

MINUTES

Warrenton City Commission Work Session
2-23-16
5:30 p.m.
Warrenton City Hall - Commission Chambers
225 S. Main Ave.
Warrenton, OR 97146

Mayor Mark Kujala called the work session to order at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Tom Dyer, Henry Balensifer Pamela Ackley, Mayor Mark Kujala
Excused: Rick Newton.

Staff Present: City Manager Kurt Fritsch, Legal Counsel Harold Snow, City Recorder Linda Engbretson, Police Chief Mathew Workman, Fire Chief Tim Demers.

The purpose of the work session was to meet with Clatsop Behavior Healthcare (CBH) representatives to provide information and answer questions regarding a proposed residential respite facility for people suffering from mental disorders and/or in crisis to be located on Marlin Avenue.

Mayor Mark Kujala introduced Sumuer Watkins, CEO of CBH. Ms. Watkins gave a brief background on the proposed facility and introduced Marc Chinard, the consultant hired by CBH to assist with the start up of the facility. Ms. Watkins stated the intent is to have 16 beds - eight for residential treatment beds and the other eight beds for 24 - 72 hour crisis respite. She stated the 24 -72-hour respite is the primary need in the community, but without the 8 residential beds there is no way to pay for the crisis beds. She recognized concerns and questions regarding “locked” rooms. She explained they can’t have locked rooms, but they can have “secure” rooms.

Mr. Chinard explained different classes of residential treatment facilities:

Class 1 is a secure facility which has the capability to prevent people from leaving the facility and has legal certification from the state for seclusion and restraints. They can provide involuntary medication.

Class 2 is a secure facility but is not certified for seclusion and restraints.

Class 3 is an unlocked non secure facility where people can come and go as they please. They are strictly voluntary.

Mr. Chinard stated CBH is planning for a Class 3 facility, but he said a section of the facility (4 beds) could possibly be licensed as Class 2. They can accept people into the facility who are involuntary; those under guardianships, civil commitment, holds, etc. He said they are working on issues related to Class 2. Class 2 is a recommendation at this point.

Commissioner Balensifer asked what type of patients will be coming and going, “minus the Class 2.” Mr. Chinard said people who are out of control will not be brought to the facility. They will be brought to the hospital. Class 2 patients will have to have medical clearance; however they can be involuntary, i.e., on a hold. Other people are strictly voluntary who need respite or are in crisis.

Commissioner Dyer asked whether or not an officer is required to stay at the facility as they currently do when someone is brought to the hospital. Mr. Chinard explained that if they are voluntary they would stay on their own.

Commissioner Balensifer asked whether the community’s resources were considered when developing this project. Commissioner Dyer said the concern is that officers from other counties will be bringing people to the facility, and then they walk away from the center and are left in our community, causing additional burdens on our emergency departments. Commissioner Balensifer then asked whether police from other counties will be driving people here and leaving them on a hold. Mr. Chinard and Ms. Watkins explained they will have to have medical clearance. Outside counties will have to take them to a hospital first, and they take them to the closest hospital. That won’t be Columbia Memorial or Seaside Providence. Ms. Watkins explained there may be people brought to the facility to transition back into their own community who are stepping down from the state hospital.

Commissioner Dyer noted there will be a cost to our local emergency personnel; however, he stated it is a much needed facility.

Mr. Rich Mays, a CBH Board Member, reported they met with the contractor who is remodeling the building, and he said “it’s doable” to add the four secure rooms. It’s a 16 bed facility, with flexibility to use the four rooms to serve both Class 3 and Class 2. “There are things that can be worked out.” They are optimistic they can move forward in this manner.

Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman said that after speaking with other Police Chiefs who have this type of facility in their jurisdiction, he agrees it is unlikely officers from other counties will be bringing clients and leaving them in Warrenton. He stated the Class 2 option is needed.

Commissioner Balensifer asked what happens if a person has an elevation of crisis and needs to stay as a Class 2. Who makes that call, and are the police called anyway? Ms. Watkins stated that if the person is dangerous to staff or others, even if they are in a secure area, they cannot contain them and they would need to go to the hospital as is the current practice.

Chief Workman stated there was some confusion regarding the project and that he and Chief Johnston believed there would be some level of Class 1. But in response to Commissioner Balensifer’s question as to whether or not the facility will be a strain on the department, Chief Workman said, “he wouldn’t call it a strain,” but he believes they will have calls to the facility. Chief Workman stated that in his opinion, as long as the facility has Class 2 options, it is something the department can support. “The Class 2 section is important.”

Mayor Kujala thanked Ms. Watkins and Mr. Chinard. He said Warrenton strongly urges the Class 2 facility. "That's the message we would like to send."

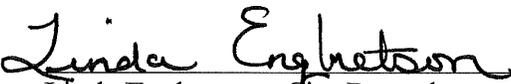
Mayor Kujala adjourned work session at 6:11 p.m.

APPROVED



Mark Kujala, Mayor

ATTEST



Linda Engbretson, City Recorder