

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 12th, 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.