

St. Johns County Civic Roundtable
September 12, 2016

Secretary Dennis Froio called the meeting to order at 9:04.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of August 8, 2016 were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report; The balance in the Civic Roundtable account was reported as \$ 655.14.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Secretary Froio introduced St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections, Vicky Oakes. Ms. Oakes stated that although the normal turnout for a primary election is only about 24%, she expressed disappointment in this years turnout. Voting for Judge positions is typically lower as it was again this year. She explained the process for "write in candidates" and said they are not required to present a list of signatures of support nor pay any money to run for election. Candidates who fulfill that criteria are able to have their names printed on the ballot. She felt the system is at fault.

She stated that absentee ballots that come in after voting hours, by law, cannot be counted. This year one race for a Commission seat won by only 7 votes created a recount situation. With a recount,

machines must be picked up at all precincts, taken to the election office and all ballots recounted. Early voting costs run approximately \$1,000 per site per day. Ms. Oakes distributed printed information that pertained to election issues.

The next speaker, Jane West, attorney for "Save Our Vilano" group gave a presentation opposing a recent request for change in the Future Land Use Map. The property is located on A1A in Vilano Beach. Health and safety issues were cited along with incompatibility, additional traffic and evacuation concerns. The area is located on a two lane road which can never be widened.

The next speaker, Stephen Magiera, partner of the ownership group said his company would like to see a private, exclusive club called "Watermarke" built on the property. He gave a powerpoint presentation on how his company would like to develop the area. He said their plans would include a 120 room hotel/conference center, 50 residential villas and a 39 boat slip dock on the 43.5 acres.

There were several comments from Roundtable members following the presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Saunders, Acting Secretary