

ST JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE MEETING

January 14, 2019

Minutes of Meeting:

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the meeting of December 10, 2018 were approved as written. Thanks to Ed Olsen for taking the December minutes.

Treasurer's Report: A balance of \$266.97 in our account was reported.

Chairman Lofgren introduced our guest speaker 17th District State Representative Cyndi Stevenson. Rep. Stevenson earned her B.B.A. at Stetson University and is a Certified Public Accountant. She is chairman of the Insurance and Banking Committee and Vice Chairmen of the Children and Family Committee. Prior to election to state office Cyndi was a St. Johns County Commissioner from 2004 to 2015.

Rep. Stevenson commented on the strong economy of Florida with a GDP growth of 4.9% in 2018. Over a 13% increase in new home starts statewide was also noted. Tourism and Construction are the main drivers in the Florida economy with "Bulk" tourism (affordable vacation) the main attraction along with cultural tourism as a growing factor according to Cyndi.

The 2019 Florida State Budget as outlined includes:

Health and Human Services: 37 billion dollars

Education: 26 billion dollars

Nat. Resources and Transportation: 15 billion dollars

General Government: 6 billion dollars

Criminal Justice and Corrections: 5 billion dollars

Judicial Branch: .5 billion dollars

Other topics covered by Rep. Stevenson:

Hepatitis C treatment of prisoners – cost \$100,000 per course of treatment!

Septic tanks causing nutrient load in soil and water.

Sewer lines drive increased population density.

Legacy pollution from old farming operations.(dairy)

Insurance and Banking: Assignment of Benefits abuse by certain law groups dramatic increase in law suits and claims. Water pipe bursts and related claims for example.

Children and Family:

Seeking options to reward family care givers.

Providing early intervention for mental illness may prevent brain damage from psychotic episodes.

Legislation pending:

Texting and Driving: Do not touch device while driving.

Privacy of voting records: Block access to voting records of minors.

Rep. Stevenson covered other topics to numerous and lengthy to relate in detail. A legislative newsletter is on-line to get additional information

Civic Roundtable Business:

Geoffrey Sample: reminder to go to once per week lawn watering. (County Law) Even better follow "Skip a Week" Promotion to save water.

Vivian Browning: Upcoming groundbreaking for two new hotels in Vilano. Hyatt Place and Holiday Inn.

Mary Saunders is stepping down as Treasurer of the Civic Roundtable. Thanks Mary for you fine service!

Lisa McGreevy was elected to be our new Treasurer.

Lisa McGreevy was also given the task of Membership Chairman, with the help of Ed.

Thanks Lisa!

Janet Patten is the chair of the Government Affairs Committee

Vice Chairman Tony Bosco sought volunteers to head committees to cover Water/Government/ Education and Land use.

A person to lead our membership efforts is also needed.

A motion was made to adjourn was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Froio, Secretary