

ST JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE
MINUTES OF MEETING

October 13, 2014

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

County Commissioner Jay Morris was in attendance

The minutes of the September 8, 2014 meeting were read and accepted.

President Lofgren introduced Ron “Doc” Reunart Representative Florida Legislative District 17, the guest speaker.

Doc Reunart reviewed the work of the legislature in the past 6 year he has been serving. He stated that he was in favor of smaller government, fewer taxes and more responsibility in government. He said that Florida had created over 200,000 private sector jobs in 2013 and expected to do better in 2014. The state unemployment rate is currently at 4.8%.

He reviewed some of the legislation he was able to get passed including the Florida G.I. Bill which grants in state tuition rates to all veterans. He also said he was instrumental in passing a bill which grants aquatic reserves such GTMNEER to allow outside vendors.

He announced that he will be a candidate for the State Senator seat held by John Thrasher in the special election next year.

In response to questions Doc Reunart stated the following:

1. What was being done about the erosion on Vilano Beach? Reunart said that the state was working with the Environmental Protection Agency to develop rules which would provide for permanent protection in this area.
2. Why did the Legislature not agree to accept Federal money to fund

Medicaid in Florida? He said that he did not think Medicaid was the best solution to provide health care to the poor. He said the state had developed regional managed health care groups to provide health care to people who could not afford health insurance. He stated that a large percent of the current Medicaid money goes to nursing homes to care for the elderly.

3. What is your position on Amendment 1 on the November ballot? I do not support Amendment 1 because I feel it will tie the hands of the legislature as far as the money dedicated to preservation. We may see years when we will need these funds for other priorities.
4. What is your position on Amendment 2 in the November election? I do not support Amendment 2. There are not enough controls on the use of medical marijuana.
5. Wouldn't we be better with a health care system similar to Canada's? I do not think so – the people in the United States have a different attitude towards health care than those of Canada and other European countries and their systems would not be accepted here.

Other Business

1. Jerry Cameron – Assistant County Administrator reported on the VA relocating from the county health buildings on U.S. 1. He stated that there has been no progress on this issue and that this building must be vacated next year. He said the County has done every thing possible to provide a location for the VA to no avail. He also commented on the Summer Haven River. He stated that the filling of the river with sand was as a result of a long time series of events that resulted in a wash-over from the ocean becoming a permanent breach of the dunes in that area. He said that the homeowners in that area feel that The State should bear the expense of restoring the river.
2. Jay Morris discussed the recent Players Club request for approval to develop land in Ponte Vedra. He stated that the Players Club has worked very well with the county to meet their requirements for this development.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted

Ed Olsen

Secretary