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**Homelessness Subcommittee
Work Session Meeting Minutes**

**January 12, 2022
Zoom Community Auditorium**

Minutes approved as presented by the Subcommittee 2.23.2022.

1. CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor Peter Truax called the work session meeting to order at 11:37 a.m. Formal introductions were made.

ROLL CALL: Kristy Kottkey, City Councilor; Timothy Rippe, City Councilor; Peter Truax, Mayor.

ABSENT: Henry Reimann, Police Chief.

STAFF PRESENT: Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager; Jaime Zaik, Executive Assistant.

GUEST PRESENTERS: Jes Larson, Washington County Supportive Housing Services Program Manager; Josh Legere, Washington County Department of Housing Services.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Val Valfre, Benjamin Huddle, Vanessa Nguyen, Rochelle Qu, Tram Do, Peyton Robinson, Brian Schimmel, Shawn Cardwell.

2. WORK SESSION: HOMELESSNESS

VanderZanden facilitated the work session and spoke briefly to the intent of the work session. Jes Larson, Washington County Supportive Housing Services Program Manager, provided an overview of the components of work, noting the first component is housing case management and providing staff with flexible resources to assist in getting people into sustainable, permanent housing. The second component is shelters. Larson expanded on how shelters often act as the front door for services as shelters can provide the initial connection to case workers. Case workers are able to analyze the varying needs of each person and in turn get the person into wrap around services, such as mental health, recovery services, and life skills required for success. This last year the Washington County Supportive Housing Services (SHS) fund grew from 5 million to 75 million. The County has allocated 25 million dollars of SHS funding to support housing measures for this year, leaving an additional 25 million still on the table. Larson further broke down how Federal money and grants are being used within the County. There are currently 300 supported housing units in operation, all funded through Federal programs. However, this still leaves a large housing deficit. The current program only houses 1 in 5 people who need it. Over the next five years the County intends to create 1665 additional housing units funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) It is estimated that 5000 housing units are needed within Washington County to effectively end homelessness. Josh Legere, Washington County Department of Housing Services, currently manages the two encampment programs. Legere's

responsibilities are to ensure the health and safety of participants living in unincorporated regions of Washington County. The camps are visited every two weeks and analyzed for risk, sanitation, and waste management. The department also performs welfare checks during extreme weather events. Cleanup efforts are analyzed and scored on visible trash accumulation, crime, sharps and other seasonal risks. If the risks pose a great threat to the people living within the encampment or have reached a level in which habitants are unsafe, the camp will be cleaned. Funding for this program is uncertain. Legere also clarified that the camps are not sanctioned, but there is passive acceptance due to the County falling within the 9th Circuit and the current protection of *Martin vs. Boise*. After hearing the above-noted presentations, an informal discussion ensued regarding whether Forest Grove would be eligible for any of the funds held by County, and whether a shelter of any type would require County oversight. Open Door was not able to attend this meeting and was tabled for a future session.

No formal action nor formal decisions were made during the work session.

3. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 24, 2022.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.