



Town of Middletown
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Gateway to Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park

Marshall J. Brown, Mayor

Water Strategic Planning Session

January 13, 2012

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM. In attendance:

Mayor Mark Brown	Councilor Mark Davis
Councilor Gil Barrington	Town Manager Joan Roche
Councilor Carl Bernhards	Zoning Administrator Fred Wharton
Councilor John Blaisdell	
Executive Director Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission Martha Shickle	

Councilor Charles Harbaugh and Councilor Donna Gray did not attend.

Mayor Brown opened the meeting with a briefing on the current status of Middletown's water, followed by an assessment from Ms. Shickle on water resources within the Shenandoah Valley, and a briefing from Fred Wharton on the potential of sourcing water from Strasburg, as well as the status of communications with Winchester to increase Middletown's current water contract.

SUMMARY:

Middletown is unique within the upper Shenandoah Valley as it doesn't have an independent source of water, but purchases it from a sole source, the city of Winchester. Recent studies have confirmed that water is a finite resource within the valley with no expectations of increased availability. Current sources include the Shenandoah River, several springs, quarries and wells. While there is enough capacity to meet existing requirements, an extended drought and/or aggressive development could easily overtax these resources. It is thought that a regional water authority will be needed, but won't come into existence within the next 10 to 15 years. Although Middletown has sufficient water to meet its requirement for the build-out of currently identified development, Frederick County has repeatedly expressed reservations over water availability to meet the needs of properties impacted by a proposed boundary adjustment across I-81.

FINDINGS:

Initial discussions with Strasburg indicate that a \$4 Million investment would be needed to tie into their system and construct the necessary infrastructure, and still leave Middletown dependent upon an outside source. Wells remain a feasibility, but no information was available concerning depth of local water table, quality & quantity (per well) of water, costs of drilling,

nor costs of a water tank and other necessary infrastructure. Winchester, as a result of loss of water revenue from Frederick County, has indicated a willingness to enter into negotiations to provide a much larger supply of water that should meet Middletown's needs - both within its current boundaries, as well as the expected needs of properties when the boundary adjustment across I-81 is completed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue utilizing Winchester as sole source of water and enter into formal negotiations for an additional allocation.
- Obtain definitive data on aquifer capacity, costs of well(s), and supporting infrastructure.

Marshall J. Brown
Mayor