

MINUTES OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD

REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 26, 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 Joan Duffy
Mayor Sally Mackay
Mayor Harley Strickland
Mayor Fredrick Costello
Mayor James Sowell
Mayor Nancy Epps
Mayor Allen Green
Mayor Blaine O'Neal
Councilmember Art Giles
Honorable Candace Lankford

REPRESENTING

Daytona Beach
Daytona Beach Shores
DeBary
DeLand
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 Mulder, Deltona; Mayor Thompson, Oak Hill

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Wayne Blanton
Stan Schmidt
Robert Moll
Joni Hunt
Doug Koserak
Ted Erwin
Beth Rawlins
Dick Pollard
Diana Pollard
Hatty Dick
Pat Kelly
Margaret Smith
J Miller
Diane Smith
Kay Semion
Jim Cameron

REPRESENTING

Florida School Board Association
Volusia County School Board
Volusia County School Board
ERAU
Volusia Tax Reform
Citizen

Volusia Tax Reform
Volusia Tax Reform
Volusia Tax Reform
Volusia County Fire Chiefs Association
Volusia County School District
Daytona Beach News Journal
Volusia County School Board
Daytona Beach News Journal
Daytona Beach/Halifax Chamber

VCOG STAFF PRESENT

Mary Swiderski, VCOG Executive Director
Mary Curran, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

At 5:00 PM, the Acting Chair, Mayor Apgar called the November 26, 2007, regular meeting of the

VCOG Governing Board to order.

Acting Chairman Apgar recognized and welcomed two new Board members – Mayor Joan Duffy, City of Lake Helen, and Mayor Harley Strickland, City of Orange City. He also acknowledged the presence of Volusia Tax Reform Coalition representatives. The roll was then called and a quorum was declared present.

Acting Chairman Apgar led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PARTICIPATION

None.

ACTING CHAIR'S COMMENTS/RECOGNITION OF:

- Mayor Jim Vandergriff
- Mayor Ted Erwin
- Mayor Mark Shuttleworth

Acting Chairman Apgar requested Board members approval of Resolutions 7-01, 7-02, and 7-03.

MOTION by Mayor Costello and **SECOND** by County Councilmember Giles for approval of VCOG Resolutions 7-01, 7-02, and 7-03, as presented; motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** by voice vote.

Acting Chairman Apgar acknowledged past-mayor Ted Erwin and presented him with a plaque; he [Apgar] expressed the VCOG Board's appreciation for his [Erwin] years of service on the Board. Resolution 7-02 was read in its entirety and made a part of these minutes:

A RESOLUTION OF THE VCOG, INC. GOVERNING BOARD TO MAYOR ALBERT T. "TED" ERWIN 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 and South Daytona, the County of Volusia and the Volusia County School Board; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Ted Erwin originally joined the VCOG, Inc. Governing Board in June of 2000 as a representative for the City of Orange City and remained so until November 2007. During his tenure, Mayor Erwin was on the Executive Committee as well as holding Office as Vice Chair in 2002. Mayor Erwin served with dedication, dignity and distinction;

WHEREAS, that VCOG, Inc. does hereby honor Mayor Ted Erwin for his seven years of service with the VCOG Board and express sincere appreciation for his constant, diligent and responsible involvement and interest in VCOG, Inc. and its goals and objectives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting held November 26, 2007.

Ted Erwin expressed a hope that the VCOG organization continues; he thought it very important that elected officials of various cities get together on a continuing basis; he always looked forward to working with the various cities. Ted thanked Mayor Apgar and the Board for this recognition.

Acting Chairman Apgar acknowledged and welcomed, to the VCOG Board, newly elected Mayor Sally Mackay, City of New Smyrna Beach.

VCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

Mary Swiderski presented a briefing of:

Each Board member was given a book, entitled "The Dream Manager" by Matthew Kelley
The Volusia League is conducting two sessions of the Newly Elected Officials Seminar;
Saturday, December 8, 2007 and Saturday, December 15, 2007 – same program but the two
dates enable more officials to attend

A copy of the 2008 VCOG Calendar and the 2008 Volusia League of Cities Calendar of events
are attached to the Executive Director's report

Included in the Executive Director's report is update of the VCOG Property Tax Reform
Committee's first meeting

- Sam Bell was invited to speak to the group – he will be at the December 13, 2007 meeting

Acting Chairman Apgar announced the next two meetings of the VCOG Property Tax Reform
Committee are scheduled November 28, 2007, at 5:15 PM and December 13, 2007, at 5:15 PM.

Candace Lankford recalled she had made a statement at the Committee's meeting that South
Carolina has a state income tax. She was informed what was in the Executive Director's report was
not the summary of that meeting; however, staff would assure Ms. Lankford's statement was
included in the summary of the November 28, 2007, Committee meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA**APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2007**

Minutes of the October 22, 2007, regular meeting of the VCOG Board were mailed with Board
members' agenda packets.

APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 2007

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

CANCELLATION OF DECEMBER MEETINGS

Historically, due to the Holidays and difficulty attaining a quorum, December meetings usually are
cancelled.

MOTION by County Councilmember Giles and **SECOND** by Mayor Via for approval of all consent
agenda items, as presented; motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS**PRESENTATION BY FLORIDA SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION (FSBA) – DR. WAYNE
BLANTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

- **Volusia County School Board Concerns – Dr. Margaret Smith, Superintendent; and
Dr. Robert Moll, Deputy Superintendent For Financial & Business Services**

Candace Lankford thanked the VCOG Board for giving an opportunity to the Volusia School Board
and Florida School Board Association to make a presentation to members. She then introduced
attending representatives of the Volusia School Board [Vice Chair Diane Smith, Mr. Stan Schmidt,
Dr. Margaret Smith and Dr. Robert Moll] and the Florida School Board Association [Dr. Wayne
Blantom].

Dr. Margaret Smith also thanked Mayor Apgar and the VCOG Board for providing time on the
agenda to address property tax reform. Following are highlights of Dr. Smith's comments:

The School District has had to make major budget cuts due to the State revenue shortfalls
With the proposed constitutional amendment the School District has to look at further reductions
School Board began a series of budget workshops
School Board focuses on being fiscally prudent

With more mandates coming from the State – many unfunded - the School District has little discretion and flexibility in expenditures

Dr. Moll will provide some fiscal information; including impact of the property tax constitutional amendment.

Dr. Blanton will provide additional property tax information from a statewide perspective.

After the presentations, they will answer questions and listen to comments.

Dr. Robert Moll greeted Acting Chairman Apgar and the VCOG Board. Some highlights of his presentation:

Florida Constitution, Article 9, Section 1 – reference to statement, “education of children is a fundamental value” and the statement, “to make adequate provision”

Overview of the School District Adopted Budget

- Some factors [DCD-District Cost Differential; WFTE-weighted full time (student) enrollment] the State uses to calculate the funding formula for School Districts
- Cost saving measures the School Board has had to do [e.g. reduction of staff, program elimination or modification, ect.]
- Volusia School District is facing less student enrollment for FY 2007-08
- Impact on School District’s budget from State shortfalls and projected impact if State Constitutional Amendment is passed

Dr. Wayne Blanton, Executive Director of the Florida School Board Association, gave a presentation on the statewide perspective of school districts:

He meets with the executive directors of the Florida League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties every two weeks

He emphasized [local governments and school districts] needing to do a better job of telling the business community and general public what they are doing

That local governments and school districts have employees who pay rent, buy houses, buy groceries, etc.

- Need to let the general public and business know about impact to those employees

10 mil is the constitutional limit on all school districts

- The State controls school districts tax rate – the cities/counties have a choice locally of their [jurisdiction] respective rate

Recently, the State has had local government pick up a broader share of the school funding

There was impact from the class size [constitutional] amendment

- School districts only hope is the Budget and Tax Reform Commission
- Need to put class size amendment back on the ballot

Have to look at long list of exemptions – approximately \$12 billion in exemptions

Should also look at internet sales

Budget & Tax Reform Commission won’t meet again for 20 years – local governments, school districts, etc. must work closely with them

Imperative that local governments, school districts, etc. must work together to let state know impact

Florida does not have state income tax – state income tax is stable revenue source; unlike sales tax

Important to him to hold education harmless

Discussions ensued of: property tax; sales tax; internet sales tax; exemptions; mortgage transfer fee and document stamp fee.

Chairman Apgar thanked Dr. Smith, Dr. Moll and Dr. Blanton for their presentations.

PROPERTY TAX REFORM JANUARY 29, 2008, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Chairman Apgar introduced Beth Rawlins.

Ms. Rawlins first congratulated VCOG Board members on two things: (1) that VCOG even exists as an organization where representatives of local governments get together regularly and share information, etc.; and (2) on having foresight to have discussions about overall tax reform.

Following are highlights of her presentation:

Regarding the January 2008 proposal [constitutional amendment] – needs to be addressed in specific way in terms of:

- What local governments positions will be, and
- Educating of the electorate

The provision has four (4) parts

- Portability
- Additional homestead exemption
- Tangible personal property tax exemption
- 10% cap on non homestead properties

Some provisions do affect school funding – schools have not been held harmless in the proposal

The Florida League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties have met together and each have adopted positions on the constitutional amendment

- Florida League of Cities has adopted a resolution to oppose passage of the amendment
- Florida Association of Counties has adopted a resolution of its concerns about passage of the amendment
- Basically the reasons the FLC and FAC have adopted their two positions:
 - The State has continued to shift the burden of public education funding onto local governments in the form of required local effort
 - The issue of unfunded mandates that the State has moved onto local governments
 - No one has adequately assessed the fiscal impact of this amendment
 - The FLC resolution includes a reason which the FAC didn't adopt – that the proposal furthers the inequities and disparities of an already lopsided tax system

Important to mention what the proposal would not do is cause huge tax cuts

Decision is going to be made by the voters in Florida

She offered her services and whatever resources of the FLC and FAC to help local governments to educate the electorate

Discussions ensued regarding:

How to effectively communicate what local governments, the FLC and FAC concerns

What can FLC and FAC provide to help local governments in this effort [Apgar]

- Some jurisdictions have asked for a basic outline of how to communicate what the effects of the proposal are going to be [Rawlins]
- Some local governments plan to form separate committee, have a speakers bureau [Rawlins]
- Some local governments plan to utilize citizens advisory boards to produce some explanatory materials [Rawlins]
- FLC and FAC available to help local governments craft whatever communications are needed [Rawlins]

SUGGESTION made by Chairman Apgar that anyone can use Mary Swiderski as a point of contact with Beth Rawlins for baseline information; or jurisdictions certainly may work individually with Beth.

SUGGESTION made by Mayor Epps that VCOG and jurisdictions individually should support advocacy of education. She agreed that it's necessary for jurisdictions to communicate to citizens as clearly as possible and give them all the information what the potential is if the proposal passes.

REQUEST made by School Board Member Lankford that everyone consider, as part of the education mission, that passage of the proposal will impact schools – that should be part of the dialog.

There were further discussions regarding communications.

VCOG SMART GROWTH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Committee Chair, Mayor Greg Northrup provided a brief update:

At the November 12, 2007 meeting, Steve Kintner did a presentation on TDRs (Transfer Development Rights) out of Map A
 Committee suggested getting the VCOG Board's support for every municipality and the County's planners be on a committee
 The planners would work to put a plan together regarding TDRs and give the Smart Growth Committee input to put TDRs in effect for Map A
 The rest of that meeting was continuing discussion about Map A and preserving its lands

Secretary/Treasurer Giles mentioned there will be a presentation by Glatting Jackson at the December 3, 2007, VCOG Smart Growth meeting; the Committee directed the planners be asked to attend that meeting.

Mary Swiderski reported she had requested the list from the County but had not received it to-date; to which County Councilmember Giles requested Betty Holness to expedite getting the list to Mary Swiderski.

NEW BUSINESS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Recommended Slate of Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer) for 2008**
- **Request for additional Nominations from the Floor**
- **Election of VCOG Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer) for 2008**

Secretary/Treasurer Giles mentioned the Nominating Committee consisted of: Mayor George Coleman, Mayor Roland Via and Mayor Fred Costello; the Committee had met November 13, 2007.

Nominating Committee Chair, Mayor Roland Via reported the Committee's recommendations for 2008 slate of Officers are:

ChairMayor Robert Apgar, DeLand
 Vice ChairCouncilmember Giles, Volusia County
 Secretary/Treasurer.....Mayor Nancy Epps, Ponce Inlet

Secretary/Treasurer Giles called for additional nominations from the floor; there being none, he called for a voice vote of approval on each officer:

Mayor Robert Apgar for Chair – the vote was Unanimous
 Councilmember Giles for Vice Chair – the vote was Unanimous
 Mayor Nancy Epps for Secretary/Treasurer – the vote was unanimous

AUTHORIZE THE NEW BOARD SECRETARY/TREASURER AS SIGNATORY ON VCOG'S CHECKING ACCOUNT AND SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX

Secretary/Treasurer Giles called for a motion to authorize the new Secretary/Treasurer as signatory on VCOG's Checking Account.

MOTION for approval was made by the School Board Member Candace Lankford and **SECONDED** by Mayor Via; the motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

Secretary/Treasurer Giles called for a motion to authorize the new Secretary/Treasurer as signatory on the Safety Deposit Box.

MOTION for approval was made by the School Board Member Candace Lankford and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Reynolds; the motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

APPOINTMENT OF 2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – MAYOR ROBERT F. APGAR

As Acting Chairman Apgar had to leave for another meeting, Mary Swiderski announced his appointments for the 2008 COG Executive Committee: in addition to the three Board Officers, the

four at-large members are Mayor Fred Costello, Mayor Allen Green, Mayor James Sowell, and Mayor Roland Via.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

MAYOR ROLAND VIA

He reminded everyone that he represents the mayors on the How Shall We Grow Policy Framework Commission but if someone else wanted to do that, to let him know. Also, he reported:

The Policy Framework Commission is taking the regional growth compact and all of its elements and looking for ways to implement things and move them forward.

The Policy Framework Commission is going to be renamed to the Central Florida Regional Congress of Regional Growth

How Shall We Grow is still watching the growth principle from a seven-county perspective

MARY SWIDERSKI

She mentioned that the author had signed each book [The Dream Manager] she had given to Board members. Also, that she had talked to some managers about the book and was told the concept was brought up at their national convention of county and city managers.

COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER ART GILES

He verified that there is no regularly scheduled VCOG Board meeting in December.

MAYOR ROLAND VIA

He announced that the Volusia Tax Reform representatives had told him that they do support VCOG's effort and are telling people to Vote No on the January 29 Amendment.

ADJOURNMENT

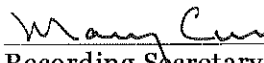
There being no further business to come before the VCOG Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 P.M.

AS SUBMITTED, THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD WERE APPROVED IN AN OPEN MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 28, 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