

St. Johns County Civic Roundtable Meeting

June 13, 2016

President Lofgren opened the meeting at 9:06am.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the meeting of May 9, 2016 were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: No report

President Lofgren introduced Carl A. Shank, Chief of Fire/Rescue Operations in St. Johns County. He cited Carl Shank's 30 yrs. of Fire/Rescue service to our county and his outstanding educational background leading to his appointment as chief on December 6, 2011.

Guest Presentation by Carl Shank:

Chief Shank said the Fire Service and Recue functions were consolidated in 1997. The Department now has 18 stations and 337 full time employees.

In addition the department employs 70 seasonal employees as lifeguards at the St. Johns County beaches.

The EMS service working 24 hr. shifts handle 15-20 calls per shift. Recently they have been equipped with 12 lead EKG cardiac monitoring equipment that is on par

with hospital based devices.

The department has watercraft including inflatables and jet skis to facilitate marine rescue.

Special Operations:

- a) Motor vehicle extractions with special training to handle electric & hydrogen powered vehicles.
- b) Special units to handle multiple element emergencies.
- c) Railroad related emergency operations. 40 miles of track in county.
- d) Hazmat emergencies.
- e) Building stabilization.
- f) Extraction of people and livestock from ditches etc.
- g) Elevated rescues. Zip lines etc.

Offer public education programs such as Junior Lifeguard Camp. 60 teens trained.

Each new Fire/Rescue station costs 2.2 million dollars.

New station to open(Fall 2016) at Rt. 1 and Old Moultrie Rd. Will have 4 drive through bays.

New radio system links Fire/Rescue with Police, Health Dept. and surrounding communities. Leads to rapid response, cooperation and coordination of effort.
St. Johns County Fire/Rescue web page: www.sjfl.us/firerescue Dept. also maintains a Facebook page.

The rapid growth of the county population strains the budget required to maintain the level of service currently provided

Member Comments:

Several members commented on the need for additional income to maintain county services. Some ideas expressed included a gasoline tax and less emphasis on attracting people and businesses to this county. The shortfall in the budget is projected to reach critical levels in the coming years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Froio, Secretary