

RICHLAND COUNTY CHAPTER 980 COMMITTEE

June 3, 2020

A meeting of the Richland County Chapter 980 Committee was held at 11:30 a.m. on June 3, 2020 via <https://richlandcounty.my.webex.com/richlandcounty.my/j.php?MTID=m2e24ebadfb483a9de0f6287405581e9> WebEx Meeting number: 126 611 5625 / Password: Richland / Join by phone +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll / Access code: 126 611 5625.

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

Others Present: Meghan Rohn.

Approve Agenda and Posting: Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Mike Bindl to approve the agenda and proper posting. Motion carried.

Approve May 20, 2020 Richland County Chapter 980 Committee Minutes: It was noted that Mary Collins Johnsrud was listed as absent in the minutes when she in fact was in attendance. Tracy Thorsen declared the corrected May 20, 2020 Richland County Chapter 980 Committee Minutes approved.

Consideration of Housing Options for Impending Release of Sex Offender Richard Sugden: Tracy Thorsen reported that committee members should have received an email containing the report that is being submitted to the Department of Health Services, as well as a notice of the hearing being held on June 12th. Benjamin Southwick noted he will be arguing the County's position and recommending the court accept the parcel located at 24250 Pier Springs Rd, Richland Center, WI as an acceptable placement option. Scott Timm added he has been in contact with both attorneys and informed them that he will be submitting the supervised release plan at the hearing as well. He has also been in contact with the property owner, Robert Sugden, who will be submitted a lease for Scott Timm to review. It was noted the lease will be contingent upon the property being approved by the court.

While the committee is hopeful the hearing will result in the approval of this property, Tracy Thorsen explained that the County is positioned to move on one of the other two potential properties that have been reviewed by the committee. Benjamin Southwick added that he has also advised the County Board not to sell either of these properties until the approval of a placement in this matter is finalized.

Discussion was held regarding sending a letter to residences within the 1500ft radius of the property being considered, as well as role of the committee vs. the role of law enforcement when it comes to notifying the public of a potential placement. Tracy Thorsen drafted a letter taking these roles into consideration and sent it to the committee and Scott Timm for review. Benjamin Southwick stated that it was his opinion that the letter should be sent and that a copy of the letter also be submitted to the court no later than June 10th. Lynn Newkirk voiced concern over sending the letter, noting it is the role of law enforcement to notify the public, not this committee. Motion by Benjamin Southwick,

seconded by Mike Bindl, to send a letter to all residences within a 1500ft radius of the property located at 24250 Pier Springs Rd, Richland Center, WI, notifying them of the County's requirement to find housing for an individual who has been released from Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center, and the intention to place the individual on the property if it is approved by the court. Tracy Thorsen, Mike Bindl, Benjamin Southwick, Mary Collins Johnsrud and Scott Timm all voted yes for the motion. Lynn Newkirk voted no. Motion carried. Discussion was held regarding the idea of posting the letter on the Health and Human Services website or in the Richland Observer. It was determined that this was not necessary and may only bring opposition from individuals who otherwise would not be directly impacted. Scott Timm also noted the hearing will most likely need to be held virtually and not in person.

The next meeting was scheduled for June 17, 2020, at 9:00am. Due to the recent Public Health Emergency, this meeting will be held via WebEx.

Adjourn: Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Lynn Newkirk to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Rohn

Confidential Administrative Secretary