

Richland County

Finance & Personnel Standing Committee

July 27th, 2022

The Richland County Finance and Personnel Standing Committee convened on Wednesday, July 27th 2022, at the Phoenix Center at 100 S Orange Street, in person, via videoconference and teleconference.

Committee members present included County Board Supervisors Marty Brewer, Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Marc Couey, Gary Manning, Timothy Gottschall, Melissa Luck and David Turk.

Also present was Administrator Clinton Langreck, County Board Members Donald Seep, Linda Gentes, Kerry Severson, Assistant to the Administrator Cheryl Dull taking minutes, several department heads, county employees and general public. Barb Scott and John Couey were present from MIS running the teleconferencing.

Not present: Steve Williamson and Steve Carrow.

1. **Call to Order:** Committee Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
2. **Proof of Notification:** Chair Brewer verified that the meeting had been properly noticed. Copies of the agenda were sent by email to all Committee members, County Board members, WRCO, County department heads, Richland Observer, Valley Sentinel and a copy was posted on the Courthouse Bulletin Board.
3. **Agenda Approval:** Chair Brewer asked for approval of the agenda. Moved by Supervisor Luck to approve the agenda, second by Supervisor Couey. All voting aye, motion carried.
4. **Previous meeting minutes – July 13th** – Moved by Supervisor Manning to approve minutes as presented, 2nd by Supervisor Couey, motion carried.
5. **Discussion and possible action on 2023 Budget Guidance and Planning:** Nothing presented.
6. **Discussion and possible action on the Capital Improvement Program and planning:** Administrator Langreck presented the Capital Improvement report along with the Financial Planning Worksheet and explained what the break down is for “Social Services” which makes up 53.12% of the budget. He presented the levy breakdown document, reviewed his recommendations going forward with the committee and addressed some questions that were presented to him.

Administrator Langreck presented the 2023 Capital Improvement list and asked for discussion on the 2023 Capital Improvement borrowing. Supervisor Couey asked what the extent repairs at the Coppertop could cost or could it be reduced. Administrator Langreck explained the repairs needed on the roof and how they are currently being dealt with. Supervisor Couey suggested adding the Coppertop roof repairs back in and take the \$48,000.00 out of somewhere else. Supervisor Murphy-Lopez stated HHS would move the HVAC \$150,000.00 repairs from 2023 to 2024 capital list. If that was moved back 2024 than we could move back in the Campus roof at \$100,000, Fair projects at \$35,000, Symons projects county share at \$26,500 and Parks projects for \$20,000 for a total of \$181,500 can be put back in the budget, with the increase being \$21,500. Moved by Supervisor Murphy-Lopez to amend the capital plan \$181,500.00 for small departments and move \$10,000 jail project to jail assessment and to move \$150,000 from HHS HVAC to 2024 and accept as amended, second by Supervisor Couey.

Supervisor Frank asked to speak. There have been no quotes for the Coppertop, all we have is our estimate so it could change after it is quoted. Supervisor Murphy-Lopez amended his motion to add having STR Engineering give us a quote for the Coppertop roof. All voting aye on the amendment, motion carried. With all the amendments in the Capital Improvement and Planning in the amounts of \$1,040,200.00 total base amount with \$41,208.00 contingency, minus the \$10,000.00 jail for a total of \$1,071,408.00, all voting aye. Motion carried.

7. **Discussion and possible action on 2023 Capital Improvement borrowing:** Supervisor Couey felt if the public has accepted the \$1,050,000.00 then we shouldn't go to referendum for more money. Moved by Supervisor Couey to stay at the same borrowing of \$1,050,000.00 that we have done in the last 2 years with \$21,408.00 increased difference for Capital adjustments to come from highway, second by Supervisor Manning. All voting aye, motion carried.
8. **Discussion and possible action on the Financial Planning Worksheet:** Administrator Langreck reviewed the document 08a including recent changes or updates. In capturing wages and benefits, it is now showing a projection out through the next several years as accumulative. Section 2 line ff shows net new construction

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which will need to be updated. He reviewed anticipated revenue changes that were updated and added a section with the proposed resolution totals. Decisions will need to be made for 2023.

Supervisor Luck asked to discuss assumptions for the 2023 budget. Was the Strategic Plan reviewed for the prioritization when designing the budget? It seemed wages and benefits have been moved as priority. She has a problem with a 9% raise when we are decimating all our services. She felt after giving a 7% raise last year, 9% is too much. She reviewed a few of the Strategic Plan goals and doesn't feel we are following it with what we are proposing. Moved by Supervisor Luck to change the language to be a 4.5% wage increase total instead of a 9% for 2023, second by Supervisor Murphy-Lopez.

Supervisor Couey questioned that we were supposed to be a designated step by now, so what would the cost be to get employees to the proposed step that they were promised? Administrator Langreck stated, you can move them to the guaranteed step but the schedule we have is a 5 years old schedule that is not keeping up with the cost of living. Supervisor Couey stated, employees haven't gotten raised in 6-7 years so we're behind. Frank added we did give elected officials a 7% raise this year, so that is something that should be considered. Supervisor Turk added increasing benefits doesn't attract people but the failure to do it does drive people away. More extensive discussion followed on wage increases. Supervisor Luck wanted to keep the motion to just 2023 and not subsequent years. Supervisor Murphy-Lopez reviewed the raises that were given for elected officials for the next 4 years. Further extensive discussion followed on raises. Moved by Murphy-Lopez to amend the motion to be would be 3.5% from 7% for Pine Valley and 4.5% for the rest of the county. Roll call vote requested. Murphy-Lopez – aye, Brewer - aye, Luck – aye, Manning – aye, Gottschall – no, Turk – no, Couey – aye. Motion carried 5-2.

Supervisor Murphy-Lopez asked to discuss the 1 reduction in Sheriff deputy and the Veterans ½ time position. He wants to evaluate staffing levels with neighboring counties before moving forward. Moved by Supervisor Murphy-Lopez to restore 1 Sheriff deputy position and the ½ time Veterans staff in the financial planning work sheet for 2023, 2nd by Supervisor Couey. Roll call vote requested. Brewer – aye, Luck – aye, Manning – aye, Gottschall – aye, Turk – aye, Couey – aye, Murphy-Lopez - aye. Motion carried 7-0.

Supervisor Couey asked for the status of benefits review. Administrator Langreck stated we're communicating with WCE, ETF and another entity whom we are waiting for responses from attorneys.

Supervisor Murphy-Lopez stated getting final numbers in section 7 will help them get the Resolutions out to committees and the Ad Hoc Referendum Committee as we have now made dramatic changes again. He asked how sure is Administrator Langreck that these numbers are right? Are there other lines that should be accumulative? Administrator Langreck stated they are continuing to review this sheet all the time to find these things. Supervisor Murphy-Lopez added the referendum has to get solid numbers from somewhere and this is where we will get those from.

9. **Discussion and possible action on requested financial reports, staffing and wage reports, and mandated vs. non mandated services reports:** Assistant to the Administrator Dull reviewed the wage reports across the available county within our population range and pointed out some possible discrepancy due to unknown duties.

Administrator Langreck reviewed 09j, Levy by department. They are budgeted numbers not actual spent.

Supervisor Murphy-Lopez reviewed the mandated vs non mandated services from 09k spreadsheet, with 911 outlay changed to just 911. This list was sent to department heads with approximately 7-8 responses. Each row was for tax levy services only, does not include all services in the county. Supervisor Frank feels this is an excellent document and should be shared with WCA for other counties to use. Supervisor Murphy-Lopez felt we are given flexibility in the statute with staffing levels. There is some court language that sets precedence for staffing. Supervisor Gentes ask about combining or sharing staff with other counties or departments regardless of the statute. Supervisor Luck stated she never found language stating you could not share staffing. Supervisor Severson added Veterans Service Officer must be a veteran but the Veterans Specialist does not have to be and HHS could provide a ½ time assistant.

Administrator Langreck reviewed staffing levels, our county has a staffing level worksheet but not all counties may have a schedule like ours and is asking for guidance from the Committee. Supervisor Couey agrees it is difficult to gauge staffing levels and volume of work that could affect that count. He feels it should be left up to the department head to tell us if they have enough staffing to do the work or do they have too much labor as this could be difficult to compare to other counties. Extensive discussion followed on staffing levels, needs and

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how to determine how much is needed or can be cut.

Supervisor Turk left at 2:56.

- 10. Discussion and possible action on directive resolutions:** Items 10 02 through 10 08. Chair Brewer asked for a motion to send all the Resolutions to County Board to forward onto the appropriate Committees to begin working on. Moved by Supervisor Manning to send all 7 Resolutions to County Board, second by Supervisor Luck but would offer amendments. Moved by Supervisor Luck to amendment to all 7 Resolutions to strike “Be it further resolved that if the *whatever committee* is unable to complete these tasks and deliver a recommendation to the Finance and Personnel Standing Committee by the (matching date above) the Richland County Administrator is tasked with:” and any following instructions to that, 2nd to amend by Supervisor Murphy-Lopez. All voting aye on the amendment.

Moved by Supervisor Gottschall to amend to remove Symons Resolution from consideration because we have not had enough feedback from our partners, 2nd by Supervisor Couey. Supervisor Luck said it does not say we are ending our partnership with the Symons. Supervisor Gottschall stated #5 says we are working towards no foreseeable county levy dollars are needed for any future operations or capital expenditures. Supervisor Luck stated all resolutions say if possible and it may not be possible. Roll call vote requested. Luck – no, Manning – no, Gottschall – aye, Couey – aye, Murphy-Lopez –no, Brewer – no. Amendment failed 4-2.

Moved by Supervisor Murphy-Lopez to amend the City County Committee Resolution by striking 1-6 and replace with “Encourage the Symons Natatorium Board and Symon staff to explore the transfer of Symons to a non-profit organization including research of similar non-profit models and return to the Finance & Personnel Committee with a report by October 31st, 2022”. 2nd Supervisor Gottschall. All voting aye, motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Murphy-Lopez to amend Resolution 10 02, City County Committee, Economic Development Operations by striking 7-11 and replace with “Encourage the RED board to explore a public private partnership where public sources make up half and private sources make up half of the Economic Development budget and return to Finance and Personnel Committee with a report by 10/31/2022”, 2nd by Supervisor Luck. All voting aye to amend, motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Murphy-Lopez to amend Resolution 10 07 for Pine Valley and Child Support Standing Committee to strike 1 & 2 and replacing with language “Direct the Pine Valley and Child Support Standing Committee to explore the possibility of Pine Valley setting aside funds annually to cover 50% of their mortgage payments of the Pine Valley building fund and returning to Finance and Personnel by 10/31/22 with a report”, 2nd by Supervisor Luck, calling for discussion. Supervisor Luck felt we could not sell the building for the loan value. She felt the amendment should be language to add a 3rd bullet point to pay 50% of mortgage instead of removing 1 & 2. Supervisor Murphy-Lopez amended his motion to keep 1 & 2 and add number 3 with a date sooner. Chair Brewer added the bond rating has increased due to the reserve at Pine Valley. Roll call vote requested. Manning – no, Gottschall – aye, Couey – no, Murphy-Lopez – aye, Brewer – no, Luck –aye. Vote as defeated 3-3.

Moved by Supervisor Murphy-Lopez to amend Resolution 10 04 Fair and Recycling Coordinator and Parks Commission by striking 1-6 and replace “Direct the Fair, Recycling and Parks Standing Committee to explore transfer of the fairgrounds to a nonprofit agricultural society putting research on peer counties with a non-profit, fair model and return to Finance and Personnel by 11/30/22 with a report. Strike 7-14 in total. 7-9 is recycling, they take no money off the property tax levy. 10-14 is concerning Parks as we need our parks, 2nd Supervisor Manning. Supervisor Severson is against a private/non-profit because of the lack of control of events. Motion carried 5-1 with Supervisor Couey voting opposed.

Moved by Supervisor Murphy-Lopez to amend Resolution 10 03 regarding UW Platteville-Richland Leadership, UW Extension Office and Food Services by striking 1-5 and replace with “1) Direct the Education Committee to explore the return of recruiting and admission from the UW Platteville Campus to the UW Richland Campus and 2) A dollar for dollar match by UW Richland Foundation for capital project, not to exceed \$100,000 year in exchange for the County committing to continue to allocate a minimum of \$20,000 a year for insurance and \$100,000 for capital maintenance projects.” and report back to the Finance and Personnel Committee by 10/31/2022, 2nd by Chair Brewer. Supervisor Gottschall feels there are operational issues there but we cannot

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tell a tenant how to operate. Roll call vote requested. Gottschall – no, Couey – no, Murphy-Lopez- aye, Brewer – no, Luck – no, Manning – no. Motion failed 5-1.

Gottschall left the meeting at 3:00.

Moved by Supervisor Luck to amend Resolution 10 03 regarding UW Campus to add 2 amendments that Supervisor Murphy-Lopez proposed as numbers 6 & 7 with “6) Direct the Education Committee to explore the return of recruiting and admission from the UW Platteville Campus to the UW Richland Campus and 7) A dollar for dollar match by UW Richland Foundation for capital project, not to exceed \$100,000 year in exchange for the County committing to continue to allocate a minimum of \$20,000 a year for insurance and \$100,000 for capital maintenance projects.”, 2nd by Supervisor Couey. Roll call vote requested. Couey – aye, Murphy-Lopez – aye, Brewer – aye, Luck – aye, Manning – aye. All voting aye, motion carried.

Roll call vote was requested to send the amended Resolutions to County Board. Murphy-Lopez – no, Brewer – aye, Luck – aye, Manning – aye, Couey – aye. Motion carried 4-1

11. **Discussion and possible action on guidance to the referendum committee:** Administrator Langreck updated the committee that their first meeting will be Thursday, July 18th at 6:00 p.m. No guidance at this time so #12 will not be acted on.
12. **Discussion and possible action on Amendment to Expenditure of remaining Fund#75 and Fund#92 (2021) borrowed funds for capital improvements:** See #11.
13. **Discussion and possible action on corporation counsel contract and performance:** Administrator Langreck recommends renewing with a 2-year contract with Corp Counsel. Moved by Supervisor Murphy-Lopez to recommend the Resolution to County Board, second by Supervisor Luck. All voting aye, motion carried.
14. **The committee may enter closed session under Wisconsin State Statute 1985(1)(e) ...Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, to address item; and (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; regarding corporation counsel contract and performance:** Not needed.
15. **The committee may return to open session:**
16. **Future agenda items:** Nothing.
17. **Adjournment:** Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 2nd @ 1:00 p.m. location will be the County Board room. Moved by Supervisor Couey to adjourn at 4:07 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Manning. All voting aye, motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Cheryl Dull
Richland County Assistant to the Administrator