

**RULES AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
AND ETHICS BOARD**

March 14, 2019

The Rules and Resolutions Committee and Ethics Board met on Thursday, March 14, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, located on the third floor of the Courthouse, 181 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Committee members present included: David Turk, Donald Seep, Ed Pulvermacher and Jayme Walsh. Chad Cosgrove was absent.

Others present included: Victor Vlasak, County Clerk and Ben Southwick, Corporation Counsel.

Committee Chair Turk called the meeting to order.

The Clerk verified that the meeting was properly noticed. Copies of the agenda were emailed 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 a copy was emailed to Fruit Broadcasting, LLC.

Motion by Pulvermacher, second by Walsh that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

Motion by Seep, second by Walsh that the printed copies of the February 18th meeting be approved.

Chair Turk will report at the Board meeting on the videotaping and audio taping of meetings.

Corporation Counsel Southwick reviewed the changes made to date to the Rules of the Board. Chair Turk noted that the Committee had agreed that Rule 14 should be made a part of Rule 1. A resolution will be presented for approval to change the start of the County Board meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Committee discussed changing throughout the Rules the word "session" to the word "meeting". In Rule 9 the word "debate" will be changed to "amend".

The Committee reviewed Rule 19 of the Rules of the Board. The first section of Rule 19 details spending authority granted to the Highway Committee, Health and Human Services Board, Land Conservation Committee, Law Enforcement and Judiciary Committee, Pine Valley Trustees and the Fair Committee.

The Committee discussed the section of the Rules dealing with contracts. Current language requires County Board approval when contracts exceed \$5,000.00 a year. No committee action was taken.

The Committee discussed the section of Rules dealing with expenditures. Current language requires committee approval for expenditures of \$1,000.00 or more. The Committee agreed to change the language to allow the department head to make expenditures of up to \$2,000.00 without the approval of their supervising committee.

Walsh left the meeting at this point.

Discussed was a department head's use of their personal credit card for services to be provided over a period of time. Corporation Counsel Southwick said that the questions is, who is going to pay? If it is for County business and the County is going to pay, it is a commitment by the County. Department heads should sign contracts.

The Committee discussed the section of the Rules dealing with public works projects. Corporation Counsel Southwick noted that this section is governed by the Statutes. Repairs would require bidding. The Attorney General has given opinions that contracts for professional services do not require bidding. There are no regulations requiring bids for the retaining of services. The County Board could require bidding for services.

The Committee discussed the section of the Rules regarding program initiatives and grants. No changes were made to this section.

The Committee discussed the section of the Rules relating to emergencies. Language will be added to state that the matter is an emergency that requires that immediate action must be taken before the next County Board meeting.

The Committee discussed the section of the Rules regarding the disposal of surplus county property. The Rule requires County Board approval to dispose of property that has a market value of more than \$500.00 for that item. The Committee increased the dollar amount to \$1,000.00.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 9th at 3:00 p.m.

Motion by Pulvermacher, second by Seep to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Victor V. Vlasak
Richland County Clerk