

St. Johns County Roundtable Minutes 1/12/09

ATTENDANCE:

GUESTS: Sheriff David Shoar

DECEMBER MINUTES: Approved as presented

TREASURER'S REPORT: \$2046.34. No Deposits made

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

SPEAKER: Sheriff David Shoar

Meeting was called to order at 9 am by Chairman Jim McLane

Updates:

There is a vacancy for the Growth Management committee.

Education budget: The budget will not be pretty...cuts are coming.

Ad Hoc Water Committee: No news

Old Business: Change in Condos and Association rules. Tony Bosco is studying possible changes and will report back to members.

New business:

Clare Cowan brought up the Winn Dixie signage issue and that the sign is 10 times what it should be.

Conclusion was that we all need to look carefully at the Commission agenda and if something looks funny, call and question.

Sheriff David Shoar discussed Traffic, Emergency Communications, and Substance Abuse in the county.

Traffic:

Biggest problem area for Traffic is US 1 and 312. 38 Fatalities in 2008 versus 36 in 2007.

DUI arrests remain approximately the same...no decline. 28% of county fatalities are from DUI. Biggest concern is underage drinking. The County has a Teen Driving program which the Sheriff would like to ramp up despite budget issues.

Discussed Red Light Cameras in key areas and study shows it reduces accidents and provides security. Problem is a very tight budget. Citizens can call and ask for a re-test on a senior citizen who demonstrates poor driving skills.

Emergency Communication System:

This new system is an Intergovernmental Communication System with a proposed cost of 15 million dollars. The question is how will the County pay for this? They have turned this over to consultants. We asked Sheriff David Shoar to come back in June 2009 or before with an update. This program will be brought to the Commissioners first and if they approve, they will come to the Roundtable.

Substance Abuse:

Sheriff Shoar discussed his vision for creating a De-tox facility and a Transitional Housing Complex so Juveniles can be treated and go out to the community and not come back. Ultimately it should bring down costs.

Because of budget issues, the Sheriff's Department are doing core duties; 911 Calls, Traffic Control, Corrections and Court Bailiffs.

11% of time is spent on Non discretionary time, 98% of calls are false alarms that they have to pursue. The goal is to increase Non discretionary time.

Also discussed On line Reporting of Accidents.

We thanked Sheriff Shoar for his presentation.

We have a plaque for Henry but he was not at the meeting to accept.

A motion to have Commissioners Bryant and Sanchez revisit the Winn Dixie signage issue. Voted yes to approve.

Motion to adjourn. Voted yes to approve. Chairman McLane adjourned at 10:50 am.