

APPROVED BY ORDER # 5-18-114

**MINUTES OF THE  
JOINT WORK SESSION  
WITH DEPOE BAY CITY COUNCIL  
AND  
LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
6:00 PM, APRIL 11, 2018  
DEPOE BAY CITY COUNCIL CITY HALL**

Chair Hunt convened the informal meeting at 6:00 p.m. Also present were Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Hall, County Counsel Wayne Belmont, Public Information Officer Casey Miller, and Recorder Kristi Whitaker. Depoe Bay City Council representatives included Mayor Barbara Leff, and Council Members: Debbie Callender, Kathy Short, Robert Gambino, Charles Bates, and Recorder, Jeff Wiseman.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Introductions**

**B. Marijuana Tax Revenue – Proposed Prevention and Education Programs**

Jessica Palma, Health Education Specialist for Public Health, and Nicole Fields, Interim Public Health Director, provided a handout and presented information and statistics of recreational marijuana use among the youth population and the potential use of marijuana revenues for various prevention and education programs.

Debbie Callender inquired as to whether there has been research conducted on where these youth are obtaining their marijuana. Jessica responded that majority obtain marijuana from an older friend and the data questions don't address buying illegally, though education would provide for them to question their use despite where they are buying it from.

Wayne Belmont, County Counsel, requested the City of Depoe Bay consider leveraging a portion of their marijuana tax revenues, along with County and other city funding to fund the presented potential programs as a pilot project. The County has a placeholder in the next fiscal budget for the activities and would like to have conversations with the cities for additional funding. Wayne stated the County has already spoken with Yachats and Newport and would like to hear feedback and work out details over the next few weeks while developing budgets.

Commissioner Hunt acknowledged that the dollar amounts to be received are unknown, but any amount would supplement other funds and would be greatly appreciated.

Mayor Leff stated the Depoe Bay City Council will add it to an agenda for discussion.

**C. Affordable Housing**

Commissioner Hunt acknowledged the housing situation as a complex issue and reviewed various different projects and funding the county has provided to address the issue as best possible.

- The County has worked with the City of Newport and approved ordinances that waive property taxes based on specific criteria for low income housing to support and encourage those developments.
- The County has supported a pilot project being considered by Yachats to ease the urban growth boundary strictly for the purpose of affordable housing.
- The County has provided property tax relief or some sort funding for various housing projects such as: Aquavista, Fisterra, Ridge, Solomon, Pelican Place housing projects. The Fisterra project is an example of the LIFT Program supported by the state.
- The County directly funds a Non-Profit Social Allocation program that has provided funding for Habitat for Humanity, Samaritan House, My Sister's Place, Family Promise and other programs.
- Proud Ground is another organization the County is directly involved with; Proud Ground has developed two projects in Lincoln City and is currently developing three projects in Newport. The Wilder project in the South Beach area is contemplating participation with Proud Ground to develop five or six more low income housing complexes.
- The County does allow for tiny homes so long as the building plan meets County Code for health and safety.
- There is currently discussion going on regarding placing \$60k in the budget to support homeless activities in Lincoln City, Newport, and Waldport.

There is a housing task force convening tomorrow that was organized by the City of Newport that involves county and city managers, stakeholders, and the Tribe.

Jeff Wiseman inquired about the forthcoming influx of students for OSU's Hatfield Extension. Commissioner Hunt responded that issue is being addressed by the University who is working with the City of Newport to develop housing for the students within the Wilder development.

#### **D. Update on "Stepping Up Initiative"**

Commissioner Hall provided a brief overview and history of the program as an effort to reduce the number of people who get stuck in the justice system with mental illness rather than criminal intent. The program is driven at the county level because these services are provided at the county level.

- The County is working to better align justice and behavioral health centers; building upon programs that currently exist such as drug court and mental health court, obtaining new resources, and increasing collaboration within the County.
- The Sheriff and Community Corrections officers are receiving training in programs such as mental health first aid and crisis intervention training.
- The County has secured a grant for a mobile crisis mental health services.
- The Community Corrections program has rolled out a post release housing program.
- The Sheriff's Office has a levy on the upcoming ballot to help fund additional safety services such as adding an additional inmate jail counselor and two pre-trial release specialists.
- There are discussions with Samaritan regarding a pilot tele-psychiatry program.

Robert Gambino stated, at the last Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) meeting there were discussions about an automated phone system; Commissioner Hall responded that hadn't transpired yet, though, if the County obtains the pretrial positions funding via the levy, then that will be created.

**E. Mid-Coast Water Partners**

Commissioner Thompson stated this is a slow moving process but the city should be aware of and begin discussions about Rocky Creek and what can be done to consolidate our water problems. Mayor Leff stated, she and the superintendent are aware and have been attending meetings

**F. Code Enforcement Officer/Dredging**

Commissioner Thompson added these items that were not on the agenda.

Wayne Belmont, County Counsel, stated they had been approached by various communities for help with code enforcement. The County has decided to fund a position and is currently recruiting; in addition the County is examining what other communities have done and exploring different avenues and tools of enforcement. The position will reside within the Sheriff's Office and work with property owners before formal action is taken.

Mayor Leff stated the city has been actively dealing with this issue within the last month, have shut down properties and are absorbing cost of cleaning them up. Mayor Leff stated the City would be interested in hearing of what potential alternatives are.

Commissioner Thompson sympathized with the struggle cities are experiencing with the decrease of property value, stating it has been a challenge for the County as well.

Commissioner Hall stated the enforcement officer would act as a facilitator to work with the property owner to address the situation before enforcement occurs.

Commissioner Thompson inquired about dredging for the fuel dock. Mayor Leff stated there has been no changes, but are positive of the outlook. Commissioner Thompson offered assistance if needed to speak with the Port of Coos Bay regarding the dredging.

**G. Adjournment**

The joint session adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

These meeting minutes are approved on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018.

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Excused  
DOUG HUNT  
Chair

Terry N. Thompson  
TERRY N. THOMPSON  
Commissioner

Bill Hall  
BILL HALL  
Commissioner