

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
May 19, 2009**

PRESENT: President Jeff Buettner; Vice-Mayor Michael Butler; Councilor Evan Clark, John Hill, Milt McInturff, Les Veach and John Willingham (7)
ABSENT: Vice-President Art Major; Mayor Elizabeth Minor (2)

President Buettner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – April 14, 2009 and April 21, 2009 Finance & Administration Committee Meetings

Vice-Mayor Michael Butler moved to approve the April 14, 2009 and April 21, 2009 meeting minutes. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Veach then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

1. Health, Education & Welfare Report

a) Winchester Public Schools – Dennis Kellison, Superintendent.

Superintendent Kellison stated staff continues to work with Lord Fairfax Community College to provide additional training opportunities. He provided a list of courses that are currently being offered including some that are geared toward career tech training especially in the medical field. The EMT 2 and EMT 3 courses are available to those students pursuing EMT courses but the EMT basic training is not available.

Mayor Minor arrived at 5:33 p.m.

Superintendent Kellison stated Chris Price has not responded on the Douglas Community Learning Center. However, they have spoken on the telephone and they are pursuing funding.

Superintendent Kellison stated staff is exploring strategic planning for the school system with Jim Deskins.

Superintendent Kellison provided a list of positions that will not be filled next year. He said in most cases, the positions were vacated by people leaving but not all. Some of the positions had to be filled to meet class size requirements or other requirements.

Superintendent Kellison stated they are pursuing a career coach with LFCC as well. This would be a part time employee from LFCC that is placed in the high school to assist students with transitioning into a 2 year certificate program. They are looking for a grant to fund the program.

Eighth grade math teachers at Daniel Morgan Middle School were recognized by the state for “Programs that Work”. In conjunction, we have 14 students that took the Johns Hopkins test and scored at or above the scores of college bound seniors. Six of the students will be recognized at the state level for their high scores.

Graduation will be held on June 11th. The field is almost ready. The track will be hard surfaced by graduation and then the final layer will be done after graduation.

2. Finance & Administration Report

- a) Motion to send FY10 Annual Budget forward to Council. (First Reading to be held at May 26th First Reading Meeting, Public Hearing and Second Reading to be held at June 9th Council Meeting.)

Councilor Willingham moved to send the budget forward to Council. *The motion was seconded by Councilor McInturff.*

City Manager Brannon Godfrey stated a summary of all of the funds has been presented. Staff will have the detailed budget complete by Friday and will distribute it then.

Councilor Butler stated a large group spoke to council about the proposed funding cut for Detox. After consideration, he thinks it will open up a Pandora’s Box as to what will happen to that community and the community of a whole. If the budget is cut or cut in half, this aspect will not go away. Winchester has had an element that is unsavory since the 1700’s. Judge Simpson started Detox in 1973 because his docket was full of issues of drunkenness. The facility did not draw people here. Drug and alcohol problems have existed in Winchester for years. If we turn our backs on that portion of the community, we will cause a disservice to the community and the financial costs that can be counted and the hidden costs. Vice-Mayor Butler proposed to restore the funding to Starting Point and to start a task force to look into dependency problems and what needs to be done. We may find out we don’t need Starting Point or we may need more than Starting Point. He stated alcoholism is a chronic disease just like heart disease. If we stop the treatment, it gets worse. For us to do that, we are doing the community as a whole a disservice.

Vice-Mayor Butler moved to restore the funding of Starting Point to the original amount of \$185,000 by taking the money out of the reserves. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark.*

Councilor Veach moved to table Vice-Mayor Butler’s motion. *The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Butler then approved 5/2 with Councilors Clark and Willingham voting in the negative.*

Councilor Willingham’s motion to forward the budget to Council was unanimously approved by voice-vote.

- b) Motion to approve and send forward to Council the FY09 Supplemental Appropriations Requests and Transfers.

President Buettner moved to send the Supplemental Appropriations Requests to Council. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

- c) Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA) Discussion

Commissioner of Revenue Jay Russell presented a brief historical summary of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act. He stated the tax rate is calculated from a formula provided by the state to distribute the money but it needs to be approved by a resolution from Council.

Mayor Minor moved to send the PPTRA rate to council for approval. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Willingham then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

3. Other Items

- a) Pending Appointments for Boards and Commissions
- b) Finance Committee Monthly Summary Report

President Buettner stated the city is not doing a \$10 million dollar two way street conversion project. We are doing a \$10 million dollar water and sewer project. As part of the project, we are doing sidewalks. For a number of reasons, we had decided to put concrete sidewalks down with a brick buffer and give homeowners the option to get all brick at their expense. On reflection, we are taking something away from an owner and putting something cheaper back then asking them to pay the difference. If the same home owner went in front of the BAR to do that they would probably be told no and to put brick back. He is not trying to make the project more expensive but would like to put brick back where it currently is. He would like to replace like for like and eliminate the medians on Cameron Street.

Utilities Director Perry Eisenach stated to replace all brick sidewalks with brick would cost \$190,000. Since the number of medians was reduced from 8 to 4, the cost will be about \$40,000. We have been able to make some adjustments to the storm water design since the project was bid that will accomplish the same thing but save money. We can do like for like brick sidewalks and the medians and still be within the project budget if Council decides to do that.

Councilor Veach moved to revisit the item for discussion. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Willingham then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

Mayor Minor stated in retrospect it doesn't seem like good business to charge residents for putting the brick back when we removed them. Anytime we can put back like materials we should do it.

Councilor McInturff asked if the \$190,000 was for removing and installing all new brick. Mr. Eisenach stated a few of the home owners have put down new brick. If the brick is old and needs to be replaced, we will replace it with new brick.

Councilor McInturff stated he agreed that we let this slip through. He likes eliminating the median strips.

Councilor Willingham asked if the proposal is to do both within the budget or to get rid of the medians anyway. President Buettner stated he thinks the medians are too much to quick with the change in traffic paths. He wants to evaluate it further.

Councilor Clark stated he likes the brick and the medians. He would like to consider separate motions. He then asked Mr. Eisenach if the newer concrete would be ripped up too. Mr. Eisenach stated the concrete would be torn up anyway with the replacement of the water and sewer lines.

Mayor Minor asked if the medians could be added later. Mr. Eisenach stated they could but it would probably double the cost.

President Jeff Buettner moved to replace like for like on the sidewalks and to send it forward to council. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Willingham then approved 7/1 with Vice-Mayor Butler voting in the negative.*

Mayor Minor asked for clarification on the cost. Mr. Eisenach stated to replace all brick sidewalks with new will add \$190,000 to the project. The medians will cost about \$40,000 but that is already in the budget. However, we have reduced the store water costs so it will still be in budget with the project.

Vice-Mayor Butler moved to remove the medians from Cameron Street. *The motion was seconded by President Buettner then defeated 4/4 with Councilors Hill, McInturff, Veach, and Willingham voting in the negative.*

President Buettner moved to convene into executive session to seek legal counsel and the discussion of real estate acquisition. *The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

Upon returning at 6:27 p.m., each member certified that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were discussed during the closed meeting, and that only those public

business matters identified in the motion which convened the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting.

A roll call vote was taken, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Vice-Mayor Butler	Aye
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Aye
Vice-President Major	Absent
Councilor McInturff	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
Councilor Veach	Aye
Councilor Willingham	Aye
President Buettner	Aye

4. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.