



Lassen County

Meeting Minutes

Board of Supervisors Special Meeting

LASSEN COUNTY SUPERVISORS:

*DISTRICT 1 - CHRIS GALLAGHER - CHAIRMAN; DISTRICT 2 - DAVID TEETER; DISTRICT 3 - JEFF HEMPHILL
- VICE CHAIRMAN; DISTRICT 4 - AARON ALBAUGH; DISTRICT 5 - TOM HAMMOND*

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

5:30 PM

Lassen County Fairgrounds
Jensen Hall
195 Russell Ave
Susanville, CA 96130

5:32 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Supervisors Gallagher, Teeter, Hemphill, Albaugh and Hammond. Also
Present: County Administrative Officer Richard Egan, County Counsel Robert
Burns and Deputy Clerk of the Board Michele Yderraga.

Attendance for the Susanville City Council: Councilmembers Brian Wilson,
Mendy Schuster, Joe Franco, Brian Moore and Mayor Kevin Stafford. Also
Present: City Clerk Gwenna McDonald.

Present: 5 - Aaron Albaugh, Chris Gallagher, David Teeter, Jeff Hemphill and Tom
Hammond

Excuse: 0

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

After the flag salute invocation was offered by Supervisor Teeter.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISOR HEMPHILL

SUBJECT: Homelessness in Lassen County.

FISCAL IMPACT: Undetermined.

ACTION REQUESTED:

- 1) Receive staff reports from:
 - a. Health and Social Services
 - b. Community Social Services
 - c. Sheriff / District Attorney
 - d. County Counsel
 - e. County Administrative Officer
- 2) Receive public comment; and
- 3) Board discussion and direction to staff.

Attachments: [200218 SPC Meeting Dept Reports](#)

Supervisor Teeter gave an overview of the order for the agenda and reminded
everyone three minutes only will be allowed during public comment.

Supervisor Hemphill welcomed everyone who attended the meeting and brought everyone together to discuss the homeless problem in Lassen County. Supervisor Hemphill added that he doesn't have the answers but hopefully can come to a solution for this problem.

1) RECEIVE STAFF REPORTS:

a. Health and Social Services

Director of Health and Social Services Barbara Longo introduced herself, thanked the Board of Supervisors and City of Susanville for initiating the forum and thanked the community for their attendance. Director Longo gave a brief overview of Health and Social Services and the services provided by the department. Director Longo introduced the Director of Community Social Services Jenna Aguilera and informed the audience the power point of the presentation would be available on county's website.

b. Community Social Services

Director of Community Social Services (CSS) Jenna Aguilera gave a detailed power point presentation of the services provided by CSS. Director Aguilera discussed the Point In Time requirements and procedures when surveying the homeless. Director Aguilera also discussed the differences between unsheltered and sheltered, chronic homeless, and causes for homelessness. Director Aguilera gave additional information on the different divisions and programs CSS provides such as the Grants and Loans Division, General Relief, CalFresh Program, Medi-Cal, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Program, and Welfare-to-Work (WTW) Program. Director Aguilera ended the presentation with several anonymous success stories.

c. Sheriff / District Attorney

Sheriff/Coroner Dean Growdon introduced Lieutenant John McGarva, Lieutenant Dave Woginrich and Captain Michael Carney. Sheriff Growdon stated he was proud to see the attendance from the community on an important issue. Sheriff Growdon expressed the importance to focus and move forward but also important to understand that a contributing factor to the homelessness was the passing of Proposition 47. Sheriff Growdon stated the most impact is in the jail. Prior to Proposition 47, offenders would get the opportunity to dry out and receive the help they need to move forward. Sheriff Growdon briefly discussed the Point In Time count.

Lieutenant John McGarva discussed the recent trip to Sacramento to visit with the members of the Homeless Outreach team and law enforcement. Lt. McGarva stated Sacramento County takes a community service based approach and

works with the Homeless and Housing Authorities, Health and Social Services, District Attorney's office and Public Defender's office. Sheriff Growdon briefly discussed the homeless who are unwilling to seek help and the people released from jail that become homeless.

District Attorney (DA) Melyssah Rios recommended to read a memo created by the Sheriff's Office, Probation Office and the DA's office regarding criminal justice and law enforcement. DA Rios discussed crime and prosecution in Lassen County. DA Rios also discussed her office and case loads per employee. DA Rios closed with an example of a citizen stopping a person from shoplifting and reminded everyone that if they see something, say something.

d. County Counsel

County Counsel Burns gave a brief presentation of Martin vs. the City of Boise.

e. County Administrative Officer

CAO Egan stated the staff has done a good job and there are a lot of resources available for those who find themselves homeless. CAO Egan also stated there is a portion of the homeless population that have chosen not to utilize the available resources the county has to offer and these seem to be the individuals that are causing the most grief in our community.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

SPEAKERS: Sherry Ferrell, Steve Fuller, Jim Dunn, Michael Shively, Andrea Traphagen, Chris Vandevender, Mimi Rinna, Jeff Laws, Reuben Mahnke, Wade Workman, Margot Smith, Star Claire, Russell Banks, Jim Chapman, Joe Strohm, Natalie Cook, Chuck Swetland, Theresa Phillips, Melissa Owen, Noble Feather, Rhonda Foley, Marshall Leve, Cindy Roberts, Ed Heffman, Nick McBride, Carol Byers, Mary Piowati, Eileen Richard, Thomas Herrera, Thomas Wasson, Steve McDow, Cameron Adair, Quincy McCourt, Virginia Midgely, John Hulsey, and Mike Kirack.

3) BOARD DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION TO STAFF

City Administrator Mike Wilson thanked everyone for showing and stated when the community speaks we listen. Administrator Wilson invited everyone to attend the Susanville City Council meeting tomorrow, February 19, 2020, to discuss the current homelessness issue, ideas and solutions. Clean-ups and set up of equipment for the clean up will also be discussed at the City Council meeting.

City of Susanville Chief of Police Kevin Jones responded to public comment that the Susanville City Police was not responsive to calls related to theft. Chief

Jones stated they had a good samaritan collect over fifty shopping carts and the police department has been siting people for littering. Chief Jones also discussed the Jr. Fishing Derby, the City of Susanville's camping ordinance, and finding a solution for the homelessness issue. Chief Jones stated that they will continue to work with Lassen County on this issue and finding a solution.

Susanville Fire Chief James Moore discussed the river trail clean up and stated it is not as easy cleaning the river as people believe. The waterway is protected and permits are difficult to obtain for a large portion of Susan River. Chief Moore further discussed permits and burning.

City Building Official Anthony Hannah had a brief open discussion with Sherry Ferrell regarding Crossroads Ministries.

Councilmember Joe Franco stated he appreciated everyone showing tonight and has listened to everything the community has to say. Councilmember Franco added the short and long term goal is to create a task force and have an action plan.

Councilmember Brian Moore stated the community is his family and thanked everyone. Councilmember Moore also stated they have a solution and need to start working on it.

Councilmember Mandy Schuster thanked everyone for attending and stated she had been reviewing other counties ordinances. Councilmember Schuster also stated they need to know what the community wants.

Councilmember Wilson thanked everyone for coming together as a community and need to work together to beat this situation.

Supervisor Teeter brought the conversation back to the Board of Supervisors and stated Lassen County has a need for a shelter and a location. Without a shelter we don't have the ability to remove the homeless from the river.

Supervisor Gallagher quoted Bible verse 1 John 2:9 and stated our community is one that comes together. Supervisor Gallagher discussed the FEMA trailers Butte County is making available for the homeless and encouraged a task force. We need to find the right solution that works for Susanville.

Supervisor Albaugh thanked everyone for coming because it makes a difference on the influence of what everyone is thinking. Also thanked the staff of the county and city for taking the extra time to explain everything. Supervisor Albaugh stated he received a letter from Senator Brian Dahle and there are currently six different bills regarding the homeless issue in California. Supervisor Albaugh encouraged

the county staff to work in conjunction with the city staff and keep an open line of communication. Both entities have their strengths and we need to work together.

Supervisor Hemphill thanked everyone for showing and asked if they could do an ad campaign with the slogan, "If you see something, say something". Supervisor Hemphill briefly discussed the the trash by the river.

Supervisor Teeter announced Susanville City Council will have their meeting tomorrow, February 19, 2020

Susanville City Council adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

CAO Egan was absent from 7:40 p.m. - 7:42 a.m.

County Counsel Burns was absent from 8:01 p.m. - 8:03 p.m.

Supervisor Albaugh was absent from 8:27 a.m. - 8:29 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Michele Yderraga, Deputy Clerk of the Board