

**WINCHESTER COMMON COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
WITH FREDERICK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010
MINUTES**

PRESENT: President Jeff Buettner; Vice-Mayor Butler; Councilors Milt McInturff and Les Veach; Vice-President Art Major; Mayor Elizabeth Minor (6)
ABSENT: Councilors Evan Clark, John Hill, and Milt McInturff (3)

Present for Frederick County Board of Supervisors: Chairman Richard Shickle and Supervisors Charles DeHaven, Gary Lofton, Gene Fisher, Bill Ewing, and Gary Dove. Absent: Christopher Collins.

President Buettner and Chairman Dick Shickle called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Items for Discussion:

Public Inebriate Center

County Administrator John Riley stated he was tasked with looking at alternatives to make it conducive to continue operations at the Inebriate Center in an effort to meet the City's concerns. A new Smithfield location would move the center out of the downtown area but would need approximately \$100,000 from each locality for renovations. The center's budget has been reduced to \$249,000 a year and 4 staff positions have been eliminated. It is being recommended that the two localities share the funding for operations at a 50/50 level. This would reduce the City's amount by \$70,000 and increase the County's amount by \$70,000.

During the discussion, Chairman Shickle asked when the County could have an answer from the City. President Buettner stated the City's Budget Committee will begin meeting next week. After more discussion, Chairman Shickle stated if the city does not participate, the County will not move the center's location and will try it make a go of it.

Emergency Communications Unification Subcommittee Report:

Winchester Fire & Rescue Chief Frank Wright presented a summary of the report. He stated the benefits of having one ECC would be the direct communication for emergencies and non-emergencies for the entire community. Chief Wright discussed the proposed location of an ECC and the hurdles that would be faced during the consolidation process. The subcommittee's conclusion was it is feasible to combine the ECC's, the technology is obtainable, and all the public safety agencies are willing to work together in getting it done. The recommendation is to hire a consultant to determine the cost of consolidation.

After further discussion, it was decided an RFP would be put out to get the price of consolidation and the price of combining systems.

Winchester-Frederick County Convention and Visitors Bureau:

Director Natalie Wills presented a brief summary of the Bureau's marketing plan and vision. She stated the goals of the plan are as follows:

- Position the area as a premier destination in the Shenandoah Valley

- Take Winchester/Frederick County on the road
- Promote the area as a dining destination
- Hospitality Training
- Use Social Media
- Work with our stakeholders to increase the impact on tourism
- Market our existing product

After a brief discussion regarding the amount agreed to in the MOU, President Buettner asked Mr. Riley and Mr. O'Connor to look at Tourism in their budgets and to bring the information back to the Joint Finance Committee.

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Kari J. Van Diest
Deputy Clerk of the Common Council