

Seminole County 2011 Legislative Delegation Meeting

Representative Scott Plakon, Chairman



MINUTES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Seminole County Government Commission Chambers

1101 E. First Street, Sanford, FL 32771

1st Floor, Room #1028

- I. **Call to Order** –Representative Scott Plakon, Chairman of the Seminole County Legislative Delegation, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**—Senator David Simmons
- III. **Invocation**—Representative Jason Brodeur
- IV. **Roll Call** –Representative Chris Dorworth, Secretary
 - Senator Alan Hays—Present
 - Senator Andy Gardiner—Present
 - Senator Thad Altman—Present
 - Representative Larry Metz –Present
 - Senator David Simmons—Present
 - Representative Scott Plakon—Present
 - Representative Chris Dorworth—Present
 - Representative Jason Brodeur—Present
- V. **Welcoming Remarks**—Honorable Brenda Carey, Chairman of the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners
Seminole County BCC Concerns: 1) Home Rule - County and City officials are seeking protection of the Home Rule. 2) Unfunded Mandates - many mandates are imposed without consensus of local governments and without resources for implementation. They drain financial lifeblood from county governments and impede the ability to deliver fundamental services to the citizens, and discretionary services being requested by local governments, including the cities. In 2010, Seminole County paid out over \$15 Million (that’s 13% of the Ad Valorem tax levy) toward State responsibilities that local government has no say in. Ad valorem taxes are the primary revenue source for operating the County government. 3) TABOR – there is no one-size-fits-all solution to the financial problems being faced, and TABOR is not the answer.

VI. Election of Delegation Officers for 2011

- Representative Dorworth nominated Senator David Simmons for Chairman. There being no other nominations, Senator Simmons was elected unanimously as Chairman of the 2011 Delegation (6—0)
- Representative Dorworth nominated Representative Jason Brodeur for Vice Chairman. There being no other nominations, Representative Brodeur was elected unanimously as Vice Chairman of the 2011 Delegation (6—0)
- Representative Dorworth nominated Representative Larry Metz for Secretary. There being no other nominations, Representative Metz was elected unanimously as Secretary of the 2011 Delegation (6—0)

VII. Local Bills

No local bills were proposed.

VIII. Elected Officials - Senator David Simmons recognized all of the local officials that were present at the meeting.

1. Honorable Ray Valdes, Seminole County Tax Collector\
Senator Altman supported a bill regarding Chapter 197, which allows branch offices under one authority. This year, Senator Thrasher is the sponsor. The bill is currently in the bill drafting process. The Tax Collector is a fee-based office. We must get this legislation passed.
2. Honorable Patricia Bates, Mayor, City of Altamonte Springs
Overview of the economic outlook: We should not have unfunded mandates. Transportation and infrastructure is essential. We should limit the FRS to impact new employees who are hired. Local governments should set the tax structure, not the state.
3. Honorable Jo Ann Lucarelli, Commissioner, City of Lake Mary
We must make changes to our stalking laws. Florida stalking laws are extremely weak. She discussed the struggle that her family has been experiencing, as they are victims of stalking. We need to set tougher penalties and place emphasis on protecting women and children. Law enforcement is not effective in dealing with these situations because there are too many loopholes in the law itself.
4. Honorable Gary Brender, Chairman, Seminole County Expressway Authority
There has been some movement with the interlocal agreement between Seminole County Expressway Authority (SCEA) and Orlando Orange County Expressway Authority (OOCEA) with regard to the Wekiva Parkway. An Interlocal Agreement has been adopted. The final design and layout is in the package provided.

5. Honorable Don Eslinger, Seminole County Sheriff, Florida Sheriff's Association
Seek a financial cap to the cost of inmate care. Support immigration reform as proposed by the Attorney General. Seeking to amend Florida Statute 800 that makes it a felony to commit certain lewd acts within a correctional facility or state prison. Actively seeking prohibition against texting while driving. Seeking to amend Florida Statute 538 and 539, Seeking to amend Chapter 30, which will allow electronic signatures on service of process. Supportive of the Governor's office control policy to eliminate pill mills, as well as seek funding for a statewide database relative to prescription drugs. Clarify existing Florida State Statutes as they apply to the operation of Internet Cafes and sweepstakes operations. Sheriff's will oppose any issue that will seek to weaken or usurp the authority of the historical office of the Sheriff. Oppose any legislation that will let prisoners out of jail who have not served 85% of their time.

IX. Public Testimony

6. Bobby Brantley, Governmental Consultant, Shutts & Bowen LLP/Seminole County Board of County Commissioners: Referenced Chairman Carey's remarks about TABOR and how it will affect local and state government. We have to take a serious look at the Colorado experience. SR 46 Regional Evacuation Route received approval today for \$6 Million in the FY 2015 FDOT budget.

Education Issues:

7. Mrs. Dede Schaffner, School Board Chairman, Seminole County Public Schools
Thanked the Delegation for their support. Discussed how SCPS rank among the highest in the state in terms of graduation rates and among the highest in FCAT scores in Central Florida. SCPS needs discretionary funds – the budget has been significantly impacted. Discussed AP classes and exemption from class size. We must eliminate unfunded mandates.
8. Dr. Daniel Holsenbeck, Vice President, University Relations, University of Central Florida
The relationship of all level schools in Seminole County is extraordinary. Discussed plans to introduce a new research institute here in Central Florida. This can create approximately 80,000 jobs statewide. Discussed UCF's ability to create jobs and economic development.
9. Dr. E. Ann McGee, President, Seminole State College
Now have six sites. There has been a major campus transformation. Seminole State College is still in need of funds for building renovations. Discussed how the number of students graduating from their institute has, and will continue, to grow significantly.

Health Issues:

10. Nancy Pizzichiello, Registered Nurse, National Nurses Organizing Committee—Florida/NNU
Not present at meeting.
11. Fred Bates, Executive Council Advisor, AARP
In need of state funding for more community care.
12. Debby Donovan, Communications Manager, Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Florida
Symptoms of ovarian cancer are very subtle. We have to offer information and education to women. In March, the organization will be introducing legislation. Would appreciate the support of the Delegation.
13. Jim Berko, CEO, Seminole Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
The county is able to leverage federal dollars. There is a new crisis unit. Bullying programs within schools are very effective. Veteran's services: post-traumatic stress disorder is involved—many soldiers have benefited from their services.
14. Edward Fluker, Volunteer, American Lung Association
Provided Delegation with background of ALA. Discussed how lung disease death rates are increasing. Asked for support. Offered ALA as a resource to the Delegation and to the audience.
15. Angela Anderson, Member, Brain Injury Association of Florida, Inc.
Not present at meeting.

Children's Issues:

16. Tara Hormell, Executive Director, Children's Home Society of Florida
Thanked the Delegation for their support and for the passage of 2010 legislation. Discussed Medicaid reform and maintaining behavioral healthcare to children. Discussed the success of the child welfare system - we cannot reduce this funding. Legislation will be proposed to extend the age of foster care to 21.
17. Marie Martinez, Operations Manager, The Howard Phillips Center for Children & Families
Discussed the services to children with developmental disabilities. Providers are sent to the homes to teach the parents how to conduct the therapies because they are the closest ones to the child. The center has experienced a \$1 million cut, and support is very much needed. Discussed services that are very effective in preventing child abuse.

18. Jeannie Forthuber, Member of Central Florida Chapter, Children's Movement of Florida
Discussed health care and insurance (we must widen access to KidCare program).
Discussed the importance of early screening of children with disabilities. Discussed the Pre-K program and its awareness campaign. Reallocation of funds to improve mentoring programs.
19. Bob O'Malley, Chairman, Early Learning Coalition of Seminole
Jennifer Grant, Executive Director, Early Learning Coalition of Seminole
Thanked the Delegation for their support. Early learning is very important. Maintaining funding and restoring funding to 2007/2008 levels. More than 1,000 children are on the waiting list.
20. Glen Casel, President and CEO, Community Based Care of Seminole
Efforts from DCF have been a success. Families need assistance. We have to find these children a safe, permanent home. Lowest rate of failure. Community Based Care of Central Florida will become tri-county. Medicaid reform—consider that there are specialty populations, including foster children, that need to be considered so that their needs are properly met.

Legislative Issues:

21. John M. Lewis, Jr., CEO, LYNX
Outlined legislative priorities. Opposition to diverting any further state transportation trust fund tax dollars to be used for general revenue. Investment in transportation infrastructure and operating is important to what LYNX does for its passengers. Opposition to opening Medicaid reform. LYNX provides a very clear and reliable service to the disabled population. Federal mandates and unfunded mandates have an incredible impact on the local funding partners.
22. Michael D. Sprouse, Government Relations Director, Central Florida Paralyzed Veterans of America
Not present at the meeting.
23. John Bistline, Resident, Village on the Green
Discussed rising costs associated with living at Village on the Green. Residents are aware of the state revenue shortfall. Seeking Delegation support in retaining the sales tax exemption.

Ansley Holt, Executive Director, Village on the Green
Village on the Green not a network provider. Discussed transition to managed care—afraid this will result in staff cuts.

24. Nancy Christman, Senior Intergovernmental Coordinator, St. Johns River Water Management District
Discussed water quality improvement and restoration projects. SJRWMD will continue with any of the projects it can and appreciate any help the Delegation can give.
25. Deana Schott, President, League of Women Voters of Seminole County
Thanked the Delegation for the legislation that was passed in the last session for civics requirements in the school. Advocating for education. Seminole County is blessed to have such a wonderful educational system and it's important to allow the experts in Seminole County, who have produced such a wonderful school system, to have more discretionary control over how the money is spent. The class size amendment was defeated, which translates a mandate to the County. The League would like to encourage the Delegation to do whatever it can to be sure the school gets all the support it needs to meet class size mandate.
26. Broc Rosser, Director, Office of the President, Heart of Florida United Way
Discussed budget considerations. Discussed the number of calls received this year (158,000 through their 2-1-1 Call Center alone). Three-quarters of Seminole County callers from this year were first-time callers. Nearly 51% of the callers had no health insurance.
27. Larry A. Dale, President and CEO, Sanford Airport Authority
Thanked the Delegation for their leadership. Stated that the Airport contributes \$2.8 billion annually to the Central Florida economy. Need for four lanes are necessary for better access.
28. Kelley Teague, Director, Public Affairs & Government Relations, MetroPlan Orlando
Discussed how MetroPlan helps shape transportation. Discussed the difficulties associated with the current economic climate. Flexibility for current funding (11 out of 12 cents are restricted to capital costs). Seeking support of a comprehensive statewide rail system.
29. Jennifer Small, Executive Director/CEO, The Grove Counseling Center, Inc.
Invited Delegation members to attend graduation ceremony. Discussed program that reduces drug use and lessens the fiscal impact on society. 6.5 month program that involves the family of those involved.
30. Allison Hudson, President Elect, Junior League of Greater Orlando
Support of upcoming legislation. Discussed issues of childhood health and hunger. Developed HIP Kids (Healthy, Informed, Playful Kids), which provides food to kids in the Parramore area. Health, nutrition, exercise and well-being are all focus areas. Discussed MAGIC (Mentoring Adolescent Girls to Inspire Change) program.

31. Beverly Phillips, Marketing Director, RTC Entertainment, Inc.
Travis Setzer, RTC (Reaching The Children) Entertainment, Inc.
Discussed “A Fighting Chance” show, which has reached over 500,000 children, and is endorsed by thousands of teachers and parents, and is also supported by leaders such as Jeb Bush and Ronald Reagan. In 2008, legislature instructed the State Board of Education to review the Sunshine State Standards and create new standards – In July 2010 those new State standards were adopted, which requires 3rd graders to be educated in the following: conflict resolution, following rules, respect, responsibility, positive and negative influence, anti-bullying, and making responsible choices such as abstaining from drugs. Another standard notes that children who learn to read independently will have a stronger foundation and are found to be more college and career ready. RTC provides children with a free book when they attend the event. They hope to partner with Orange County Public Schools and to branch out to the entire state of Florida.
32. Laura A. Heiselman, Director of Development, United Arts of Central Florida
Not present at the meeting.
33. Nancy Squillacioti, Specialist, Florida Brain Bank
Alzheimer’s rates will quadruple by 2050 because of the “Baby Boomers.” There were originally six brain banks in Florida, but due to cuts in funding, only two remain. Discussed rapid retrieval of brains. Once autopsies are performed, the brains are stored in Jacksonville. 1,200 brains have been used. Last year, funding was cut, and the organization is asking for it to be restored.

X. **OTHER PUBLIC COMMENTS**

34. Lisa York, Center for Victim Recovery
If the victim doesn’t have an insurance card, their options are very limited. We must make changes to laws as it pertains to rights of criminals.

XI. **FINAL REMARKS OF DELEGATION MEMBERS**

Representatives Dorworth and Plakon recognized Jennifer Marquez for her efforts in coordinating the 2011 Legislative Delegation meeting.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT – 9:10p.m.**