

# Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 12, 2014

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

### Attendees:

#### Winchester MAC:

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

#### Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for Supervisor Jeff Stone  
Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by Andy Domenigoni at 6:31 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

### Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Sheldrake; Second: Logan. Approved, unanimously.

### Approval of March Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve (deferred until after guest; then done): Sheldrake; Second: Logan. Approved, unanimously.

### Guest: Presiding Judge Mark Cope of Superior Court, County of Riverside:

1. Judge Cope described what he does, then fielded questions. He handles administrative responsibilities for the courts. Described role of the courts in the community. Fourteen courts across County; 62 judge positions; 6 currently vacant; 14 commissioners; 1 hearing officer. Stated we 'should' have 138 judges, based on case loads. Judges are elected; commissioners are appointed (not elected).
  - Q: How can citizens get to know judges; prior to elections, e.g.? A: Tough to do. Ask other people, do research on your own.
  - Q: What is a magistrate? A: A federal judge. Does search warrants, arrest warrants....
  - Q: Various trivia questions asked and answered, regarding Justice of the Peace, Fast Track, etc.
  - Q: Who oversees construction of new facilities? A: Construction of courthouses was once a county affair; it is not handled at the State level. Cope indicated that the Hemet valley area needs a new courthouse, and noted that Menifee has offered a free site for this purpose, at Menifee Town Center.
  - Q: Questions about courtrooms, jury duty, etc., asked and answered.
  - Q: What is website? A: [www.riverside.courts.ca.gov](http://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov)
  - Q: Where is Riverside County going on Dispensaries? Cope does not know. Noted that John Vineyard is coming on board; apparently an expert on marijuana cases. The issue is up to County Zoning at present; also various Codes, IRS, etc.
  - Q: Level of the courts? A: Our courts are State Courts, Riverside County.
  - Judge Cope reminded us that, "Judges don't make policy: they enforce it."

### New Business:

1. Riverside County General Plan Amendment No 960:
  - Horecka had received notice from County via snail mail. Scanned, sent to WMAC Board.
  - Cindy Domenigoni acquired the CD-ROM with information, and is reviewing it to see if there are items that may affect our geographic area.
  - Public Response is required by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
2. Citizen suggested that Flood Control be covered as a topic, for a future meeting; idea received positively.
3. Gregg Cowdery spoke regarding his proposal regarding speed limits and signals in town: Noted that traffic incidents are increasing, including recent fatal incidents, in part due to excessive speed. He suggested that speed limits on State Hwy 79 be reduced: 55 down to 45 through town, and down to 35 downtown. He also strongly suggested a traffic signal at Stowe Road and Haddock Street (adjacent to our Elementary School). The ideas were well received. Suggested to converse with Basem Muallem, P.E.

4. Andy Domenigoni talked of the WTA letter regarding the Solar Project in Winchester: The WTA had echoed back with “No Position” on the project.
5. Citizen Mary Plumb pitched the idea of creating Bus Shelters. Andy D. suggested that she develop a proposal, including scope, locations, types of structures, sources of funding, etc.

Old Business:

- A. Update – Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant. Opal:
  - Passed out cards with Veterans info. Discussed County Supervisors briefly; fewer Board meetings. Discussed Hospital TARS; saved \$8M. Brought brochure of RCTC projects, illustrated. Brought in a flyer about the Toll Roads. Brought info on “Concert for Heroes.”
- B. Sheriff Dept:
  - Sheriff rep. not present; no news.
- C. MWD Updates: Kevin Pearson and Phil Paule spoke.
  - Olive Ave Sewer Proj: Mobilization slated to begin June 13<sup>th</sup>. Andy D. requested that EMWD bring a Map next meeting.
  - Paule noted that Randy Record was recently elected Director of EMWD.
  - Paule noted that MWD serves about 18 million people. Discussed the drought and water shortage.
  - Sheldrake reminded Paule, again, of the promises that MWD made, re Diamond Valley Lake. Paule encouraged citizens to attend EMWD meetings, again urging that folks make their voices heard. Kevin noted that EMWD is sourcing more water from the Colorado River. This water typically is higher in salts, which may affect those on dialysis, in chloramines (affects pet fish), much higher in total dissolved solids. The sourcing changes have to do with the Soboba settlement: requiring reduced pumping from affected aquifers.
- D. Highway 79 - Update on widening.
  - Misc updates covered. Opal described the Ribbon Cutting event. Andy D. spoke at event.
- E. MWD Proposed Solar Farm:  
No news.
- F. Land Use:
  - Downtown Core: A Contract has been let for the contract Planner to study the Downtown Core. First payment made. He will look at Metrolink. Also at potential for Land Density Transfer.
  - Solar Project proposed for Grand Avenue (10 acres). Described the particulars, and shared with us the basic Site Plan. SCE is required to add these types of green-energy projects. The Developer is continuing to work through the process. He noted the difficulties he is experiencing trying to navigate the process of Entitlements. County Planning Staff strongly suggested that Developer meet with both the WTA and WMAC, which is what he is now doing. He has met with the WTA and Land Use Committee. Land Use Committee suggested input from neighbors; packets were mailed out with invitations to a meeting at the Community Center; NO neighbors attended the meeting; Andy & Cindy attended. The WTA wishes to see the CUP documents, with proposed Conditions of Approval. Developer noted that the project must provide power to SCE by January 15th, 2015: Part of the Contract.
- G. Gangs in Winchester:
  - Not covered. Horecka suggested that this item be dropped from Agenda; covering in Sheriff: Agreed.
- H. City of Hemet: Jeff Logan reported on various items:
  - One meeting happened. Logan did not attend.
- I. Citizens Patrol: Bob Gibbons was not present.
- J. Marijuana Dispensaries in Winchester: See Judge, above.
- K. Other Old Business:
  - Charlie queried as to the status of the proposed SCE lines through town. Status not known, aside from the project is being revised last anyone heard, including additional scope. No update from Luis Davis.
  - Opal noted that the Bookmobile will be previewed soon; next Wednesday. Notice will be sent out.
  - Deni Horne, Assistant to Assemblywoman Melissa Mendez, briefed us on various bills, etc. Announced that the Assemblywoman will hold a “Coffee” on the last Friday of the month, for citizen input. Noted the Bike Rodeo at the Offices in Murrieta.

Open Forum:

1. No topics from the public.

Next WMAC Meeting:

There will be no WMAC meeting in July. The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 14th, 2014, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment: The WMAC adjourned 8:22 PM.