

**MINUTES OF THE
JOINT WORK SESSION
WITH TOLEDO CITY COUNCIL
AND
LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
6:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016
TOLEDO CITY HALL**

Commissioner Thompson convened the informal meeting at 6:00 pm. Also present were Commissioner Hunt, County Counsel Wayne Belmont, Public Information Officer Casey Miller, and Recorder Tanya Graham. Toledo City Council representatives included, Mayor Billie Jo Smith, Councilors Michele Johnson, Alma Baxter, Jackie Kauffman, and City Recorder Nancy Bryant.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Community Engagement – *Jenny Demaris*

Jenny Demaris reported that the Everbridge Community Engagement system will be going live October 1, 2016. Everbridge is a mass notification system that can alert citizens of upcoming events or emergencies. Each community will be given an authorized account and keyword that they can use to send out notifications specific to their areas and needs. Once the City of Toledo decides on whom their authorized point of contact is they will need to notify Jenny Demaris. The Everbridge system uses cell phones and landlines to notify citizens. Citizens can choose to receive a text message or an automated phone call. The County is committed to marketing the system but it will be up to the individual cities to promote it. Cities need to encourage their citizens to sign up for notifications.

Countywide Drug Rehab Services and Mental Health Services – *Cheryl Connell and Barbara Turrill*

Barbara Turrill reviewed what services Lincoln County Behavioral Health has to offer our citizens. If a person is in a crisis, they should be taken to the Emergency Room and/or the police should be called. Once that has happened, then the mobile crisis team can be activated. The mobile crisis team works 7 days a week 24 hours a day. A councilor will go to the person in crisis and make an assessment of the person's needs. Sometimes the councilor can put a "Mental Health" hold on the patient and other times they can refer the person to an acute center in Corvallis or Salem. This should help begin to cut down on the number of mentally ill people being taken to jail.

Cheryl Connell stated that the County is tasked with helping individuals but a person has to consent for services. The only way around consent is if the person appears to be a threat to themselves or others

Commissioner Thompson stated that the County does the best they can with what they have. In order for municipalities to receive more funding to help the mentally ill, people need to go to Salem and encourage the legislature to provide more funding to better assist patients.

Barbara Turrill stated that there are a number of nonprofit organizations in our County that can provide assistants to people. Reconnections Treatment Center has an office in the Toledo area.

Cheryl Connell also suggested that City Officials, as well as citizens, take a Mental Health First Aid class. This class will help train people on how to help when they see someone in a crisis.

Code Enforcement – Wayne Belmont

Wayne Belmont reported that the County does not have a dedicated Code Enforcement Officer but we do provide code enforcement. Often times the County Sanitarian will work with property owners to help clean up their property however keeping it cleaned up is sometimes difficult. The County is currently helping a property owner in the Toledo area with cleaning up their property.

Discussion on the Formation of a Housing Committee among Municipalities – Wayne Belmont

Wayne Belmont stated that housing has become a focus across the State. We need to work with the State and Federal government to help solve this issue. The County is currently examining their regulations and zoning requirements as an effort towards helping improve the housing crisis in the area.

Wayne Belmont also stated that informally there are some subcommittees that have been looking at regulatory and zoning issues, financial funding opportunities and land inventory of potential housing sites. The City of Newport recently hosted a meeting with representatives from the State, cities, tribes, County and non-profits to discuss possible solutions in solving the housing crisis.

Economic and Labor Stats for Lincoln County – Doug Hunt

Commissioner Hunt stated that land is a limited resource in our area and because the demand is high, the price is high. This can make it difficult to build affordable housing. With the

review of our regulations and zoning requirements this may help increase the land inventory. Because of the recession, financial institutions are still very cautious in their lending practices.

The housing crisis is a complex problem but there are steps being taken to help solve the problem. Commissioner Thompson stated that the economic cycle is a common thing and is very cyclical.

Craig Martin, the new City Manager for Toledo, introduced himself to the Commissioners and discussed his experience in working with rural communities.

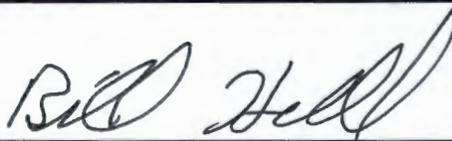
A discussion occurred concerning the various grant programs that the County has to offer.

Commissioner Hunt reported on the Economic Study for the County and the impact of transfer payments. In 2010, the County population was approximately 46,000 with 22% of those people being 65 or older. In 2015 the population was 47,000 with 26% of those people being 65 or older. This is a significant shift and demographically Lincoln County could be considered the oldest County on the coast. Transfer deposits in 2000 were \$496,000,000 and in 2015 they were \$784,000,000 million. In 2000 Toledo received \$28,000,000 and in 2015 they received \$42,000,000. Transfer payments are a significant asset to the County and Cities.

The joint session adjourned at 7:05 pm. These meeting minutes were read and approved this

12th day of October, 2016.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



BILL HALL, Chair



TERRY N. THOMPSON, Commissioner



DOUG HUNT, Commissioner

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