

# Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 13, 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 Third District Supervisor

Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by Dirk Meredith at 6:30 PM.

### Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve:; Second:.. Approved, unanimous except Andy, not yet present.

### Approval of May Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Sheldrake; Second: Logan. Approved, unanimous except Andy, not yet present.

### Guest Speaker: Mark Hake – Chief of Probation

After a brief biography, Mark Hake told us of his role and about probation in general in Riverside County. Budget of \$127M. 1100 authorized positions, 915 filled (difficult to recruit persons meeting quality req's). 13-14 Field Offices, covering all county, plus supervisor services and court services. ~14,000 adult offenders. Hake explained the difference between probation & parole. Probation relates to sentences with jail time up to one year; agreeing to terms of supervision; keeps offender out of state prison. Adults. Parole relates to offenders after their release from state prisons. 900 misdemeanor supervisions. Probation is same for adult & juvenile: 2700-2800. They are seeing reduced numbers of juveniles; was 250, now ~150. Duties include: Applying their Risk/Needs Assessment Tool: What are an offender's needs? Can they be met? Various levels of risk: High risk persons are assigned at a 1:30, higher requirements for frequency, drug testing, etc. Medium Risk: 1:60. Low Risk: 1:100. Mission Statement: 1. Serving the Courts. 2. Protecting the Community. 3. Changing lives. Make arrests, various intermediate requirements; sworn peace officers, some armed staff in certain task forces. Juvenile Hall; detainage periods of two or even three years. Make an impact on people's lives. Hake noted that people arrested come back to their same city; so work together.

Opened the floor to questions, on a wide range of topics, not all noted here:

Q: Are there Veterans' services? A: Yes, several reporting centers. These help success. There is also a Veterans' Court now, for several years: Judge Johnson's Court, with special services and rep's available. There is a graduation ceremony in the Veterans' Court once a quarter.

Q: Are you working with the DA for Youth Accountability Teams (YAT) 2001? A: Probably. That's local law enforcement. Aims to identify kids at risk early on. 73% of the kids don't come back (that is success).

Starting a library at the Southwest Justice Center: People may contribute books meeting certain criteria.

Opal Hellweg noted that Supervisor Washington has pledged to buy some books. "Probation Reads."

Q: Why are there so many vacant positions? A: Difficult to find qualified candidates.

Q: Is funding adequate? A: \$127M is their budget. 30% County of Riverside. Remainder is grants; state/fed.

Those usually come with restrictions on how the grant funds may be used. Money always tight. But people are beginning to better understand the value of Probation.

Q: How many fall off the radar? A: Difficult to answer. When they vanish, a warrant is issued for arrest. The ratio is better now than it used to be, so keeping track of persons is stronger.

Q: How has AB109 affected juveniles? A: Not much; that is a different process. Also: Records are sealed.

The juvenile system had already been realigned, step-by-step, incrementally. Proposition 47 has made some offense misdemeanors; the result is that those offenders are no longer influenced by probation. AB 109 does give some better local control, but they are resource-challenged. Hake discussed various physical facilities in Riverside County, including improvements and new facilities in various states of progress.

Q: Are there hot spots? A: Yes, various pockets. Hemet & San Jacinto are among them. Winchester/Homeland has about 220 adult offenders, and ~17 juveniles.

Q: Does Probation run Group Homes? A: No, that sounds like State Parole.

Audience thanked Mr. Hake for his presentation.

New Business.

A. Other New Business: None.

Old Business:

- A. Update – Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant
  -
- B. Sheriff Dept.;
  - No report from Sheriff. Andy & Cindy Domenigoni attended the “Night Out” event, in Perris.
- C. EMWD Updates:
  - Kevin Pearson & Phil Paule. The Olive sewer line is substantially complete. The Salt Creek line is well underway; completion in about 1-1/2 months. Announced that water conservation efforts have resulted in about 27% reduction in water use. OK, but more is needed. There is now an app for iPhone and Android to report water wasting.
- D. Highway 79 (realignment) update.
  - No news.
- E. MWD Proposed Solar Farm:
  - No news. Action: Drop. The solar farm on the west end of Hemet is complete & operating.
- F. Land Use:
  - 1. Downtown Core Planning: Cindy met with County & Land Use Committee, re Gary Thornhill’s Plan. We are hoping to find grants and/or other funding to move our planning forward.
  - 2. Riverside County General Plan Amendment No. 1120, Housing Element: Letter will go to County on time, per Cindy Domenigoni.
  - 3. Riverside County General Plan Amendment No. 960; EIR Comments are due 8/19/15. Letter will go to County on time, per Cindy Domenigoni.
- G. City of Hemet update: Jeff Logan reported on miscellaneous minor items. None affecting our area directly. Mike Rowe mentioned that there are endangered species in the western flat lands; would have to go before LAFCO.
- H. City of Menifee
  - Andy reported he talked to the City Manager. He’ll try to set up a meeting in Sept. (Dirk to come).
- I. Winchester Post Office:
  - No news. Action: Drop from agenda.
- J. Other Old Business:
  - None.

Open Forum:

- 1. Mario Herrera, field rep from Melissa Menendez’s office, spoke. Various announcements and commentary. He announced the upcoming annual Veterans’ Expo, on September 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Wildomar Elks Lodge. Also, they will recognize a Veteran of the Year and Citizen of the Year: Please submit candidates.

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 10, 2015, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment: The WMAC adjourned at 8:21 PM.