

## ST. JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE

### MINUTES OF MEETING

December 14, 2015

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

The minutes of the November 9, 2015 meeting were accepted as read.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$721.63 with 10 paid members.

President Lofgren introduced Mr. Ed Houston, President of St. Johns County Firefighter Union, the guest speaker.

Ed reviewed the progress the firefighter and medics have had in the past four years in St. Johns County in partnering with the County Commission to protect firefighters and medics and to improve the safety of the citizens of the County. He indicated there are four vested parties involved in fire protection: 1. Citizens 2. The County Government 3. The County Fire Department and 4. The employees of the Fire and Rescue Department. The Fire and Rescue organization has changed greatly since the days of the volunteer firefighters. Today Fire and Rescue covers 608 square miles with three battalions and answered 47,500 calls in 2015. He indicated that fires were becoming more dangerous due to the newer lightweight building construction materials.

The goal of the fire and rescue department is to get firefighters on the scene of a fire or rescue call within 8 minutes of receiving the call. Approximately 80 % of the calls are for medical reasons.

Ed indicated there is an acute need for additional revenue in order to staff existing stations and to create new stations due to the rapid population growth being experienced in The County.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Jeff Sample – introduced himself as a representative of The St. Johns Water Management District.
2. Bill McCormick – Commended the Fire and Rescue Dept for the fine job they are doing.
3. Jim McLand-related an incident in his neighborhood where garage doors were being opened.
4. Jerry Cameron- introduced Heather Allan with Flagler Hospital
5. Rachel Bennett- announced that she is continuing to hold town hall meetings to get input from citizens of the County. The next one will be on January 14, 2016 at The Southeast Branch Library at 6pm.
6. Mary Konke- commented on the proposed assisted living facility to be located in Palm Valley.
7. Lindy Oakley- discussed the proposed sales tax vote previously turned down by the County Commission.
- 8.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am by President Lofgren.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Olsen

Treasurer