

These are the UNAPPROVED Minutes of the January, 2011 meeting. All members present at the meeting should review and forward any corrections or changes to the Secretary at billref@bellsouth.net, or attend the next meeting to make corrections or changes. The Minutes will be re-posted after approval.

Saint Johns County Roundtable
Minutes from Monday January 10, 2011
Saint Augustine Record Conference Room

Meeting called to order at 9:03 AM by President Tony Bosco

Members present Tony Bosco, Ken Bryan, Jim Walter, Bill Jones, Linda Oakley, Mary Kohnke, Pierre Pierce, Jerry Cameron, Ed O' Sullivan, Ellen A Whitmer, D. Ridge Bolgiano, Mary Saunders, Jim McLane, Rick Lofgren, Dan Jones, Douglas C, Worth, Carl Bloesing, George Jacurnsbi, and Joseph Spadaro

Corrections made to December minutes – clarification provided regarding comments made regarding Ponte Vedra Water System. Comments from December meeting came from floor and not from County Administrator Jerry Cameron. Minutes approved with corrections

Financial Report – To date we have 51 member organizations with 7 paid for 2011. Renewal forms were provided and distributed to those present. Current bank balance is \$3998.82

President Bosco asked for a motion to add a disclaimer to the minutes published prior to approval. It was agreed that the minutes would be circulated prior to meetings as “unapproved”. Corrections could be sent to the secretary or brought forward at the next meeting. Only members present at the meeting in question can make suggestions or corrections regarding the minutes. It was also suggested that the meetings be recorded. Motion passed by acclamation.

President Bosco called attention to the “About Us” section of our web site and it’s bullet points. The Roundtable is only as effective as its members are involved. Mr. Bosco applauded the fine work that many previous members and committees did on the SJC Budget and other projects. President Bosco challenged members to bring ideas and suggestions to our meetings. The floor was then opened for everyone to bring forth concerns and those concerns were;

1. Foreclosures and the length process that seems to be getting longer. Owners get into financial trouble and begin to stop paying dues and maintaining property. That puts pressure on the HOA not only financially but to maintain the integrity of the community. Discussion followed and suggestions were made...
 - Know your covenants and how to use them to the HOA benefit
 - If your covenants are more than 15 years old, your HOA may want to review & revise
 - HOA should maintain and then lien the property to recover expenses
 - Suggested an attorney be asked to make a presentation to group at future meeting
2. George Jacurnsbi suggested the BOC change the way they operate. He suggested an attempt at this was made 9 years ago. Developers and their attorneys currently have the final word before the BOC. It was suggested that perhaps the public should get the last word. It was also suggested that the BOC take more notice of “lay” testimony. Lawyers

for developers want this type of testimony ignored. There were also concerns regarding the issues of notice and timing.

3. Mary Kohnke clarified that the two systems are separate. There was concern regarding a proposed rate increase in Ponte Vedra. The increase appeared on a meeting agenda with no notice. That rate increase has been put on hold. There is still concern that the county will try and merge the two utilities. Other concerns from Mary included more aggressive work by Code Enforcement. Making violators cease and desist sooner rather than later in the process. Cell tower regulation especially along the Scenic Highway and non profits doing governmental functions. Should churches and non profits who are doing commercial business be taxed like a business rather than being exempt?
4. The Beach Civic Association is concerned about the TDC's new restrictive language regarding Category funding. Bill Jones & Commissioner Ken Bryan had a lively debate on the issue of who and how TDC funding should be handled. Mr. Jones was concerned the new restrictive language would leave local groups like the Civic Association, EPIC Community Services and Big Brothers – Big Sisters would be locked out of funding because the groups don't have the words "Art & Culture" in their mission statements. Commissioner Bryan extended an invitation to meet and discuss the matter. Commissioner Bryan believes there is some misunderstanding regarding the language and hopes that a meeting and conversation will clear up any misunderstandings. The Commissioner believes the new system will have better checks and balances in place.
5. Linda Oakley wants the Round table to have better and regular representation at County meetings. The Commissioners meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Linda suggested sharing or splitting the day with someone handling the morning and another volunteer staying for the afternoon. Commissioner Bryan suggested that PZA meetings may be even more important than BOC meetings.
6. Guana Reserve – wildlife concerns are becoming more alarming. There are reports of large packs of Coyotes and Wild Hogs. These animals can do serious damage to property and small pets can also be in danger.
7. Doug Worth reminded us to all be responsible representatives of our communities. This responsibility includes reporting what occurs at Roundtable to our friends and neighbors.
8. Jim McLane brought forth the issue of the 800 megahertz radio system that is an unfunded mandate that we still have to pay for. The question of our involvement in the Coquina Water Plant should also be on our radar.
9. Our friends at Marsh Landing have been very busy dealing with a lawsuit that involved property adjacent to Marsh Landing. We all know how an adjacent property and its problems can adversely affect property values and curb appeal of any community.
10. Sign vandalism is a growing concern in the Palm Valley area. Regulation of billboards and signs and clear cutting of land were also raised.
11. Vilano Beach is beaming with the ground breaking for highly anticipated Publix. Vivian Browning and others at Vilano said years ago they wanted and needed a Publix and now their efforts have turned into reality.

Thanks to all for their input and President Bosco encourages your input at future meetings.

Update on Fire Services – Jerry Cameron reiterated the County's proactive approach regarding this contract negotiation. The County has an expert attorney and will work very hard to get a deal that is better in line with the County's future financial outlook.

Formation of Committees – President Bosco is looking to our members to re-energize our Committees. Here are our current committees and chairperson... if there is no name listed next to the committee name we invite you to volunteer for one of these positions

- B.O.C. & PZA – Linda Oakley
- Education – Jim McClane
- Public Safety (Fire Rescue & Sheriff) –
- Finance
- Water
- Membership (our viability is directly related to this committee)

Again we are looking for people to steer these committees and keep us informed on the important issues we are facing together. President Bosco is looking into starting a Blog and utilizing press releases to share our news.

Meeting adjourned – next meeting Monday February 14, 2011 at 9 AM – Please note the NEW more centralized meeting location - Airport Conference Center US 1 North