

ST JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING

APRIL 10,2017

The meeting was called to order by President Lofgren at 9:00am.

The minutes of the March 13, 2017 meeting were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: A balance of \$926.43 in our organization's account.

President Lofgren introduced Ed Creamer, Property Appraiser for St Johns County. Mr. Creamer comes to this position after 35 years in banking, most recently serving as regional president of Ameris Bank. A resident of St. Johns county for 19 years he values this area and has long wanted to serve its residents.

The presentation began with informing us that Florida is a "Property Tax State" and that the state constitution requires several county offices including the Property Appraiser be filled for each

county. The job of the Appraiser is to assess real and personal property in the county from which the tax rolls are created. They also administer tax exemptions of which there are many categories.

Mr. Creamer has a staff of 48 with a yearly budget of 5.3 million dollars. The tax roll created, funds all the county functions. The department follows up on divorces, death certificates, deed changes to update assessments. Where applicable CAMA (Computer assisted mass appraisals) is used and property resale values are important to the appraisal process for many properties.

County tax role is based on 23 billion, 126 million dollar valuation. The Save our Homes law shields billions of dollars of property value from taxation. The law limits property tax increases to 3% or the CPI change , whichever is lower.

Many properties are tax exempt such as other taxing authorities, defense related facilities and others.

Ed covered some of the process in dealing with hurricane property loses. The department acts as part of the disaster team inspecting property.

They are very busy with the large influx of population to St Johns County. 3500 new homes are assessed per year and average of 1800 properties per week are evaluated.

As an aside Mr. Creamer admitted liking fast cars and following races like Daytona and Sebring.

In closing Ed said his goal is to achieve fair , accurate and timely tax roles. _"When everybody pays/ Everybody pays less"

President Lofgren thanked Ed Creamer for his fine presentation and announced that Wayne E. Howell, vice president of Herbie Wiles Insurance will be our featured speaker in May.

General Discussion:

Jerry Cameron - Noted that reductions in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements to Flagler Hospital will cause severe budgetary problems.

Doug Worth discussed the plans to expand Ponte Vedra Blvd to 6 lanes from the Butler down to Mikeler.

Bob Olsen discussed the problems related to short term rentals and HOA changes in rules for that issue.

The meeting concluded at 10:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted:

Dennis Froio, Secretary