attended and have gone well for the last two and a half years. Chief Baker stated the other part is something VCOG has been very involved in and that's the [employment] training standard portion. He recalled that TriData recommended fire chiefs look at training standards together, that they combine efforts and partner in looking at how we would screen employees and test them. Chief Baker stated that was started back in 2004 and VCOG was very involved with that; the [FESS] training administrator is contracted with VCOG; that person actually does some pre-employment types of things which allows people to understand what the job is like; an applicant goes through a program that involves not only testing dealing with EMS skills but also fire skills, and a standardized agility test. Chief Baker announced that every entity that employs firefighters in Volusia County is a participant in the program now; also every entity in Flagler County that employs firefighters is a participant in the program. He reported that to-date two hundred sixty-eight people have been tested since October 2004 and jurisdictions have hired roughly seventy people – Chief Baker said the reason he said "roughly" is "because this is kind of like a moving ball, every day we get a few more people coming off that list" and in a week and a half there will be another testing and a new list will come out. He remarked that the program has been extraordinarily successful for all entities as everybody is involved and everybody is hiring off the list. Chief Baker stated "it's really a tribute to VCOG because you had the wisdom to take our recommendation and make something of it"; he expressed thank you to VCOG. Chief Taft commented that the [FESS] program works out really well; he announced that February 1st and 2nd will be the next assessment held and that the City of Daytona Beach will be hiring about fourteen people this year off that list; he stated that it has been a really good process for Daytona Beach.

Chief Taft presented some final comments. Chief Taft noted that officials discuss where are we going - what is our blueprint for the future; he mentioned "when you merge the TriData report with the Volusia County Fire Chiefs Association's strategic plan, we kind of have a blueprint of a future course of action"; they "kind of" use it as a model guideline of where they want to head. He commented it's important to recognize in Volusia County that there are sixteen different municipalities and when you add to that the unincorporated areas of the County, you've got seventeen different regions throughout our county proper that have to be provided with fire and EMS services and how do you accomplish that – it's done with thirteen different, organized fire departments and EVAC ambulance, along with Volusia County Beach Patrol and law enforcement. Chief Taft recalled that ten years ago Volusia had a wide variety of different service levels but in the last three years since the TriData report we're starting to see a merging [i.e. functionally becoming consolidated to move seamlessly as one fire department with multiple entities]. Chief Taft reviewed some accomplishments through the Chiefs Association and other different venues: model operating guidelines where all fire departments operate under the same standard operating procedural

guideline throughout the County; [multi-agency] training where four different quadrants of Volusia all train simultaneously every quarter is a great initiative to help interoperability and cohesiveness between jurisdictions; interlocal agreements enables us to actually function seamlessly as one organization. Chief Taft mentioned that most of the fire chiefs present at the meeting, as well as himself, are members of the Fire-EMS Advisory Board at DBCC which enables them to give guidance and input for scholastic curriculum for students that will be firefighters, paramedics and EMTs. As he was requested, Chief Taft discussed the issue that has been a topic at the VCOG level regarding the EMS Transport Contingency Plan; it's basically an arrangement [Emergency Vehicle Transport agreement] that has been developed between the largest eastside city (Daytona Beach) and EVAC ambulance and the largest westside city (Deltona) and EVAC; the pilot program will run through until September 30, 2006; after which it will be reviewed as to how its working. The program is designed to provide somewhat of a safety net under rare circumstances when EVAC would call upon the two cities to do so and the fire service will have the ability to transport patients legally under the State; Chief Taft commented they are continuing to work toward that end. He reported that, most recently, assistance was provided to Brevard County and Titusville in many calls and negotiations. In conclusion, Chief Taft extended to Board members a TriData report update that Mary Swiderski had put together; he commented that it would give them a good idea where we were and what we've accomplished "and you can really glean a good bit of information out of that."

County Councilmember Giles and Mayor Green had questions regarding the employment testing; to which Chief Taft gave *responses* [what happened to the 194 people out of 268 tested that haven't been hired – *they are kept on a list for a one year period*; how many people out of those tested didn't pass – *not having exact numbers, it's estimated about 80% the first year but the committee is continually working to improve the process*]. [In reference to Service Delivery] Mayor O'Neal asked about minimum and recommended unit staffing; to which Chief Taft stated that there are a lot of staffing methodologies but for the East Volusia Municipal Fire-Rescue Cooperative they've set a staffing standard that allows 3 fire service people aboard a fire engine and a paramedic at every fire station. [Regarding the Emergency Transport agreement] Mayor Vandergriff asked if Deltona and Daytona Beach have had to put that to use; in response, Chief Taft explained the cities just received the okay through their respective commissions and that also had to go through the county level, and as yet neither city has had to deploy it but "it's there in case we need it and we're finalizing some of the agreements." Chairman Northrup called for any additional questions and there being none, he thanked Chief Taft, Mr. Whitson, Chief Shinnamon, and Chief Baker for their presentations and their attendance.

DISPATCH CONSOLIDATION – MAYOR FRED COSTELLO

Mayor Costello commented that long-term VCOG members know he's been talking about fire issues for some time. He was concerned that eighty to eighty-five percent of calls are EMS related but yet jurisdictions seem to staff for fire; he posed the question maybe jurisdictions should staff for EMS and not for fire. Mayor Costello commented that they should be recording call to shock times. In reference to a comment by Mr. Whitson, Mayor Costello stated he was glad to hear they are going to have some consistent time clocks now among various jurisdictions so they can actually have some numbers to decide how good we're doing [as there's lot of expenditures on fire and EMS].

Requests made by Mayor Costello that the VCOG Board be provided information on: some call to shock numbers and the percentage of loss on all structural fires; he wanted those numbers to find out how much it matters how many staff jurisdictions send and are they able to save the structures when fire staff is sent. Mayor Costello related the fire incident that happened to Ormond Beach Police Chief Mathieson's home.

Suggestions made by Mayor Costello that the Sheriff's EOC and ECC be combined so a cell phone call doesn't have to transfer between two different dispatch centers; that another regional center – like the one New Smyrna Beach/Edgewater/Port Orange established – is needed to have "backup redundancy." Mayor Costello stated that he supports consolidated dispatch and he is going to be working with Ormond Beach to try and enter into one of them; he recalled having tried for that in the past but the Ormond Beach Commission voted it down. He commented that the County needs to work with cities for all of them to get better.

Suggestions made by Mayor Costello for Board discussion about: consolidated dispatch and how to improve that; the number of firefighters – "if 80-85 percent of our calls are EMS/emergency we ought to be thinking about 1-2 on a truck and having another 1-2 spaced around the community like EVAC does." Mayor Costello clarified that he wasn't talking about having less staff on a shift

but “why have all of them in the same place” and he would like discussion on that. He pointed out that jurisdictions have fire, EVAC, beach, sheriff, police, etc. and he thought they should all have automated defibrillator or equipment for emergency. He commented that jurisdictions need to improve, to learn from everything that happens and figure out how to do better. Mayor Costello stated that he, as an individual, and they, as VCOG, cannot make the changes to make things better but they can recommend to County Councilmember Giles that the County create an independent committee for study; not for the County to tell cities this is the way Volusia is going to do fire nor for the cities to tell the County this is the way Volusia is going to do fire. His thought was a group is needed to get together and discuss: we’ve got a community that’s this big and we’ve got this many agencies so this would be the best way to utilize all the resources/people we have to better serve the public. Mayor Costello said he just wanted to put that on the table.

OLD BUSINESS

REVIEW/SELECTION OF PROPOSED VCOG LOGO – MARY SWIDERSKI

Mary Swiderski called attention to a rating sheet and three examples of a logo design and eight examples of colors, as distributed to members. She requested members mark the examples of the logo and color which they liked. Mayor Northrup stated why there’s no discussion is that it’s easier for members to look at the examples and choose. Mary Swiderski pointed out that Example 1 is like a little check mark; Example 2 is very contemporary; Example 3 is clean but kind of boring. She commented on the four examples of color and that each is shown on two different color papers to give members an idea what it would look like. Mary Swiderski mentioned that she and Mary Curran thought about the combination of a burgundy logo on cream color stationary. Mary Swiderski commented if members liked logo example 2, the Board should give complements to Mayor Via, who designed it.

UPDATE OF THE WORKING WATERFRONT ISSUE – MAYOR NANCY EPPS

Mayor Epps stated it came to her attention a year ago of this issue that up and down the east coast [probably the other coast too] that because waterfront property is so highly valued for development, a lot of the boatyards and working lifts have been purchased by developers to primarily build condominiums and docominiums [a condo that has a dock with it]; the statistics are becoming quite alarming. She commented, as a boater and just in interest to the public at large, the economic impact to our area of marine-related activity is enormous [millions and millions of dollars]. Ponce Inlet started looking at ways to make sure that at least one facility in Volusia County would stay; currently, there are two in Ponce Inlet. Initially the Town Council was approached by a developer to rezone the lighthouse boatyard and they originally passed it but the vice mayor wanted to revisit it and they turned it down in the end; for the time being that one has been protected but it is still private property. The issue has morphed into a much bigger project than just a boatyard, now the Town is looking at the whole commercial waterfront area in Ponce Inlet and they’re to get public input of exactly what they want to see in our area of the waterfront. The Town did a visioning plan about three years ago and the residents want to see Ponce Inlet remain a residential community but it was very vague and now it’s become obvious that the Town needs more detail; they are in the process of having charettes where they’re getting public input. Mayor Epps stated that she didn’t have much more than that to report because there hasn’t been whole lot of progress except getting input. She invited anyone having an interest to come to any of the workshops; she announced one scheduled on Wednesday, January 25th; and she said maybe next VCOG meeting she would have more information to present. Mayor Epps mentioned the Town has talked to the Port Authority and to DBCC [they have interest in having a facility on the water for their marine science program] and they’ve talked to the County. She commented that they have generated a lot of interest and are trying to move forward as fast as they can and get some answers.

Mayor Via asked about the SunCruz and he wondered if it is part of what Ponce Inlet is considering; to which Mayor Epps responded that it’s not really part of it; it is in that commercial area but that particular property is not in question for what its use is going to be [SunCruz has a lease]. Mayor Costello mentioned that he knew people in Ormond Beach that dock their boats in Ponce Inlet so it does impact all of us. He commented that there ought to be a way to have some incentives to give developers and he offered a couple suggestions. Mayor Costello stated that he

would hate to see marinas leave and he commended Mayor Epps and Ponce Inlet for trying to do everything they can to keep them; he encouraged them to get creative and see if the Town can give some incentives for keeping marinas and still let developers make some money. Mayor Epps replied that the Town is trying to be very creative and has done a lot of work in trying to come up with options [looking at development rights and a lot of different options]. Mayor Epps stated the particular property they're looking at has the lift facilities and in order to keep the lift and boatyard you cannot have a whole lot of mixed use there. Mayor Green explained what the City of Port Orange did in its riverwalk. County Councilmember Giles commented on having participated in a workshop regarding this issue, facilitated by Herb Marlowe; he said a lot of suggestions came out of that workshop, including mixed use, etc. but the focus was to make sure it was still going to be a working waterfront. Mayor O'Neal stated when property has a private situation, if there is a public aspect of that, parties get a higher ration from the State for boatslip allocation [i.e. if it's all private the owner gets certain amount but if it's private/public they get more]. Mayor Vandergriff stated that New Smyrna Beach understands Ponce Inlet's stance on the working waterfront; he remarked that the big issue is the haul-out facilities and he explained why. He mentioned having heard that legislators are strongly recommending keeping the one in Ponce Inlet and of possibly "even the County coming to the table to purchase it"; he remarked that it's a multi-million dollar business. Chairman Northrup asked Mayor Epps to keep the VCOG Board updated on the issue and he said they'll put her back on the agenda in a few months.

UPDATES FROM VCOG ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEES:

AUDIT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – HERBERT SEELY

Mr. Seely stated that the VCOG, MPO and WAV Boards had appointed members to serve on the Committee, also an at-large member which was someone who sat on all three Boards, and himself. The Committee has not met as yet but will be meeting in the near future because this is the last year of the contract for the audit and bids will have to go out for the audit. Mr. Seely remarked that the makeup of the Committee will have to change as he cannot sit on the Committee in the selection of the auditors; at that time, the Committee can be reestablished to develop a scope and choose auditors for that year upcoming.

NEW FACILITIES DISCUSSION – MAYOR GREG NORTHRUP

Chairman Northrup discussed the need to relocate the three organizations because of shortage of space and the fact we are now month to month with our present lease. Over the years we have tried to find another location through committees with no avail.

The need to have an easily assessable meeting area and offices is imperative for our members. Locations such as Deltona, New Smyrna Beach, Pierson and Ormond Beach are too far in one location for all members.

Mayor Erwin brought up the extra space at Deltona's City Hall. Chairman Northrup asked Mayor Mulder if the City could come up with some numbers for the VCOG Board to look at; to which Mayor Mulder agreed. School Board Chair Judy Andersen reminded the Board that at one time the County supplied personnel and space for VCOG and that left uncomfortable feelings between the cities and the County. That is what encouraged VCOG becoming a separate corporation and located at a neutral location. She recommended that housing our staff in a City Hall would be no different and discouraged such move.

Chairman Northrup indicated we are checking several building locations. One such proposal was at Corner Stone off LPGA & I-95.

Maureen France with DUVASAWKO, Corner Stone's property management company, proposed to Chairman Northrup \$15.95 per SF compared to our present \$12.75 SF (3000 SF). (The need to have an easily assessable location is imperative for our members.) She indicated that a shared conference room with the other people in the building would keep our rent relatively close to what we have now. This appeared interesting because of its location.

Maureen said she wanted to work with the County to see if they would pay for the build-out cost (\$211,790 (\$50,000 FFE)), Annual CAM and Conference Room (\$59,353) with economic funds. Mayor Northrup made it clear that an agreement like that would be between Corner Stone and the County and not the three organizations. Although it is standard in the commercial lease industry to charge for CAM and Property Tax, this additional charge was never presented to us up front.

Based on the reaction of the four County Council members so far, Chairman Northrup said most likely the County Council had not seen these figures when they discussed options with Maureen one-on-one. It concerns him because it's stated in the written Memo (put together by DUVASAWKO) "VCOG, on behalf of the three organizations, is respectfully requesting the County of Volusia cover the CAM charges for the offices & conference room that largely amounts to county taxes." This statement is inaccurate. Chairman Northrup stated to Maureen that we would be glad to request the Council review the proposal presented by DUVASAWKO and get back to us.

Mary Swiderski shared a conversation with Rick Michaels, Volusia County Economic Development, and this kind of proposal does not follow the guidelines to qualify for funding assistance. In addition, the majority of 2006 funding has already been allocated to projects that involve cities throughout Volusia. If the County Council did choose to relocate funding it would have to come from one or more of these proposed projects.

Mayor Green brought up the possibility of Port Orange purchasing the Church on Williamson and leasing space. Chairman Northrup encourages everyone to look for a location and contact Mary Swiderski with any information so she can follow up.

Chairman Northrup is requesting the Board to give him and the Executive Board the go ahead to negotiate a lease for \$15.95 - \$20.00 a SF that includes everything.

MOTION by Mayor Green to allow the VCOG Executive Committee to proceed with negotiating a lease. County Council member Giles what your saying is that's if they forgo the CAM costs and everything else. Mayor Via called a point of order as there's two more organizations to have to okay this proposal. Mayor Costello recommended the VCOG Board cap it at \$20.00 SF instead of \$15.95 with no CAM and no build-out. Mayor Green **AMENDED** his motion to limit negotiation of a lease to \$20.00 SF total. Members discussed potential costs for space. Chairman Northrup reminded everyone there's a motion on the floor for maximum \$20.00 SF; he said if someone will second the motion and vote then a proposal will be presented to the VCOG Executive Committee for review total numbers and he assured the Board if the cost is too high they won't go forward. Mayor Vandergriff **SECONDED** Mayor Green's motion as amended. Mayor O'Neal clarified that the motion included them negotiating with City of Port Orange; to which several members responded the motion applies to negotiating with anybody. Chairman Northrup called for a voice vote and the motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

VCOG BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

MAYOR TED ERWIN

He just wanted to remind everyone that January 28th and 29th is the annual Manatee Festival in Orange City, held at Valentine Park near Blue Springs.

MAYOR JAMES SOWELL

He stated the only thing Pierson is having a problem with is Wal-Mart and they feel that the County Council didn't let Pierson know anything about it. He mentioned that a new high school is being built and a new elementary school will be built all on Highway 17; he expressed concerns that 17 cannot handle the traffic load.

Suggestion made by Mayor Shuttleworth, following brief discussions, if it's possible for the VCOG Board to send a letter that is a statement of concern that it doesn't feel like there is any government coordination being followed through-on this deal. Chairman Northrup called for a consensus of Board members if they would like Mary Swiderski to draft such a letter for his signature; by a majority, members concurred with that suggestion.

COUNTY COUNCIL-MEMBER ART GILES

He commented that everybody knows the County had its county manager interviews Friday and Saturday; he think they found a very good candidate that hopefully a contract can be negotiated with. Councilmember Giles mentioned some of the man's background and said what he liked about him was he was so full of energy. Councilmember Giles was apologetic that people didn't get the notice about the Friday reception. Mary Swiderski offered the County VCOG's assistance to distribute anything like this to municipal officials to please let her know.

COMMISSIONER CASSANDRA REYNOLDS

She remarked that everybody knows about the tragedy Daytona Beach had with the wastewater incident and she wondered if maybe VCOG was the right body to look at and suggest some standards for safety; not only in those type situations, not only with wastewater plant and chemicals, but all of the different areas that cities have to work with [streets, etc].

Suggestion made by Commissioner Reynolds this might be something the VCOG Board might want to look at and take up. Chairman Northrup said that sounds good. Mayor Via commented that he would like to workshop the VCOG agenda in the future and find the right people to start talking about that.

MAYOR ROLAND VIA

He expressed a get well wish to Daytona Beach Mayor Yvonne Scarlet-Golden.

He voiced his opinion that Mr. Deenen is a good choice.

He announced that Holly Hill will be first in the County to have a Wal-Mart grocery store with gas pumps [not a super mart but a neighborhood store with gas pumps] at Flomich and Nova Road.

Mayor Via emphasize a once in a lifetime event in Volusia County regarding the birthplace of speed centennial. He announced the 2006 version is going to celebrate the Stanley Steamer and spoke of several events on Wednesday January 25th; he stated the City of Ormond Beach is extending an invitation to an open/public reception that evening at the Casements. On Thursday January 26th will be reenactments on the beach. He remarked that it's a chance to see history relived and he encouraged everyone to come.

Mayor Via announced that Thursday evening, January 26th, Holly Hill is hosting the Volusia League dinner at the Riveria Assisted Living Facility. He asked Board members to please encourage their new elected people to attend.

MS. JUDY ANDERSEN

She mentioned an issue coming up at the MPO Board meeting of a grant for looking at traffic issues at various schools. She expressed caution that once they have done another study and it's been certified then everybody is responsible if there's an accident at the city or the County; she referred to it as a "double edged sword." Ms. Andersen wanted to assure that the grant is limited in scope.

MAYOR NANCY EPPS

She mentioned the former Town manager went to India to provide assistance following the tsunami and now some visitors will be coming to Ponce Inlet on February 1st.

MAYOR FRED COSTELLO

He made reference to Commissioner Reynolds comment and he thought part of the discussion could be – whether it would be the County or VCOG – hiring some inspector-type person that inspects all of the jurisdictions; somebody with expertise whether they had been OSHA inspector or whatever; he thanked her for bringing that up.

Request made by Mayor Costello to County Councilmember Giles to let the new county manager be aware that the "issue isn't always how it ends up, the issue is did the city you're working with feel like we had reasonable expectation that we could come together." Mayor Costello expressed that elected officials feel they have pretty good communication with each other but he isn't convinced that staff has. Mayor Costello emphasized that he hoped one of the goals County Council have with the County Manager is to make sure no matter what decision he [county manager] makes, make sure none of the cities can come to councilmember(s) and say they didn't feel like they were ever at the table, they didn't feel like it mattered what their side of the issue was.

MAYOR GREG NORTHRUP

He announced that he is going to get with Mary Swiderski and try to keep the VCOG meetings about a half-hour shorter.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the VCOG Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 P.M.

AS SUBMITTED, THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD WERE APPROVED IN AN OPEN MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 27, 2006, IN THE VCOG BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM AT 1190 PELICAN BAY DRIVE, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.

VCOG, INC.

Chair

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary