

# MINUTES OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD

REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2007

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

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Greg Northrup  
Mayor George Coleman  
Mayor Robert F. Apgar  
Mayor Mike Thomas  
Mayor Roland Via  
Mayor Albert Erwin  
Mayor Fredrick Costello  
Mayor Allen Green  
Mayor Blaine O'Neal  
Council-member Art Giles  
Ms. Candace Lankford

## REPRESENTING

Daytona Beach Shores  
DeBary  
DeLand  
Edgewater  
Holly Hill  
Orange City  
Ormond Beach  
Port Orange  
South Daytona  
Volusia County  
Volusia County School Board

Members Absent: Commissioner Reynonlds, Daytona Beach; Mayor Mulder, Deltona; Mayor Shuttleworth, Lake Helen; Mayor Vandergriff, New Smyrna Beach; Mayor Thompson, Oak Hill; Mayor Sowell, Pierson; Mayor Epps, Ponce Inlet

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

## OTHERS PRESENT

Unknown citizen [did not sign in on attendance sheet]

## REPRESENTING

## VCOG/WAV STAFF PRESENT

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

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

*In the absence of the VCOG Chair, the Vice-Chair [Mayor Robert Apgar] conducted the VCOG Governing Board meeting.*

At 5:00 P.M., Vice Chair Apgar called to order the September 24, 2007, regular meeting of the VCOG Governing Board.

The Roll was called and a quorum was declared present.

Vice Chair Apgar led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS/PARTICIPATION**

No public comments.

## **CHAIR'S COMMENTS/RECOGNITION**

None

**VCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING**

Mary Swiderski presented the following items:

- Water Authority of Volusia [WAV] – since the termination of its Executive Director, the WAV Executive Committee had undertaken the administrative responsibilities. At its September 19, 2007, meeting, the WAV Board of Directors decided to contract with VCOG to provide administrative services for FY 2007-08 at \$1,000 monthly, contingent upon approval of the VCOG Governing Board.
  - WAV Board had discussed the necessity of having somebody provide the day-to-day administrative [manager level] services [e.g., approve payment of invoices; set WAV Board meeting agendas, etc.].
  - The WAV Board had several options for consideration; they decided to offer VCOG a contract for services.
  - One reason for this action relates to the Sunshine Law - that discussion between the WAV Executive Committee member(s) and other officials could be in violation of the Sunshine Law.
  - Contractual details can be worked out between the Executive Committees of WAV and VCOG.
- **MOTION** by Mayor Costello and **SECOND** by County Council-member Giles that VCOG proceed with a contract to allow the VCOG Executive Director to provide interim services to WAV; that the VCOG Executive Committee be authorized to approve the contract and that the VCOG Executive Committee have authority to terminate the contact with a 60 day notification if a determination is made that this is not beneficial to VCOG.
  - Mayor Via suggested amending the motion to include the rate of \$1,000 per month. In agreement, Mayor Costello moved to **AMEND** his motion; seconded by County Council-member Giles.
  - Vice Chair Apgar called the question; the motion, as amended, was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.
- VCOG Smart Growth Committee Recap of the September 10, 2007, meeting is included in the Executive Director's report.
  - City of Daytona Beach has not, to date, taken action on the Resolution to adopt Map A.
  - **Recommendation** made by Mayor Costello to have VCOG Chair, Mayor Vandergriff, write a letter to Daytona Beach Mayor Ritchey that the VCOG Board thinks it is important all local governments are together on this matter and to encourage the City Commission's consideration on the Resolution.
  - By consensus, the Board decided that the VCOG Chair write a letter to the City of Daytona Beach/Mayor Ritchey, as recommended.

**CONSENT AGENDA****A. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2007**

Minutes of the August 27, 2007, regular meeting of the VCOG Board had been mailed with Board members' agenda packets.

**B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MONTH ENDED AUGUST 31, 2007**

Treasurer's report for the period of August 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007, had been mailed with Board members' agenda packets. *Note: Revenues and Expenditures were within the budget for the month.*

***Note! This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Mayor Allen Green for further discussion.***

**C. APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF ANNUAL CONTRACT WITH MARY SWIDERSKI FOR OCTOBER 1, 2007 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

**D. APPROVAL OF THE FESS CONTRACTOR SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EMPLOYMENT SCREENING CONSULTANTS/NATALIE VANDERHOOF AND VCOG**

Annual agreement for contractor services of the Firefighter Employment Screening Services program. The contract period is October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008. The FESS Contractor Service Agreement for FY 2007-2008 between Employment Screening Consultants/Natalie Vanderhoof and VCOG had been mailed with Board members' agenda packets.

**E. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO FY 06-07 BUDGET**

This is a year-end budget amendment to make adjustments between accounts. Documentation of the proposed adjustments to the VCOG FY 2006-07 Budget had been mailed with Board members' agenda packets.

**MOTION** by County Council-member Giles and **SECOND** by Mayor Green for approval of Consent Agenda items A, B, D, and E, as presented; motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

*Note! Discussion on item pulled from Consent Agenda.*

**C. APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF ANNUAL CONTRACT WITH MARY SWIDERSKI FOR OCTOBER 1, 2007 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

Mayor Green requested information on Mary Swiderski's work hours; specifically relating to accrual of PTO [paid time off] hours.

Mary Swiderski explained that her PTO is accrued bi-weekly at the same rate as other employees of VCOG. Mr. Seely further explained that it is based on a 40-hour work week. There were further discussions on accrual of PTO.

Candace Lankford interrupted the meeting to announce she had received an email message from FSBA that is saying the Leon County Circuit Court has ruled that the Legislature's proposed constitutional amendment re Property Tax Relief is unconstitutional and misleading and therefore may not appear on the January 29, 2008, ballot.

**MOTION** by Mayor Green and **SECOND** by Candace Lankford for approval of the annual contract renewal with Mary Swiderski, period of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008; the motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

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

As Mayor Northrup had not yet arrived, Vice Chair Apgar asked if any members had comments.

Mayor Thomas recalled from the Mayors Luncheon a comment from County Chair Frank Bruno regarding the "jewels" in Volusia County.

**REQUEST** by Mayor Thomas that each city/town mayor and the County make a list of its respective "jewels" (e.g., for Edgewater it's Indian River; for Oak Hill it's Mosquito Lagoon and Turtle Mound Road; for DeBary it's Green Springs, Blue Springs, Tiger Bay State Park; etc.). He reasoned if all the lists are put together there's better understanding what the Smart Growth Committee is trying to protect.

Candace Lankford reported that similiarly has been done at the myregion level; each county listing its own jewels has been done on a wide scope for the seven counties of myregion.

**RECOMMENDATION** by Vice Chair Apgar that this item ought to come before the Smart Growth Committee.

Mayor Via recalled that County Chair Bruno also remarked that the News Journal has difficulty with Map A and has critized local officials for insufficient communication. Mayor Via mentioned

that from the myregion level, Volusia is the “envy of the other counties for the amount of green space we have and the initiatives we have taken.”

### **REQUEST FOR “GREEN MAYOR” SUPPORT STATEMENT**

Mary Swiderski announced that, in each Board member’s agenda packet is a form, which the Florida Green Building Coalition local representative, in DeLand, would like to get all the “Green Mayor” Support Statements completed by all Volusia mayors. Mary Swiderski requested any mayor who hadn’t already signed the form, to do so and send it to her; she will then forward it to the representative.

Candace Lankford commented of the School Board looking into how to be “greener”; she also mentioned the Stetson University Business School is the first green certified building in the State.

Members expressed viewpoints for signing the support statement; do their governing bodies need to take action. Vice Chair Apgar conveyed that this item doesn’t require any VCOG Board action.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **PRESENTATION OF VCOG’S WEBSITE**

Mary Swiderski did an internet presentation of the VCOG website. She pointed out that although the site is still under construction, she has made a lot of progress to-date. Mary Swiderski expressed appreciation to Mayor Via for all his assistance and instruction throughout this process.

**NOTE** – As the Vice Chair, Mayor Apgar had to leave, he handed the gavel over to the Secretary/Treasurer, County Council-member Giles to conduct the rest of the meeting.

Candace Lankford noticed that the School Board wasn’t on the VCOG “Voting Member Organizations” listing. Mary Swiderski gave assurance that this will be remedied.

Mary Swiderski continued her review of the website; she encouraged members to let her know if they wanted any other Links added to the website.

Secretary/Treasurer Giles commended Mary Swiderski’s efforts; he asked the name of the website; to which Mary Swiderski responded that it’s **VCOGINC.com**

Mayor Costello inquired if the domain name of **vcoginc.org** is available. He suggested it would be worthwhile to have both and link them. By general consensus, Board members directed Mary Swiderski to proceed in reserving the **vcoginc.org** domain name.

Secretary/Treasurer Giles expressed the Board’s appreciation to Mayor Via for assisting in setting up the VCOG website.

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR FUTURE TOPICS DISCUSSION**

Secretary/Treasurer Giles called for future topic ideas.

**SUGGESTED** topic by Candace Lankford on the constitutional amendment of property tax reform.

**REQUEST** by Mayor Costello that a list of past suggested topics be provided to the Board; as requested previously.

Secretary/Treasurer Giles agreed this ought to be included on the next meeting agenda.

Mayor Costello offered the following items:

- Cost reduction strategies - dividing it up into 2 or 3 different parts.
- Union negotiations.

Secretary/Treasurer Giles recalled from past meeting suggestion that each member bring in a list

of cost reductions their respective jurisdictions had done; he mentioned having spoke to the County Manager of that.

**SUGGESTED** by Candace Lankford that Morgan Gilreath be brought in to address property tax reform. She commented of other presentations by other counties property/tax appraisers offices.

Board members discussed inviting other property/tax appraisers to make presentations. Mary Swiderski offered to check into that; Candace Lankford will talk with Mary Swiderski on it also.

**SUGGESTED** by Mayor Via that somebody, other than Morgan, be brought in to discuss whatever the new referendum on the property tax is.

It was decided to leave the decision up to the VCOG Executive Committee whether the topic will be on the VCOG Board's October meeting agenda.

Other topics that were mentioned:

- Accident prevention [rescheduling]
- Organizations/memberships/costs that local governments belong to.

### **BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

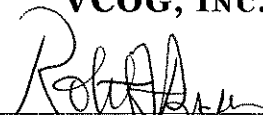
There were no additional Board members' comments.

### **ADJOURNMENT**


There being no further business to come before the VCOG Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

AS SUBMITTED, THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD WERE APPROVED IN AN OPEN MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 22, 2007, IN THE MPO/VCOG/WAV CONFERENCE ROOM AT 2570 W. INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 120, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.

**VCOG, Inc.**

  
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Vice Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Recording Secretary