**MEETING 44 Meeting Notes** – **THURSDAY, September 19, 2019, 7:00PM**

HORSESHOE GRANGE, 16424 Broadway Ave, Clearview, WA 98296

**Local Attendees:**

Jeff Thomas Stefan Grunkenmeier Lori McConnell

Scott Matthew Carol Matthew Don Spivey

Elke Spivey Jim Good Ann Good

Roy A Desoto TJ Waller Kevin Waller

Colleen Webb Frank Webb Terry Holliman

Heather Holliman Michael Bruce Heather Bruce

Sarah Jusko Shawn Kiddle/Fritch Teresia Sayler

Curt Mills Darell Dauenhauser Mike Andrew

Pat Veale Scharme Hettinger Kirsten Stout

Lisa Cooly Kelly Cooly MaryJane Pioli

Percey Slattum Steve Kemp Jerry Van Donge

Elva Van Donge Dave Johnson Kim Foster

**From Snohomish County**:

Sam Low, County Councilmember, District 5

Dave Chitwood, Deputy, Sheriff’s Department

Rebecca Lewis, Deputy, Sheriff’s Department

Amy Hill, Opioid Outreach Specialist, Human Services

7:00pm **Call to Order**, Flag Salute

Town Hall – 200 people attended, with elected officials.

7:05pm **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS**

*This time provides opportunity for anyone to address the meeting on any Clearview-related subject. Please limit your comments to three minutes*

There are signs for the Clearview Community at 2 spots along Highway 9 and one on 180th. The signs were ok’d when they were put up, but the zoning doesn’t seem to have been changed to allow them.

**There is a new residents’ group forming, called “GAD”** for “give a darn” about Clearview, and its focus will be on the results of the SWUGA Boundary Planning Study and community reaction. The 1st meeting will take place here (Horseshoe Grange, 16424 Broadway Ave), Thursday, Sept 26, 7 pm. (now past, next meeting November 7)

**Clearview Community Association, next meeting:** Nov 14th, with both Terry Ryan and Sam Low, our county council representatives, as well as Shelly Kloba, State Representative to the 1st Legislative District. Primary topic: Traffic and Roads.

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7:10pm BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Deputy Chitwood and Deputy Lewis from the Snohomish Sheriff’s office, and Amy Hill , Opioid Outreach Specialist from Snohomish County Human Services, were available for information and questions/answers. Homelessness is a growing issue in our area, in all of Snohomish county and everywhere in the Pacific Northwest.

**How does Snohomish County’s program to address homelessness work?** It’s a team effort, with the Sheriff’s Office, Snohomish County’s Human Services, Drug Task Force, Code Enforcement and the Health District involved. The program is well-known country-wide for its effectiveness and pre-emptive work.

Deputy Chitwood: These situations are complicated, with housing issues, drug addiction and many other issues often involved. Often the Sheriff is successful in “clearing out” a homeless camp, but the people affected by the eviction then showed up at another house, or camp. Snohomish County decided to try to address homelessness as the larger issue it is – with the goal of not allowing the problems here to escalate to the level where they are in Seattle. Snohomish County is not going to become Seattle and the county’s program is allowing them to stay on top of the issue.

**WHAT IS THE ISSUE IN CLEARVIEW?**

When a property is identified, the Sheriffs go to the property and address it as a “nuisance property”, identify what the core problem is at that particular property. The current issue in Clearview came up at a property off of Interurban Ave and the sheriff’s office started working on it last winter. The Sheriff’s office checked property records and got in contact directly with the property owner. The owner acknowledged that there is an issue at the property and was willing to allow the deputies onto the property to address it. The owner met with the County’s team of specialists and reported they had “given up” on the property after the home was partially burnt. After moving to Granite Falls, the owner hired a caretaker for the property who then allowed others to live on it and move RVs onto it. The caretaker did not control what went on there. On questioning by deputies, some of the people on the property insisted they paid rent to the caretaker to stay there and believed they had the right to stay. Others left due to the repeated presence of the deputies.

Q: How did we get here? A: the property belongs to someone who no longer lives there. They allowed a “caregiver” and then 2 or 3 additional people to move there, and suddenly it was 12 RVs. The owner has been unable to get them to leave.

Q. What about the fact that some of the people there said they are charged $300 for rent and don’t think they should have to leave? A: It may be that they have paid rent to the caregiver but that is not clear as no one has paperwork that indicates they can stay. This is an issue for Civil (not Criminal) Court if they want to pursue it.

Q. How big is the property? A: 5 acres.

Q. How much crime is associated with this site? A: There’s only been one report of a burglary to the Sheriff’s office in the last 6 months. There is a [map online showing crime reports in our area](https://communitycrimemap.com/). It is not showing that there’s a problem.

Q: (multiple speakers) What about the multiple car break-ins on Snohomish Ave and the car burglary there? 911 calls have been made due to illegal burning on this property (burning plastic, rubber). A: Apparently the car break-ins were not reported. Illegal burning would be turned over to the Department of Ecology.

Q: Crime Map – does it show the car break-ins? A: Only if there was a crime report done.

Deputy Chitwood: Patrol cars were going to the property regularly. Though it is assumed drug use had been going on there, deputies did not witness it and no arrests were made. There were originally 12-15 RVs on the property and several have now disappeared. (residents reported that some appear to be abandoned nearby).

Social Services have remained involved, with homeless people taken to Snohomish County’s Diversion Center. At least two people have agreed to enter drug rehab programs. There are veterans on the property and the VA can get involved to help, as well as mental health issues. Hopefully everyone is off the property by Oct 15. If not, the case will go to court due to Health District violations and Deputy Chitwood asked that 50 community members show up in support of the case (he will notify the CCA Board if this occurs and we will publicize). The property’s owner will be penalized (there have been no criminal fines so far). The cost is $500 per violation –$1500 will be the first bill, and that will increase every 15-20 days up to $30,000. The county will not force property forfeiture at this time—the taxes are all paid up and a chronic nuisance ordinance does not apply.

October 15 is the Sheriff’s Office deadline for everyone to be off the property on Interurban. On October 15 the property will be fenced off. A trespass order will be obtained and posted and whoever is on the property will be arrested. The owner may be fined after that. The Community will be informed of a Health District violation. Local residents need to stay involved – in a case of noncompliance the owner may be arrested and taken to court.

Local Resident statement: People have been posting about this on Clearview’s Crime Watch page. The page is being monitored by someone at the camp and the information is being passed onto those living there.

Q: Aren’t having 12 RVs on the property already a violation? A: Yes, there can only be 1 inhabited RV on properties here in Clearview, and that is limited to 6 months. This is an issue for Code Enforcement to be made aware of.

Deputy Chitwood: it’s not clear, but finances could be an issue for the owner. If it gets to the point where the property is cleared and needs to be cleaned up, community members could help by making dump runs and helping to clean up, and remove of 2 old cars. Would people be willing to help? Many people said YES, and a suggestion for a Go Fund Me was made to help with dump costs.

Q: Are there children on the site? Or Pets? A: Children would have been removed by now. There was a puppy, but a new owner for it was found in Auburn.

Q: What about septic? A: There is no septic tank on the property – black water containers are being used similar to those used at RV parks. Apparently it is being dumped regularly at a rest area. The conditions are not bad enough that the site could be shut down for septic issues.

Q: Would there be unsafe conditions for those helping with the clean up? A: The county will ensure any dangerous conditions are cleared beforehand.

Q. October is just 3 ½ weeks away. Is there a way to help get the camp cleared? A: The people who are there are able to move out. They want to keep their things and don’t want it all destroyed. But they may very well wait till the last minute to go. Owner has lots of people’s contact info to help it happen if needed.

Local Resident statement: Eviction costs money – It will cost the owner $800-$1200.

Q: Who is in the camp off of Interurban?

A: Sheriff’s Office is guessing 90% are drug users – though no one has been seen using, selling or buying. No needles have been seen. No search warrant has been issued because of lack of cause.

Q: Would the owner be willing to sell the property as is and let someone else take care of it?

A: The property is not in foreclosure, but the owner would probably take an offer (just guessing). Deputy Chitwood has heard of this happening on other properties. (Note from CCA Board: Deputy Chitwood later confirmed that the owner was willing to talk to buyers and notified us. An email was sent out to the CCA list on Sept 24, and the first 12 names with contact info were forwarded to Deputy Chitwood and he forwarded them to the owner, who reported she was very happy to get them and needed no more).

On October 15th – if there’s people still living on the property the sheriffs will be there. That is when the court process starts. Getting all the orders in place will take a week or so after that, and full eviction will probably happen around November 1. The owner is trying to make this happen before Oct 15th—her methods are whatever she wants, the sheriffs won’t help with tactics until after Oct 15. Once the people are off the property the will be NO TRESPASSING notices posted.

**CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS**

The Sheriff’s office requests community involvement when homeless camps and homeless people are identified – there are resources to help these folks not become a burden on the community. We need to report the presence of camps and individuals to the Sheriff’s office. The sheriffs will take care of criminal activity—that’s their job. If its like this case – where an owner has “given up” on property, many different resources are needed to make sure, once the property is cleared, that the same issue doesn’t recur.

There were 30-50 houses where homelessness and drug use were apparent in south Snohomish County when this program started, now there are just 7—the program works! These houses are all over the county.

**Q. Is there a homeless camp on 156th?** Local rumor is reporting one. A: Deputy Chitwood checked this out and found nothing (note: he did this after the meeting and reported back to CCA’s Board). In the past there was a nuisance property on Highway 9, but that has been cleared.

Deputy Sheriff Rebecca Lewis clarified: Its important whether the property is privately or county-owned. If it is private the Sheriff’s office has to act through owners. The focus is on the people’s compliance with authorities, not on arresting the homeless people. When they go to an encampment, the Sheriffs start with outreach. It really is a beautiful balance between enforcement and assistance for those in need. Social Services Help is offered before and after the sheriff arrives.

**Q: The people who rotate from location to location – are they chronically homeless?** A: Yes, and they are now known to the Sheriff’s office, and the people who meet with Social Services often know them when they arrive. Their numbers ARE decreasing, just the sheer persistence of the sheriffs in this program.

Amy Hill shared a **success** **story of a chronically homeless couple:** They lost their home to a bank foreclosure—this was reported on KOMO. There was a child support order against the man, and after visits at a couple of sites, the woman wanted to meet with a Social worker and get out of the situation. Substance abuse was a prominent issue in this case and they were living in a beat up old trailer. Eventually both people went into treatment and are cleaning up. He’s a painter, and she wants to go to school to become a social worker. All the backdue child support is paid up! The man now acknowledges that his partner’s decision and the social worker saved his life. These people were willing to work with the program -- not everyone wants help, but those that do can benefit.

**This is a model program and Snohomish County had made huge progress** compared to other places – all the local communities have identified a homelessness issue and the county sheriff is working with them very effectively.

Local resident statement: **Seattle is finding out where the people are coming from, contacting their family, and sending them back home.**

Response from team: Seattle is trying multiple approaches, following Snohomish county’s model is part of it. In Snohomish county most of our homeless people are from here. Most of them just need assistance and a chance.

**Q. Don’t the chronically homeless people also include those with mental health and addiction issues?** A. Social Service Programs are available. Substance abuse programs, [Compass Health](https://www.compasshealth.org) for mental health issues, although stabilization can be difficult. [SOAR is a county program](https://snohomishcountywa.gov/826/Social-Opportunities-And-Recreation-SOAR) that is available for people who aren’t receiving Disability or Social Security income.

**What can Clearview Community residents do**?

1. **REPORT the presence** of homeless people to the Sheriff’s office via 911. The Sheriff’s office depends on us to be the day-to-eyes in the neighborhood. This includes inhabited motor homes with no property.

2. **REPORT crimes in our area** to the Sheriff’s Office via 911 (regardless of whether you believe the Sheriff’s office will address them in a timely manner). The Sheriff’s office has no idea there’s problems here if its not reported and the [Crime Map](https://communitycrimemap.com/) will have no indication there are crime issues here to address.

4. **DON’T GO to the property** unless residents are asked to be there to help.

3. **PARTICIPATE if the case on this property goes to court**—this means show up at court as a concerned and local resident if a court case results after October 15.

**SAFETY IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Local resident suggested that we use a phone app called RING. It’s like Neighborhood Watch but is only for crime reports.

**Q. Can I find out who owns a particular property**? A: The biggest problem is when banks own property—it can be difficult to find a knowledgeable owner to communicate with.

**Q. What can local residents do to stay safe?** It seems that crime is going up and a lot of money is being spent on security systems. A: First and foremost it’s the simple things—lock your home and your car, take things into your garage if you have one, and make sure to CLOSE the door. Don’t leave valuable in your car where they can be seen. Talk to your kids about this and have a plan in case something happens. Crime prevention can be part of neighborhood design—a criminal’s biggest concern is being caught. Make sure they know they are being observed, use lights that respond to movement outside, use gates, and cameras. Deputy Sheriff Rebecca Lewis recommended a video on YouTube -- “Inside the mind of a thief” . A convicted burglar talks about his victims. Talk to strangers, ask if they need help. Get pictures from a safe location, take a picture of car plates or suspicious people if you can do it safely. SAFETY is paramount.

The deputies and social worker welcomed any further questions or contacts from residents.

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**Q. Broadway Ave is so dark in winter. Can more lights be provided?**

A: The county has received feedback that many people in Clearview don’t want more lights due to reflections on wet roads that make driving in the winter more hazardous.

8:10 pm **Adjournment –** next meeting Nov 14, 2019 – Terry Ryan, County Councilmember, District 4 and Sam Low, County Councilmember, District 5, on TRAFFIC and ROADS

*Your CCA councilmembers welcome your attendance at council meetings 6 times per year and invite you to participate by giving your comments or contacting any of five Board members listed below.*

**OPEN PUBLIC FORUM for all things “Clearview”**

For discussion anytime:

**What kind of Businesses would you like to see come to Clearview?**

Does it all have to be locally owned? Small businesses? chain stores? What if Fred Myer wanted to come to our area? Or Trader Joe’s? Or an Outlet Mall? How about Cabela’s? If you have ideas or comments, please feel free to chat with one of our officers and we are happy to pass on the information.

**2019/2020 CCA GOALS**

1. **GROW** an effective Neighborhood Watch program
2. **LAUNCH** online tools for all communication with members & prospects
3. **SIMPLIFY** association operations & infrastructure for future leaders
4. **HOST** the annual Town Hall in August and/or an annual “town family picnic”.