

# MINUTES OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD

REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2007

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  
Mayor Mike Thomas  
Mayor Roland Via  
Mayor James Vandergriff  
Mayor Albert Erwin  
Mayor Fredrick Costello  
Mayor James Sowell  
Mayor Nancy Epps  
Mayor Allen Green  
Mayor Blaine O'Neal  
Council-member Art Giles  
Candace Lankford

## REPRESENTING

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

Members Absent: Mayor Mulder, Deltona; Mayor Shuttleworth, Lake Helen; Mayor Thompson, Oak Hill

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

## OTHERS PRESENT

Matt Adair  
Kelli McGee  
Aldon Magee  
Rosemarie Gore  
Don Vancini  
Pat Kelly  
Steve Strawn  
Betty Holness  
Joe Crum  
Vince Lopez

## REPRESENTING

Volusia-Flagler Unified Code Committee  
Volusia County Environment Management  
VFEAC Inc.  
Vo. Co. League of Women Voters  
UCC/County of Volusia  
Vo. Co. Fire Chiefs Association  
Citizen  
County of Volusia  
UCC/Port Orange  
Citizen

## 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 Vandergriff called to order the June 25, 2007, regular meeting of the VCOG Governing Board.

The Roll was called and a quorum was declared present.

Chairman Vandergriff led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/PARTICIPATION**Aldon Magee, Volusia-Flagler Environmental Action Committee

He asked why all the NRMA land wasn't included in Map A. Also, he commented of most of land in center of corridor is all public lands.

Kelli McGee responded

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS/RECOGNITION**

The Chair gave no comments or recognitions.

**VCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING**

Mary Swiderski presented an overview of the following:

- Paintings on walls – placed by Art in Public Places Program of Museum of Arts & Sciences.
- As a result of hearing about New Smyrna Beach's Workforce Housing Overlay District, Mary Swiderski presented the concept of jurisdictions providing information of their respective projects/programs for general discussion at VCOG Board meetings. The Board decided VCOG should gather information/data [e.g. on special districts] from all local governments.
- Request by Florida League of Cities–Florida League of Mayors to encourage mayors to sign a "Green Cities" accord.
- Announcement that VCOG is co-sponsoring the "Green Development" workshop, scheduled September 14, 2007.
- Announcement of Volusia League of Cities Bi-Annual Luncheon, scheduled September 12, 2007.
- Announcement that she's completed the VCOG website layout; it will be fully operational when some technical difficulties are corrected.

Mary Swiderski introduced Matt Adair and he presented a proposal of an Emergency Identification Hang Tag System.

- In the aftermath of the tornado disaster earlier in 2007; Matt worked on putting together an identification tag system; that would also be inexpensive and effective.
- Identification tag would be color coded, sequentially numbered, and contain a watermark for security purposes.
- Initially the hang tag system was intended for use by essential government personnel only.
- The Unified Code Committee members recommended expanding the system to include some contractors [construction, debris removal, etc.]. Contractor could be pre-registered, at which time, their state license, liability and workers comp insurance, etc. would be verified.
- Jim Ryan and Sheriff Ben Johnson have previewed system and agreed it's beneficial if every local government sign-on to this type of system.
- The Volusia County Sheriff suggested issuing hang tags to residents of affected area(s).
- Request VCOG Board's consideration to take proposal back to their respective jurisdictions for implementation.

VCOG Board members discussed concerns on issuance of emergency hang tags to contractors – the process/procedure of issuance and security measure(s). There were also members' discussions on having some sort of distribution system relating to checkpoints.

**RECOMMENDATION** made by Mayor Apgar that Matt Adair arrange with Jim Ryan to make a presentation, for approval of the system, at one of the EOC group meetings, that municipal managers, jurisdictions' EOC representatives, and Volusia School reps attend.

**CONSENT AGENDA****APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 25, 2007**

Minutes of the June 25, 2007, regular meeting of the VCOG Board had been mailed with Board members' agenda packets.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2007 AND JULY 31, 2007**

Treasurer's report for the two month period of June 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007 and July 1, 2007 to July 31, 2007, had been mailed with Board members' agenda packets. *Note: Revenues and Expenditures were within the budget for the two months.*

**MOTION** by Mayor Apgar and **SECOND** by Council-member Giles for approval of all Consent Agenda items as presented; motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

## OLD BUSINESS

**VCOG SMART GROWTH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mayor Northrup recalled, at its last meeting, the Committee talked about having tools in the toolbox but hasn't come up with any yet. He mentioned that the majority of Committee members and audience members felt land use in Map A should not change – should not have any more density added – there was some discussion of maybe giving density if a property owner wanted to cluster but nothing was decided on. In the next few months, the Committee will be working on coming up with tools in the toolbox.

Mary Swiderski reported an updated Map A will be presented to the Committee at its meeting on September 10; it will include all changes [some lands added and some removed] recommended through variations in the resolutions on Map A. It will even include the changes made by Daytona Beach; although Daytona Beach has not yet indicated when they will take action on the resolution.

**REQUEST** by Mayor Costello to have another map drawn, for the next VCOG Smart Growth Committee meeting, that shows NRMA areas that are not included in Map A.

**HOW SHALL WE LIVE IN VOLUSIA SUMMIT RESULTS**

Mary Swiderski recalled the VCOG Board approved an allocation of \$20,000 to cover the Summit expenses; also the Board approved an additional \$4,000 for anticipated cost of polling devices. The total cost of the Summit [\$16, 115.55] was less than the initial estimated cost. Mary Swiderski acknowledged the generosity of the County for lending staff members to assist with the Summit; she thanked Kelli McGee, Betty Holness, Steve Kintner and others for their help. She mentioned that in Board members' agenda packet are results and comments by the pollster.

## NEW BUSINESS

**REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR MARY SWIDERSKI**

Mary Swiderski reported evaluation forms had been sent to all the VCOG Board members and also to the Volusia League of Cities Executive Committee members.

- Of the VCOG Board members who completed the evaluation, 74% rated Mary Swiderski's overall performance as Outstanding or Exceeds Expectations.
- Of the Volusia League Executive Committee members who completed the evaluation, 99% rated Mary Swiderski's overall performance as Outstanding or Exceeds Expectations.
- Included also in Board members' agenda packet was a summary showing the accomplishments for VCOG and the Volusia League.

Mary Swiderski related the VCOG Executive Committee's recommendation of a \$5000 adjustment in her annual salary to bring her base to \$45,000.00 and a one-time bonus of \$7500.

Mayor Apgar explained that the Executive Committee recommended a bonus because the Board had asked Mary Swiderski to undertake a lot of additional tasks during the year. He commended Mary Swiderski's outstanding efforts in accomplishing those additional projects; also of raising new revenue. The Executive Committee decided her efforts should be recognized on a one-time basis. The Committee also decided that a new job description must be written to incorporate those additional duties/responsibilities.

Mayor Costello expressed a concern of so many sponsorships of scheduled events; he indicated he would rather pay more to attend events and deemphasize sponsorships. Chairman Vandergriff suggested bringing this subject up at another time.

Board members discussed their respective concerns and/or support regarding the proposed increase; also additional duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director's position.

**MOTION** by Mayor Erwin and **SECOND** by Mayor Northrup to approve the VCOG Executive Committee's recommendation of \$5000 adjustment in salary [to bring base salary to \$45,000.00] and a one-time bonus of \$7500 for VCOG Executive Director; following ensuing discussions, the motion **CARRIED** on a voice vote of 13-2 with Mayor Green and Council-member Giles dissenting. A **weighted vote was called** for and the motion **CARRIED** 48.90 percentage over 33.48 percentage.

### **APPROVAL OF VCOG FISCAL YEAR 2007-08 BUDGET**

**MOTION** by Mayor Apgar and **SECOND** by Mrs. Lankford for approval of the VCOG Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-08 as presented.

Mary Swiderski referenced the Members Assessment sheet and she pointed out, contingent upon the VCOG Board's approval, a 12% credit will be applied to each assessment.

Mayor Via suggested increasing the proposed credit to 50%. Members' discussions ensued of some alternatives, including doing a sliding scale, and the rationale for the 12%.

Chairman Vandergriff called for a voice vote and the **motion** was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

### **OVERVIEW OF ALTERNATE SOURCES OF REVENUE (USER FEES) – KEN SMALL, FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES FINANCIAL TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER**

Mr. Small commented of intending to talk about a variety of revenues but as he will be discussing this more in-depth September 12, he decided to just provide an overview of the Florida League of Cities program.

- Florida League of Cities has probably one of best and most cost effective programs of Revenue Enhancement Training.
- Mr. Small does reviews of expenditures but concentrates training on revenues:
  - What is available;
  - How far municipalities can go within the law;
  - That every municipality is different - One size does not fit all;
  - Look at revenue neutrality;
  - Look at it as a way to reduce dependency on property tax.
- Elected officials need to better understand what choices are available; what mixture of different revenues they can use to provide services citizens want.
- Revenue training program covers everything including:
  - Property taxes – to provide municipal staff a better understanding of;
  - Home Rule revenues [e.g. fire assessment fee, utility tax on water];
  - Local option sales taxes;
  - State shared revenues;
  - Ways to reduce expenditures;
  - Teaches municipal staff of different components and how they all fit together and how they are utilized.

Mr. Small stated that the Florida League of Cities staff is available to help local governments any way they can.

**REQUEST** by Mayor Costello that Ken Smith provide written information for the September 12 luncheon of:

- (1) A list of what some of the alternate sources of income are – Mayor Costello's interested in finding revenue neutral alternate sources of revenue for property taxes;

- (2) Examples of surgical downsizing - top 10 recommendations [techniques & opportunities] Ken Small has made to other cities;
- (3) Some benchmarks of what other communities' property tax burdens is as compared to assessments or compared to per capita or compared to increase in assessment over last X number of years - Mayor Costello wanted to know if they are ahead of the curve or behind the curve.
- (4) Some of the best practices for revenue mix and cost recovery.

Board members discussed property assessment concerns [homestead and business properties]. Chairman Vandergriff thanked Mr. Small for his presentation.

## **BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

### MAYOR ALLEN GREEN

He commented regarding workforce housing – a need to teach people how to work with banks to take foreclosures off the market.

### MAYOR BLAINE O'NEAL

He reminded everyone of the next Volusia League of Cities dinner meeting, hosted by the City of South Daytona, on September 20, 2007.

### MAYOR ROLAND VIA

He recalled that during the Florida League's Conference, part of a panel discussion, Senator Geller spoke about the super exemption coming forward and of the lottery fund; that people taking super exemption would cause a \$3 billion deficit in education budget.

### COUNCIL-MEMBER ART GILES

He recalled Mayor Costello's comment on local radio show. He thought it was interesting that the City of Ormond Beach is working on setting a definite millage for the capital part of its budget.

### MRS. CANDACE LANKFORD

She announced the Volusia School Board has been requested to attend the legislature's special session. She suggested some kind of VCOG ad hoc committee is needed to address action of the special session.

### MAYOR NANCY EPPS

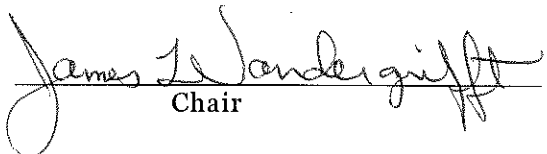
She made comments regarding the lottery; also about Florida League of Cities John Wayne Smith.

## **ADJOURNMENT**


There being no further business to come before the VCOG Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

AS SUBMITTED, THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD WERE APPROVED IN AN OPEN MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2007, IN THE MPO/VCOG/WAV CONFERENCE ROOM AT 2570 W. INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 120, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.

**VCOG, INC.**

  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
Recording Secretary