

St. Johns County Roundtable Minutes June 8, 2009

ATTENDANCE: 27

GUEST: Linda Stoughton

MAY MINUTES: Read by Chairman McLane. Motion to approve and carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: 49 Members with 17 paid. \$2,209.59.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: No word on Fire Department acceptance. We are waiting for Sheriff Report.

SPEAKER: Linda Stoughton, Deputy Director, St. Johns County Emergency Operation Center.

No report from Education committee.

Tourist Development Council. Meeting scheduled to discuss Bed Tax. TDC to be completely revamped. Commissioners will come up with qualification requirements for TDC membership.

Vivian Browning spoke on Anastasia Mosquito Control. She said they are working very hard due to the amount of rain we have had lately. They are working 24/7. She suggested if Homeowner Associations are having problems and they can't get thru by phone, try the web site. They are using trucks and helicopters to spray now.

We met at the EOC and a presentation and tour of the facility by Linda Stoughton was outstanding.

The current facility (22,000 square ft.) is located on 7 acres donated by Anastasia Mosquito control and was constructed 4.5 feet above grade for drainage. It has 9.24 inch exterior walls, no windows or roof penetrations for safety. It is constructed to a 200 mph wind load.

The facility can hold from 60-100 staff during an emergency. It has separate quarters with 30 beds each, showers, etc along with a kitchen that during an emergency is staffed by staff from the Council on Aging. A great example of using other agencies to keep costs down.

There are 6 pods that are staffed with phones and computers: Animal Control, Law Enforcement, Firefighting, Mass Care, Liaison/Community, and Energy. This is where all the communication starts during an emergency.

Any government agency, Cub and Girl scouts National Guard can use the facility. Private business can not use the building.

A designated area is set up for the media so the EOC and the media can work together to communicate what is happening during an emergency.

A ham radio operator area is also used for communication.

They have designated two pet centers at Southwind and Timberline where residents can bring their animals and stay during an emergency. No barnyard animals and residents must bring a crate and food.

Ken Byrum reported that the Commissioners are looking for the best communication system to use. They are looking at the 800 megahertz system and if it is the best system.

We completed the tour and adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting is July 13, 2009.