

ST JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 13, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Lofgren at 9:00 am. The minutes of the February 13, 2017 meeting were accepted as read. The treasurer reported a balance of \$902.68.

President Lofgren introduced the guest speaker – Ms. Linda Stoughton, Director of The St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center.

Ms. Stoughton reviewed the role of the Emergency Hurricane Operations Center during Hurricane Matthew. She stated that Matthew was the 13th named storm of 2017. It varied in force from category 1 to category 4. This hurricane passed 31 miles to the east of St. Augustine Beach. The major damage from the storm was due to storm surges not only from the Atlantic Ocean but also the Intercoastal Waterway and the St. Johns River. The maximum storm surge observed was 7ft. at SummerHaven. Mandatory evacuation orders were issued for all of the beaches, the mainland east of U.S. 1 and homes to the west of S.R. 13 on the river for a total of 147,000 residents. Overall evacuation went smoothly with no traffic problems. There were (8) evacuation shelters established at the schools throughout the county. Evacuations also included 15 nursing homes and homeless people. Recovery from the storm is still in progress. There is a problem with affordable housing in our county that is impacting recovery.

Questions

1. Why wasn't there a local decision to reopen the schools? The Governor required that all schools open sooner.
2. Why does it take so long for FEMA to process requests for assistance?

OTHER BUSINESS

Robert Olsen asked the status of the hearing on digital billboards. The County Commission will decide on April 4, 2017 on this issue.

Carl Blessing informed the Roundtable that there is currently a traffic study going on in Ponte Vedra and there will be a meeting to review progress on April 4, 2017 at the Ponte Vedra Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Submitted

Ed Olsen
for secretary Dennis Froio.