**MINUTES**

February 21, 2019 • Town of Windermere

Town Hall ● 520 Main Street ●  Windermere, FL 34786

The Tri-County League of Cities met Thursday, February 21, 2019, at the Town Hall in Windermere, FL. Tri-County President, Mayor Pat Bates, called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Windermere Mayor Gary Bruhn welcomed everyone and thanked Diane Edwards, Administrative Assistant and Dorothy Burkhalter, Town Clerk of 26 years, for coordinating the meeting details. Mayor Bruhn also recognized Public Works Manager, Scott Brown, Town Manager Rob Smith, and Councilmembers Bob McKinley, Chris Sapp, Richard Montgomery, and Andy Williams. Mayor Bruhn shared a brief history of the Town of Windermere.

The Color Guard presented the colors for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Bruhn introduced Police Chaplin Andy Jones who led the invocation.

President Bates then asked attendees to do self-introductions. Lunch was served.

**Approval of the Minutes**

President Bates asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the last membership meeting on January 17, 2019. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Special Recognition**

President Bates called the Tri-County Board of Directors to recognize Mayor Gary Bruhn’s retirement from public service. President Bates and the Board of Directors presented Mayor Bruhn with an award in recognition of his years of service and leadership with the Tri-County League of Cities Board.

**Program**

2nd Vice President, Commissioner Geoff Kendrick, introduced two guest speakers: Susan Davis, St. Johns River Water Management District, and Bill Graff, South Florida Water Management District. Mr. Graff spoke on the history of natural water flow in central and south Florida. Susan Davis spoke on the St. Johns River Management District that covers 18 counties from Central Florida north to the Georgia line. She outlined a Cost Share program that is available to cities for use in projects such as reclaimed water, septic tank removal and replacement, and other water projects.

President Bates thanked Mr. Graff and Ms. Davis for their attendance and valuable information.

**Announcements**

President Bates announced the upcoming Tri-County League meetings on March 21, 2019 in the City of Edgewood, and April 18, 2019 in the City of Longwood. She also discussed Florida League of Cities advocacy tools including a webinar on February 28, Monday Morning Call Ins, and Legislative Action Days on March 26-27. President Bates announced that Tri-County is hosting two legislative advocacy workshops (March 19-20) to prepare members for meetings with legislators.

1st Vice President, Commissioner Tony Ortiz, shared special remarks about Mayor Bruhn’s retirement, recognizing his friendship and mentorship to many in the room. Mayor Bruhn received a standing ovation in appreciation.

**Adjournment**

President Bates thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

Mari Rains Karen Allen

Mari Rains, Interim Executive Director Karen Allen, Institute of Government