

Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 10, 2018

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

Dirk Meredith, Vice-Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary; Jeff Logan; Jimmy Sheldrake.
Andy Domenigoni absent.

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for Third District Supervisor
Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by Andy Domenigoni at 6:32 PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda, amended to defer approval of the April meeting minutes: Motion by Sheldrake; second by Horecka. Approved unanimously.

Approval of March Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve March meeting minutes: Motion by Logan; second by Sheldrake. Approved unan.

Guest Speaker: Hemet Unified School District Superintendent Christi Barrett.

Ms Barrett introduced herself, and gave a brief bio. She has been Superintendent for nearly two years. A resident, who by intent applied to work in this very district.

Ms Barrett delivered a presentation covering the state of the facilities in the District, highlighting aged mechanical equipment and many things that needed to be removed and replaced due to obsolescence, severe wear, damage, etc. Essentially, much work is deemed necessary to assure the facilities remain running, safe, are efficient and up-to-date. Some work is direly needed. The categories of work required are beyond what would be considered routine maintenance.

Ms Barrett told of the Bond measure to be on the ballot this year. She explained why it is being proposed, what the funds would go to pay for. As importantly, what the funds could not be used for.

She then opened the floor for questions, briefly summarized here:

Q: Why was the bond not put forth years before? A: A bond was considered for 2016, but analysis showed it would not likely pass, in part due to the Hemet Safety Tax that was on the ballot that year: If both were on the ballot at once, it was deemed likely that neither would pass.

Q: What about all that lottery money? A: That money is for printed materials.

Also: Schools are funded for unduplicated number of students. 83% of funds come from special funds. 54% of property taxes go to schools. Much funding comes from Developer Fees (for new housing and commercial).

Q: What if the bond doesn't pass? A: The can gets kicked down the road.

Q: Will this fund new buildings? A: The bond money won't be used for new buildings. It will be used for necessary repairs and safety issues. If it does not pass, all that would continue to be deferred. Barrett noted that HUSD is losing 700 students a year.

Q: What about grants? A: The state doesn't have money. That's a dry well.

Commentary ensued from the audience, including: School funding bleeds into unions, retirement funds and administration. The state of California already has the highest taxes in the nation. Hemet has among the worst student. Spanish-speaking children are not taught English. "There IS no educa-

tion in Hemet.” Barrett replied: The funds would only be used to repair facilities, as above. Per-pupil funding is \$7,500/student in California.

C: Cowdery noted that Winchester School has some buildings from the 1950s, with just two electrical outlets. There is grave concern over the number of new houses about to be built in the area. No new schools at present. However, in the future there are three slated to be built, along with tracts of homes: Pleasant Valley Elementary, Newport Elementary & Angelo Domenigoni Elementary.

Barrett stated that HUSD is financially very conservative: They intend to keep the number of buildings they have at present, until it become cost-effective to open new schools. They currently have sufficient capacity.

Old Business:

A. General County update; Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant:

- Opal introduced Joe Contaoi and John Acosta from Waste Resources. Contaoi and Acosta presented the new “app” for reporting graffiti and illegal dumping. This was developed along with RCIT (Riverside County Information Technology) and GIS. Their journey started three years ago, with an idea. They worked with Waste Management, now Waste Resources. The app covers graffiti, illegal dumping, and it is now here! Up and running. The app is part of RivCo Mobile, embedded in the master app. It even generates reports. Note: Dumping must be roadside only, not upon private properties; they may only pick up waste within 15 feet of the road. The team received compliments from the audience. Comments: A citizen complained that the staff at landfills treat users poorly. Contaoi assured us that the safety is their top priority on such sites; at times, customers may need to be reined in a bit, for their own safety and safety of all around. The team got another round of applause for their work. See the County website for details on the app.
- Opal introduced us to Sarah Rodriguez, Supervisor Washington’s newest Board Assistant. She reminded us that on the June 5th election, there will be many candidates for Governor. Also lots of propositions. Be sure to register to vote. There are many polling places. Study your ballots carefully, be prepared.
- Opal said that the Board of Supervisors met in March regarding cannabis. The end result is that they agreed to establish an ordinance, and to assign fees. They will not put a tax initiative on the ballot in November, and effort that would cost ~\$750,000. Dirk Meredith attended the County’s Cannabis Workshop. He said that he felt the County has done their due diligence. The County can only make an ordinance that would affect the unincorporated areas of the County, not independent Cities. There are an estimated 300 to 400 marijuana groves in Anza alone. There were hundreds of people at the Workshop. Many expressed positive attitudes toward cannabis, but also supported regulation. The vote, when called, was 4-1, with Ashley voting against the proposal to establish and ordinance and set fees. It will fall to Juan Perez’s team to craft the draft language of the ordinance.
- Opal noted that Supervisor Washington will be holding a Mayor’s Summit. This will be open to Mayors and City Managers of 23 cities in Riverside County.

B. Sheriff Department update. No report.

C. EMWD Updates; Kevin Pearson:

- National Tap Water Day! EMWD conducts 46,000 water quality tests a year on tap water!
- Next weekend, the Solar Cup solar boat races will be held at Lake Skinner. An excellent event for youth.
- The biennial Landscape Contest is coming up. First prize will be \$1,000.
- Opal Hellweg commended EMWD on being a great partner. EMWD fronts the money to switch from potable to recycled water, for retrofits. Their great program has gained national recognition.

D. Code Enforcement: Not present; no report.

- E. Assemblywoman Melissa Melendez' Office Field Representative: Not present; no report.
- F. Senator Stone District Director, Glenn Miller: Not present; no report.
- G. Highway 79: No news.
- H. Land Use update; Cindy Domenigoni not present, so no report from her on items 1-4.
 - 1) Winchester Ranch Marketplace: A proposed development at the southeast corner of Domenigoni Parkway and Leon Road, 18 acres. Long did NOT bring plans. The PDFs transmitted earlier were unreadable, very low-resolution. This project is in the Planning Department, seeking entitlements. The parcel has underlying approval for a shopping center. A major change is proposed: Construct instead a self-storage company and a gasoline station, with a 7-11 store. We suggested that Long send to us a set of plans that we can actually read.
 - 2) Winchester –Homeland General Plan Amendment #1207: In process still.
 - 3) Stone Creek (TR 36365): Pending TPC hearings.
 - 4) Villages North (TR 36504): to Board of Supervisors.
 - 5) All will be getting a notice in the mail: There will be another Community Workshop coming up, perhaps in July or August. Depends on Jerry Jolliff's schedule.
- I. City of Hemet update; Jeff Logan: No report.
- J. City of Menifee update: Andy Domenigoni & Jeff Logan: No report.
- K. Other Old Business: The Little White Church will have a federal food bank event.

Open Forum:

- Gregg Cowdery commended the County of Riverside for jumping right on reported issues. Example: Removing and replacing the concrete sidewalks in front of Winchester Store.
- Gregg Cowdery announced that the town of Winchester turns 130 years old this year.
- Q for Opal, by Angela D: Would the fees collected under the proposed cannabis ordinance be used to prop up the County's pension shortfall? A: No, the fees would be used to mitigate the impacts of the cannabis industry.
- Q for Opal & Dirk: What about the water used for cannabis? A: Yes, that's one matter that would need to be addressed. Also: The County may propose that cultivation of cannabis would only be permitted in three (land use) Zones, all Commercial. Also, that the growing and such must all occur indoors, with the operation limited to one acre maximum. Note: All this is in flux.

Next WMAC Meeting:

The Next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 14, 2018, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment: The WHMAC adjourned at 8:12 PM.