



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE City of Chico/County of Butte

Agenda of May 3, 2017

3:30 P.M.

City Council Chambers
421 Main Street, Chico

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1. **Approve Minutes**
February 1, 2017
 2. **Old Humboldt Road**
 - a. Discussion on trash/dumping concerns
 3. **Chico Veterans Memorial Hall/MONCA Update**
 - a. Timing for MONCA opening
 4. **Fire Department Collaboration**
 5. **Continuum of Care Update**
 - a. **CoC Role/Design**
 - b. **Coordinator Position**
 6. **Future Meeting Dates – Consideration**
(August 2, 2017; November 1, 2017)
 7. **August 2, 2017 Potential Agenda Items – Discuss**
 8. **Public Comment**
 9. **Adjournment**

Distribution:

LGC (5)/Deborah Presson, City Clerk
Mark Orme, City Manager
Paul Hahn, County Chief Administrative Officer
Chris Constantin, Assistant City Manager
Brian Ring, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Debbie Collins, City Management Analyst
Ashley Snyder, County Associate Clerk of the Board
Steve Lucas, Butte Local Agency Formation Commission
Ann Willmann, CARD General Manager
Dennis Schmidt, Butte County Public Works Director
Grant Hunsicker, Butte County General Services Director
Darren Read, Butte County Fire Chief
Andy Pickett, Deputy Administrative Officer
Dorian Kittrell, Butte County Behavioral Health Director
Shelby Boston, Butte County Employment and Social Services Director
Tom Tenorio, Continuum of Care Chair



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE City of Chico/County of Butte



Minutes of February 1, 2017

Members present: Fillmer, Kirk, Sorensen, Wahl

Members absent: Morgan

1. Approved Minutes of August 3, 2016

Motion: Kirk Second: Fillmer (4/0/1)

2. Septage Pond Facility - Update

(Paul Hahn, Butte County Chief Administrative Officer; Mark Orme, Chico City Manager)

Hahn stated that the County was researching the closing of the septage ponds at the landfill but has identified an interim plan. For the next three to five years the septage will be trucked to a facility in Rockland while the County looks at replacing the ponds at the landfill. There will be an increase in cost of septage disposal for residents. The rate is now \$0.15 and will go up somewhere between \$0.24 and \$0.30. Hahn thanked the City for its cooperation in arriving at this interim solution.

3. Sewer Trunk Replacement Project (River Road) – Status Update

(Mark Orme, Chico City Manager)

Matt Thompson, City Associate Civil Engineer, advised that the River Road trunk lines that are being replaced were built in 1902 and 1929. The replacement will combine flows into one new 24" pipe. Bids will be opened next week. The construction period is anticipated to be 100 days. To ensure the construction will not interfere with harvest, the project includes a provision for a 90-day blackout period if the construction does extend into harvest time.

4. Nitrate Compliance Program - Update

(Matt Thompson, City Associate Civil Engineer and Casey Hatcher, Butte County Economic and Community Development Manager)

Thompson advised that the nitrate compliance program is substantially on its way to completion. Progress has been made on 3S (Oaklawn/Stewart/Warner). 2S is the major area of focus (West Vecino Area) and will be broken into two construction projects to keep contracts under \$2 million and local. Approval to advertise is expected next month with construction to start this summer and completion this time next year. Design work for 3N, the last phase, is next. There is a schedule discrepancy because the schedule showed work starting before the agreement was signed which automatically put the project a year behind however the project is still on a 10-year construction timeline and scheduled to be fully complete by Dec 31, 2018.

Hatcher advised that due to lower construction costs, and the resulting savings, there may be the ability to run additional pipe. Staff will evaluate and look at recommendations. The most recently completed phase (Oaklawn) is in the County and voluntary connection can be facilitated with the County loan pool. They have received a lot of interest from the avenues area to be informed before construction and will be reaching out to them. The track taken to comply with the Prohibition Order has been to facilitate voluntary connection. The Regional Water Board is taking a new direction on how exemptions apply to new development. Staff is working with them because the shift doesn't see an exemption applying to new development, particularly non-residential.

5. Focused Homelessness Discussion

(Paul Hahn, Butte County Chief Administrative Officer; Mark Orme, Chico City Manager)

a. Review of “Chico Reducing Homelessness” Presentation - Laura Cootsona, Executive Director, The Jesus Center

Cootsona advised that the presentation was developed at the request of Vice Mayor Fillmer to identify what is being done to address homelessness. Cootsona stated that homelessness is making a significant impact on the vitality of Chico and is a complex challenge. It is a human, economic and community crisis. A lot was accomplished in 2016 such as Project Homeless Connect, a visit by Robert Marbut, who will be here again on Friday to work with the Torres Shelter and Jesus Center, a visit by Lloyd Pendleton, reorganization of the Greater Chico Homeless Task Force, Valley View Apartments and Chico Holidays Together. The Continuum of Care (CoC) received federal and state funding and the City Plaza restrooms were opened 24 hour hours a day. There are many involved in the conversation including the County, City, private developers, DCBA, Team Chico, and the Chamber. The strength of collaboration is the diverse groups working on solutions. Each will do what they are best at doing. It is critical to continue to work to define the issues together. Quality data collection is needed to analyze and then apply. Many providers, including the hospital, want to be involved in the collection of data. Last week the Point in Time Census was conducted with the Jesus Center as one of the hubs. Folks were forthcoming about their story and all 200 volunteers in the county are now ambassadors. We need to continue to educate ourselves about what the issues really are. The collected data will need to be turned into action plans that can be tested and measured.

Reducing the impact of homelessness includes an increase in housing stock of all kinds, a systematic way of identifying who is doing what, who is the expert, addressing mental health – funding – 5150 process – the role of the Police Department and hospital. Often mental health issues are addressed by the Police Department which is expensive and officers are not necessarily the best trained. Mental health services are going to be a focal area. Economic vitality also goes hand in hand with reducing the impact of homelessness.

Collaborative – service provider driven – entrepreneurial: build/measure/learn. Collaboration is hard. Service providers are the experts and include Behavioral Health and the Housing Authority. We need to be entrepreneurial and flexible, change up funding models, try out solutions – take quicker action – trial and error – if it doesn't work we learn.

A partnership with the County and cities to fund the CoC Coordinator position is needed. The coordinator is required in order to be eligible for federal funding. The position will help collect and analyze the data, entertain and support a range of creative housing solutions, something like a managed campground with rules and a management structure, no threshold of cost or barriers, and allow for regular education and presentations on homelessness.

b. Role of the LGC

Hahn explained that the Local Government Committee is not a policy/decision making body but is a great forum for leaders to talk about issues. From a County perspective issues are throughout the county not just focused on Chico. There is already a structure set up to address the homeless issue and that is the CoC – it is what HUD recognizes – that may be the best organization to focus the discussion on. The coordinator position is key to getting federal as well as state dollars. The need is for \$80,000 - \$100,000 to fund the coordinator position – all cities in the county should get together and see if they can come up with the funding. The discussions need greater elected representation on CoC Council. Elected officials can bring a better focus, make things happen, County employment/social services can come up with a good chunk of the money with additional dollars needed from city managers.

Vice Mayor Fillmer advised that the City wants to do something and needs County collaboration on the problem even if other cities in the county choose not to help. Hahn advised cities have

been receptive to addressing the problem but lack funding and staff. Fillmer said it is very helpful to all know what is happening and figure out what resources we do have.

c. Continuum of Care (CoC)

i. CoC Role and Design

Tom Tenorio, Executive Director, Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc. (CAA), advised they were the first grantee of HUD CoC funding in 2004. CAA took it upon itself to plan to reconstitute the CoC in 2009. CAA is the lead agency with lots of volunteers. CoC funding is comprised of HUD continuum of care dollars.

It is all they can do to stay on top of all the growing funding requirements. There has been a shift in federal philosophy and there is a need to stay on top of these kinds of shifts. CoC's main focus is coordination, data collection and policy. There are a mix of services available. A coordinated entry system to target the most vulnerable individuals is the newest effort to galvanize, along with a common assessment tool, common database (100 individuals ranked by vulnerability). The coordinated entry committee is being piloting in Chico and is made up of various agencies. Everyone has access to the data. The most vulnerable get referred to the next available bed. There are 11 different agencies participating and there are 16 projects funded from five different funding streams. There is a need to expand the number of seats on the CoC Council for government representatives.

Kirk asked if some of the funding can be used to pay for the CoC Coordinator position. Tenorio said the money does not go through CoC, the CoC simply ranks proposals for receipt of funding, actual funding is through HUD. Sorensen asked if it is typical that those making up CoCs are also those receiving the funds. Tenorio said yes, it is made up of stakeholders and results have been positive but can be better. Sorensen sees benefit to having broader CoC membership.

Brad Montgomery, Executive Director, Torres Community Shelter, asked about expectations for CoC to continue to evolve and change. Tenorio said one of the challenges is that it is tough for volunteers to stay on top of funding requirements.

Fillmer asked if there were a CoC Coordinator will it increase the amount of funding and Tenorio said funding may stay the same but they are hopeful that it would increase.

Ed Mayer, Executive Director, Housing Authority of the County of Butte (HACB), advised that HACB is of service to the community as a neutral public entity to administer funds. HACB serves 3100 households throughout the county. The HACB Board has said it is not a front line agency but we have a problem – response to homelessness – HACB is in charge of bringing together complex requirements and coordinating activities of service providers. The CoC Coordinator position is required by HUD – previously they operating under the old McKinney Act with local communities in charge of how projects were prioritized. With the Heath Act the federal government is now taking a very active role and is driving best practices. The Heath Act's prescriptive nature upped the requirements to that of a full time coordinator and funding the coordinator position is a local responsibility.

The coordinated entry system will save the community money and is compassionate. As beds/services become available they are delivered to those with the highest needs. If the community does not come forward to fund the CoC Coordinator position, then that work falls to HACB. Other sources of funding are also now requiring a functional CoC Coordinator and a countywide funding stream is needed to optimize the funding potential.

Fillmer asked about the CoC Coordinator salary. Mayer said they are recommending a staffer rather than a consultant because the applications are enormously complex and there is a need for continuity and professionalism. Currently they are presuming that HCAB will house the coordinator but it's a decision of the CoC. Filler asked, if housed at HACB, who

would oversee them. Mayer said he would supervise the coordinator along with Tenorio. It will be an ombudsmen type position and will act independently, under Mayer's supervision and accountable to the CoC Council.

Dorian Kittrell, Director, Butte County Department of Behavioral Health advised that this fiscal year Behavioral Health has devoted \$45,000 to the CoC Coordinator position, \$8,000 towards the homeless count and a tremendous amount of staff time. Behavioral Health will continue next year with another \$50,000 for the position. A lot of people working on the homeless issue. The No Place Like Home initiative requirements are significant and the CoC Coordinator position is needed. The No Place Like Home initiative is a \$2-billion-dollar redistribution of bond funds – \$1.8 billion for restoration/construction/preservation of new housing for the mentally ill with \$245 million identified for medium size counties (Butte and 14 others). The redirection of this bond funding results in a 7% (\$10mil) take and his department is cutting \$700,000 from his budget now. His department is committed to onsite/offsite supportive services for those living in this housing, it is a housing first model with wrap around services. The only way it will work is if we have a strong CoC to ensure all the compliance issues are being addressed. There is also \$200 million that is noncompetitive and Butte County is in line for \$900,000 but needs to have a project in place. These are one time dollars. Sorensen asked what he envisions the project will look like and Kittrell said this is about building permanent housing not tent cities or tiny homes. It will be a profit venture for developers. Kirk asked if you can leverage the \$900,000 and Kittrell said yes and that political leadership on CoC Council is vital. Sorensen – it is good to see potential for incremental progress. Kittrell – even if the top 10 individuals can be housed it would account for 50% of the problems. Fillmer – we need to start seeing results, we don't see it now but there are things happening. Kittrell – right now we need to get a handle on what is going on. Fillmer – we need someone that is a good leader in the CoC Coordinator position.

ii. Coordinator Position

Hahn said he and Orme will be meeting with the city managers in the county next week to discuss funding the CoC position. Even if the other cities don't go along with this we will do our best to do whatever we can. Fillmer asked about the current makeup of the CoC Council – Tenorio said they are looking at expanding the Council to include four or five local government representatives. Hahn said he would recommend the funding with the condition that the County has a greater say on the CoC Council because if they are contributing dollars there needs to be accountability. Orme agreed for the City as well.

Montgomery shared that the Torres Shelter is known for its capacity for 140 but that last week they served 150. If they get to the point where they must turn people away he wants it known, at the very least, that they are serving more. Both the Jesus Center and the Torres Shelter are very involved in the CoC but they are not eligible for funding. Montgomery was already on the CoC Council when the process changed. All grants have eligible activities and more and more funding sources are saying you absolutely must have a CoC Coordinator but that the grant funds cannot be used to fund the position.

6. Future Meeting Dates

May 3, 2017; August 2, 2017; November 1, 2017

7. May 3, 2017 Potential Agenda Items

To be provided to staff via email.

8. Public Comment – None

9. Adjournment 5:10 p.m.