

**RULES AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
AND ETHICS BOARD**
February 25, 2015

The Rules and Resolutions Committee and Ethics Board met on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, located in the Courthouse, 181 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Committee members present included: Fred Clary, Richard Rasmussen, Lew Van Vliet and Ruth Williams. Dave Turk was absent.

Others present included: Victor Vlasak, County Clerk; Ben Southwick, Corporation Counsel; and Barb Scott, MIS Director.

Committee Chairman Clary called the meeting to order.

The Clerk verified that the meeting was properly noticed. Copies of the agenda were mailed to all Rules and Resolutions Committee members; a copy was posted on the Courthouse Bulletin Board and County web site; a copy was faxed to The Richland Observer; and copies were emailed to Fruit Broadcasting, LLC and County Department Heads

Committee Chairman Clary called the meeting to order.

Motion by Van Vliet, second by Williams that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

Motion by Williams, second by Rasmussen that the printed copies of the minutes for the January 21st meeting be approved. Motion carried.

Chairman Clary noted the receipt of a list from Corporation Counsel Southwick of possible issues relating to Supervisor's attendance at meetings without being physically present. Also noted was the receipt of a copy of the Columbia County ordinance regarding remote attendance.

Mrs. Williams reported on the results of contacts she made with the counties of Vilas, La Crosse, Green, Milwaukee and Racine. She noted that all of the individuals contacted indicated that they were not in favor of remote attendance at meetings.

Corporation Counsel Southwick noted that it is legally permissible for remote attendance at meetings. Chairman Clary provided examples of where remote attendance is presently occurring.

Corporation Counsel South stated that, if an ordinance was developed, it would be limited to County Board and committee meetings where county board members are a majority. In situations where county board members are a minority, that body determines the policy. The payment of per diem and mileage could be limited to being physically present at the meeting.

The use of the word “attendance” in the County Board Rules could be interpreted to mean physically present.

Chairman Clary stated that the Committee has not answered the question of how to deal with situations where attendance is by teleconference rather than being physically present. He indicated that if a policy is developed, it needs to be a narrow in scope.

Corporation Counsel Southwick will draft language for the Committee to review. The draft will add the word “physically” for attendance and have narrow guidelines to permit attendance by teleconference for meetings held out of the County. No mileage reimbursement would be allowed for remote attendance at out of county meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 25th at 2:30 p.m.

Motion by Van Vliet, second by Williams to adjourn. Motion carried.

Victor V. Vlasak
Richland County Clerk