

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
TASKFORCE ON HOMELESSNESS
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2016
CITY HALL WEST MEETING ROOM
10:00 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Interim City Manager Paula Maville; Human Services Director Lynne Goodwin; Police Chief Richard Mello; Deputy Police Chief Phil Roberts City Councilor Bruce Bronner; Director of Silent Warriors Bev McKinley Executive Director of The Upper Valley Haven Sara Kobylenski; Executive Director of Listen Kyle Fisher; Tri-County CAP Upper Valley Homeless Outreach Worker Dianne Munson

MEMBERS ABSENT: City Councilor Karen Liot Hill

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Maville called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 26, 2016

A MOTION by Bruce Bronner to accept the August 26, 2016 minutes as included in the September 9, 2016 Meeting Agenda packet. Unanimous in favor of accepting the minutes. Mr. Fisher abstained from the vote.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Report on Status of Needs Assessment (Known Encampment Residents) / Report on Status of Alternative Emergency Housing

Ms. Goodwin said progress continues in finding resolutions for the 15 individuals identified at the encampment. She said of the 15, all but three (three individuals and two households) have left the encampment. She said those three have handicap needs that are conditions of finding them permanent homes. She did say some of the 15 do have a high risk of returning to the site.

Ms. Kobylenski said the human services group team has expanded its scope of discussion and problem solving beyond the Market Street site, and continues to develop broader solutions that can be applied to any homeless encampment. She said the group remains engaged to help any situation that may arise on an on-going basis.

Ms. Maville noted that photos of the abandoned camps have been given to the City's Department of Public Works so that clean up can begin. Chief Mello said part of the site pose a health hazard and he said he would advise DPW staff to wear Haz-Mat suits while cleaning up.

The taskforce members discussed whether the City is required to store personal possessions that may have been left behind at the site. Chief Mello stated he is not aware of such a statute. Mr. Fisher said

he would communicate to visitors at the community dinners that personal belongings must be removed from the site after it is vacated. Ms. McKinley said she would work directly with individuals who she may know have left possessions behind.

Ms. McKinley said the No Trespassing sign had been reinstalled on the road that leads to the Market Street encampment, and noted there is a new gate on the road leading to another site near Irving Street. The taskforce members noted that a list of all the known homeless camps has been created and given to the Lebanon Police Department.

Ms. McKinley provided taskforce members with a laminated card that she developed that lists contact information for all of the local human service groups. Ms. Maville said the card will be given to all LPD officers to give to anyone they encounter who may need assistance.

B. Development of Ordinance

Ms. Maville referred the taskforce members to a copy of the original ordinance which was included in the September 9, 2016 Task Force on Homelessness Meeting Agenda packet. The group discussed the language of the ordinance, and agreed to change the amount of time permitted to vacate a site to 48 hours, as this was noted as the minimum amount of time suggested by Ms. Goodwin to find new living arrangements.

The taskforce members also discussed what protocols are currently in place at The Upper Valley Haven when calls for help occur during weekends and outside business hours. Ms. Kobylenski said The Haven does take calls on the weekends and that people who call outside of business hours are given a temporary room (probably at a hotel) with the understanding that they would come to the City's Human Services office on Monday morning to find a more permanent solution. Ms. Maville asked that the police be advised of the The Haven's off-hours protocols in case they are involved in such calls on the weekend.

IV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Maville said any changes made to the draft of the ordinance would be reviewed by the City's attorneys and insurance team. She noted that New Hampshire Legal Aid would also be given a draft to review. She the plan is to bring the ordinance and the taskforce's report back to the City Council for its October 5, 2016 meeting. She said the Council at that time would vote to hold a special public hearing (possibly on October 26, 2016). She said the public hearing may possibly be held in the Lebanon Opera House to accommodate the potentially large crowd who may attend.

Ms. Kobylenski said she would contact the Valley News about an article highlighting the progress that has been made, and added that people for whom homes have been found could be interviewed about their experience. She also said the article should include information about the on-going work of the human services group team.

The taskforce members discussed recommendations to include in the report to be presented to the City Council. Ms. Kobylenski said she would like the report to include two commitments of the human services group team:

1. The housing resource organizations will continue to meet monthly about individual cases
2. The broader New Hampshire based resources will be accessed to continue developing a program to provide an on-going continuum of care

The taskforce members agreed that the following recommendations be included in the report (language to be finalized through review):

1. The City Council adopts the ordinance (once approved)
2. On-going problem solving groups continue to find solutions for individuals and programs
3. The LPD is given human services group information and protocols for emergency resources for calls outside of business hours

Councilor Bronner asked if the taskforce would end once the ordinance is accepted and adopted. Ms. Maville said it would, but the on-going groups mentioned by Ms. Kobylenski would continue.

Ms. Goodwin asked that language be included that explains that the efforts of the human services group team may not meet the needs of every individual, especially when barriers of choice are presented by individuals. Ms. Maville added that services will always be available (the door will never be shut) for individuals who will work with resource groups to find solutions. Ms. Maville asked Ms. Kobylenski and Ms. Goodwin to craft language for the points they asked to be included in the report.

Ms. Maville said she would compile a draft of the report and bring it to the next task force meeting, which will be on September 23, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

V. OTHER BUSINESS - none

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Maville at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Roux
Recording Secretary