



# City of Auburn, Maine

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210  
www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

## BOARD/COMMITTEE/WG MEETING MINUTES

### **Homelessness Committee – Revised Minutes**

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 – 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Auburn Resource Center @ 121 Mill Street, ARC Conference Room

In Attendance: Steve Almquist, Sasha Anastasoff, Rebecca Austin, Dave Bilodeau, Dawn Comeau, Jen Eugley, Tom Hibbert, Bill Lowenstein, Cecilia Natale, Angela Blier, Tim Cougle

Excused Absences: Dawn Comeau, Tim Cowan, George Sheats, Jennifer Edwards (Ex-Officio)

Guests: Jeff Harmon, Erica West

Meeting called to order at 9:36am

Dave Bilodeau reviewed agenda and facilitated introductions

Approval of today's Absences (minus Ex-Officio members):

Motion: Bill, Second: Rebecca, All in favor

Approval of Revised Minutes from 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2

Motion: Bill, Second: Angela, All in favor

Shelter Update (Jeff Harmon):

- Funding for Nov-Apr is \$153,000 from Auburn
- Dave: Lewiston's Ad Hoc Shelter Committee is done today – will be recognized at Lewiston City Council tonight (the Committee recommended that Lewiston hire a Homeless Director/Public Health Director)

PIT Count Update:

- Jeff will follow up with Jen Edwards
- At Drop-In Center:
  - o Discussion about letting guests know ahead of time, getting a ticket when they come in to do the survey before they leave, let people get breakfast/shower first
  - o One DIC volunteer signed up so far for 1/28, Spurwink will help, too
  - o Bill: non-DIC volunteers could volunteer that day to free up regular DIC volunteers to do surveys
  - o Dave: will ask Leroy to come visit the DIC, too



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### Selecting and Prioritizing Topics for next meetings:

- Jeff: Jen Edwards is working on a Home For Good presentation in January (20<sup>th</sup>? – confirm with Jen on date); Auburn housing, developer and Spurwink will attend; strategies for outreach, selection process, City sourcing furniture, etc. for the building; what this Committee can help with
- Regular ARC/DIC/Warming Center updates
- City Homeless Budget (Jeff) – broad “Homeless Services” category in the City budget, Council has discussed what to spend it on; \$200,000 wasn’t going to be enough; Lewiston has \$400,000 each year for 2 years (Auburn’s portion would be \$266,000); in January, City Manager will look for input on what the budget should be spent on – this Committee should provide recommendations by the end of January (right now: Warming Center, transportation between WC and DIC, City staff doing Coordinated Entry, school portion comes through school committee); cleaning up encampments is part of PW budget; Jeff recommends focusing on the service side – outside of what we do with City employees; Steve: focus on what we already do that’s working/effective; Jen: when Kevin was Homeless Service Coordinator, was that part of the homeless budget? (paid for with 3<sup>rd</sup> party funding); Steve: consider supporting/recommend continuing to support PSY program (currently paid with grants); Jeff: instead of focusing on financial support for PSY, committee could provide a statement of support for the program (annual PSY presentation coming up soon at City Council); Tim Cougle: could committee officially vote to support and communicate to City Council (Jeff: all recommendations should happen by a motion and a vote); Jen: PSY has been a great resource for the DIC, too – reaching out to guests in the community; Tim: important to make sure the program is stable going forward to also maintain staff; Dave: talk about homeless budget recommendations at January meetings
- Syringe Service Program Ordinance:
  - o Done workshops with the Council and public comment
  - o Jan 5 (& possible 19<sup>th</sup>, as well) will be a workshop to work through a list of items that might go into the ordinance, have to wait on state CDC guidelines about mobile SSPs (that will come out by Feb 28); Jeff can update the committee and committee can respond to City Council’s draft at that point



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- Crisis Receiving Center (projected to end of May/early June)
  - o Angela can do a presentation in Feb or Mar
- Affordable Housing
  - o Jeff: not sure there's anything in particular to do right now; lots of uncertainty (especially with federal funding); Bill: anything going on with the planning board that might be of interest to the committee?; Jeff: Lauren Caffe from Comp Plan might reach out to us in the future
- State Homeless Committee, Continuum of Care
  - o Zakk is the Auburn representative, he could come in at some point and update us periodically
- Coordination of Homeless Services in the area:
  - o Jeff: nothing to be done on this currently, very little systematic coordination going on (just person-to-person connections between different groups providing homeless services in the area), little identification of needs and gaps (look at this over the next year); Dave: this was the reason for the recommendation of a Homeless Service Director in Lewiston; Jeff: a person in that position would need to not be affiliated with a certain organization (ideally a group of people and not just one person would fill this role)
- Other topics:
  - o Bill: how is the opioid settlement money being spent and how can we get in on some of that funding? Jeff: several news sources are trying to follow it, county has indicated that they're using some of the funds at the jail, Auburn hasn't spent any opioid money so far, Lewiston has talked about projects that they and Auburn could participate in; Jeff recommended calling up Andrew Lewis (County Commissioner for most of Auburn) to get more info
- Frequency of Meeting in February
  - o Moving to once/month
    - Motion: Angela, Second: Rebecca, All in favor
  - o Tim Cowan had requested moving to 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month starting in



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February

- Which Tuesday (ie. 3<sup>rd</sup>) is tabled until a future meeting; ask Jen Edwards to put out a Doodle poll about which Tuesday
- Discussion of items for next agenda
  - PIT Count, Homeless Budget/Committee's Recommendations, updates on Warming Center
- Public Comment
  - Dave: saw a major difference in guest/volunteer temperament last Wednesday with the showers at the DIC now up and running
  - Tom: noticing homeless numbers are down in the City (Warming Center numbers down from last year, too)
  - Dave: Warming Center has passed all 3 inspections by City employees
  - Sasha: clarification on how she can help out (come down to DIC on Jan 28 to help out?)
  - Jeff: have Jen Edwards/Julia consolidate the list of people who are volunteering in the area; Tim Cougle will coordinate with PSY to hit encampment areas in the City; Tom also goes to the libraries/Bonney Park
  - Dave: bus has been working well to connect people with DIC

Approval of 12/2/2025 minutes:

Motion: Bill, Second: Cecilia, All in favor (minus 2 abstained because they were absent on 12/2)

Motion to adjourn at 10:50am:

Motion: Rebecca, Second: Angela, All in favor