

## **RICHLAND COUNTY CHAPTER 980 COMMITTEE**

**May 20, 2020**

A meeting of the Richland County Chapter 980 Committee was held at 1:30 p.m. on May 5, 2020 via WebEx <https://richlandcounty.my.webex.com/richlandcounty.my/j.php?MTID=m0654d011e49db364b52e05010e5d472b>  
Meeting number: 621 725 625 / Password: Richland / Join by phone +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll / Access code: 621 725 625.

Members Present: Tracy Thorsen, Mike Bindl, Lynn Newkirk, Benjamin Southwick, and Scott Timm.

Members Absent: Mary Collins, Johnsrud.

Others Present: Meghan Rohn, Julie Keller, Victor Vlasak, Andrea Fields, Dane Knable, and Clint Langreck.

Approve Agenda and Posting: Motion by Ben Southwick, seconded by Lynn Newkirk to approve the agenda and proper posting. Motion carried.

Approve May 5, 2020 Richland County Chapter 980 Committee Minutes: Tracy Thorsen declared the May 5, 2020 Richland County Chapter 980 Committee Minutes approved.

Consideration of Housing Options for Impending Release of Sex Offender Richard Sugden: Tracy Thorsen updated the committee on the status of the two placement options currently being pursued. It was the intention of Lieutenant Dane Knable and victim/witness coordinator, Andrea Fields, to conduct home visits to each of the residences within the 1500 ft. buffer zone of the property located at 24250 Pier Springs Road, in Richland Center, WI. However, as they prepared to begin these visits they did not feel they were prepared to properly represent how the Department of Health Services would supervise Mr. Richard Sugden during his residency and no longer felt it would be appropriate her to make those contacts. Lieutenant Dane Knable proceeded to visit the property in order to complete his report on the behalf of local law enforcement and did make contact with a few residents in the area.

Discussion was held regarding making face to face contacts with residents in the area, and if there is a need to do so or if the report provided by Dane Knable is sufficient. Benjamin Southwick suggested a letter be written to the residents that explains what is taking place, as well as the measures that will be put in place to monitor and supervise Mr. Richard Sugden. Tracy Thorsen noted she is willing to write a letter, however she also explained that this is a separate issue from the submission of the report, which is the key responsibility of this committee. This report must be submitted in order for the Department of Health to be able to move forward with its own submission of the Supervised Release Plan.

Tracy Thorsen noted it was her opinion that this committee should continue to meet and pursue the property located 29629 County Hwy B, Lone Rock WI, in the event that the first property does not work out. Benjamin Southwick reported that the County Board passed several measures that would

place this property in the ownership of the county on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, however the question still remains as to the habitability of the house. This will not be able to be determined until the county takes ownership until June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Board also declared an emergency so the bidding statutes would not apply, allowing the county to send in a knowledgeable contractor immediately on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to inspect the property and begin any necessary work. Law enforcement should not take the time to conduct an inspection and submit a report for this second property at this time until it is known it will be necessary. In the meantime, it was determined that the committee should move forward with the submission of the report regarding the property located at 24250 Pier Springs Road, in Richland Center, WI to both the Department of Health and the court. After this has been completed, Tracy Thorsen will work with Scott Timm to draft a letter to the surrounding residents. Scott Timm also explained that the type of formal public notification that will be required will be determined by the courts once the placement is official.

Further discussion was held regarding the property located at 24250 Pier Springs Road, in Richland Center, WI, and the report completed by Lieutenant Dane Knable. Benjamin Southwick questioned if it appears the property will be considered satisfactory to the Department of Health. Scott Timm explained that while he has not had the opportunity to review the report in great detail, from what he has seen it appears it will meet all of the requirements. He also noted the report appears to have very good detail and goes above and beyond the safety needs of the community. The Department of Health and Robert Sugden and settled on the terms of the lease agreement, and the house will be available within the next month. The lease will not be signed however until the placement has been approved by the court. Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Mike Bindl, to file a report with the Department of Health Services and the court regarding the committee's location of a residence located at 24250 Pier Springs Road, in Richland Center, WI, as a housing options for sex offender Richard Sugden, and that the Richland County Chapter 980 Committee continue to meet until this placement is approved. Motion carried.

Clint Langreck questioned if the committee would be comfortable releasing the property located on Comar Lane in Richland Center now that there are two other properties being considered as alternatives. Benjamin Southwick voiced hesitation on doing so until a placement has been approved by the court, however he also noted until the property is sold the county is technically a landlord and needs to be acting accordingly. Tracy Thorsen also voiced concern with releasing the property until a placement is confirmed by the court.

The next meeting was scheduled for June 3, 2020, at 11:00am. Due to the recent Public Health Emergency, this meeting will be held via WebEx.

Adjourn: Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Mike Bindl to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Rohn

Confidential Administrative Secretary