

# Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 8, 2015

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

### Attendees:

#### Winchester MAC:

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

#### 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: Meredith. Approved, unanimously.

### Approval of October Meeting Minutes:

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

### Approval of November Meeting Minutes, as amended:

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

Winchester Town Association Business and Installation of WTA 2015 Board of Directors. (Not a part of WHMAC meeting; no minutes.)

Skipped ahead to New Business, as Senator Stone was running late.

#### 1. Winchester Post Office

- The US Postal Service is proposing to downgrade the level of service at the Winchester Post Office, which has been a steadfast anchor of our town since the beginning. The Winchester Town Association presented a model letter that interested citizens could use to voice their opinions on the matter. Citizens were urged to submit their comments, which are due January 10th. Best to transmit via fax (the fax number is at the bottom of the notice).

#### 2. Other New Business: None.

### Old Business:

#### A. Update – Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant

- Opal noted that Supervisor Jeff Stone is now Senator. Marion Ashley is the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Benoit is Vice-Chair. Until Governor Brown appoints a replacement for Supervisor, the Ashley is the Steward.
- Opal distributed various flyers: Sixth Annual Pass Area Vets Expo at Beaumont Civic Center, January 31.
- Riverside County is looking for Grand Jurors.
- Riverside County is hiring for the Riverside County Fair at the Indio Fair Grounds. Apply on-line.

### Guest:

At 7:20 PM, California State Senator Jeff Stone took the floor. He formally swore-in the WTA Board of Directors. Stone, formerly our Third District County Supervisor, related highlights of his experiences so far at the State Senate. Jeff gave a brief autobiography. He now sits on the Public Safety Committee; chance to weigh in on Realignment issues. He noted that Proposition 47 passed last election. He is on the Natural Resources Subcommittee; involves some water issues, etc. Stone noted that he is the only Republican on the Labor Committee. Stone noted that he represents about one million citizens in his district. He noted his positions and aims: Stands behind liberty and freedom, citizens having voices heard. He is more business-friendly. Would like to control tuition costs, supports improvements to healthcare & education. He is against the “bullet train” project. Office in Murrieta will be ready in February. Indio office is open now. Spoke to 7:36.

### Old Business, cont'd:

#### B. Sheriff Dept.; Sergeant Guillen:

- Issues: Mail theft is on the rise; report it. Otherwise fairly quiet in town. Gangs status: No news.

#### C. EMWD Updates:

- Phil Paule & Phil Paule spoke. Paule noted that he just ended his two-year term as president. Projects: Olive Ave Sewer ~60% done; completion slated end of June. The Salt Creek project will mobilize soon; expected duration of one year. Paule noted that EMWD has approved five new solar facilities, to help provide power.

- D. Highway 79 - Update on widening.
- Most of the second phase pavement must be ground down and repaved to correct issues with profiles.
  - The notion to revise speed limits on the hwy was raised again. Opal reminded us that if a formal request is made & tests are run, the speed would likely be adjusted to the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of measured speed; might end up higher.
  - Opal will update us on the status of the EIR Report for the Highway 79 Realignment Project.
- E. MWD Proposed Solar Farm:
- No news.
- F. Land Use:
1. Downtown Core Planning: It was noted that some form of railroad station is still in the realm of possibility. The Planner is planning to bring to the County Planning Dept staff various examples of "Density Transfers," so they can see models (there having been none to date in Riverside County).
  2. GPA 973: Letter of Support from WTA: Dirk presented on this. Area is 151 acres. East of Hwy 79. Under Airport influence. Near railroad tracks. Proposal is to change the zone from Heavy Agriculture to Industrial Park. The proposal appears to align with our local aims. The WTA Land Use Committee reviewed what was presented, and takes no exceptions. The W/HMAC agreed to pass through the WTA letter indicating "no exception" from the WTA to the office of the Third District County Supervisor.
  3. Riverside County General Plan Amendment No. 960: No news on this item.
- G. City of Hemet update: Jeff Logan reported no news since November. Noted Linda Krupa is the new mayor.
- H. City of Menifee
- Andy Domenigoni met with City Manager Rob Johnson. Andy invited him to be our guest at our next meeting. Noted that he will be free to set his own agenda.
- I. Other Old Business:
- A representative of the Methodist Church noted that the Church Garden provided food to those in need. They also supported many needy families during the holiday season.
  - A citizen noted that he saw survey crews working on what he thought may be the routes for the power lines.
  - A citizen noted that he saw damage to East Grand Avenue, possibly due to the construction of the solar facility.

Open Forum:

1. Mary Plumb noted the success of their "Santa Comes to the Valley" event through Joey's Pals. Involved 600 families, 825 children and some \$4,000 in presents.
2. Gregg Cowdery noted that the floor of the gymnasium in the Community Center is slated to be refinished soon.

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2015 13th, 2014, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment: The WMAC adjourned at 8:00 PM.