

# Richland County

## Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

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**August 8th, 2022**

The Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee convened on Monday, August 8th 2022, in the County Board Room at the Richland County Courthouse, 181 W Seminary Street, in person and by WebEx.

Committee members present included County Board David Turk, Bob Frank, Steve Carrow, School Board representative Erin Unbehaun with Shaun Murphy-Lopez and Supervisor Kerry Severson by WebEx.

Also present was Assistant to the Administrator Cheryl Dull taking minutes, several department heads, county employees and general public with Administrator Clinton Langreck, County Board Members Don Seep and Jo Ann Krulatz logged in by WebEx. John Couey was present from MIS running the teleconferencing.

Not present: Mayor Todd Coppernoll

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Murphy-Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. **Proof of Notification:** Assistant to the Administrator Dull verified that the meeting had been properly noticed.
3. **Agenda Approval:** Chair Murphy-Lopez asked for approval of the agenda. Moved by Supervisor Frank to approve the agenda, second by Supervisor Severson. All voting aye, motion carried.
4. **Public Comments:** None
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Chair Murphy-Lopez asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. Moved by Turk to accept the minutes as present, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Unbehaun. Motion carried.
6. **Statutory authority to hold a referendum:** Chair Murphy-Lopez reviewed that there are 3 main statutes that apply to how a county does an operating referendum. We do not have to hold a referendum when the school holds one. The school can call a special referendum if there is a disaster.
7. **Wisconsin referendum report:** A report was presented from the Lafollette School of Public Affair that contains a lot of history on referenda which was found by Supervisor Severson.
8. **Wisconsin counties holding past referendums:** Chair presented 8 County's that have held referendums and reviewed the results of those. Assistant to the Administrator Dull found one from Green Lake that she will send it to Chair Murphy-Lopez. On Oneida County referendum notice, .8% is \$14.8 million in question number one.
9. **County budget/services overview:** Chair Murphy-Lopez reviewed the budget, the history of county wages, benefit changes, employees by department, expenses and revenues. Discussion followed on what information would be useful in the education to the public.
10. **5-year financial planning worksheet:** Chair Murphy-Lopez reviewed the 5-year wage increases plan, the planning worksheet for the next 5 years and planned department reductions. Discussion followed on the information provided. Supervisor Frank questioned where does a 4.5% levy increase get us. Administrator Langreck stated \$1,000,000 is approximately \$100 of property value.
11. **Committee report outline:** Chair Murphy-Lopez recommends that the Ad Hoc committee prepare a report to send to Finance and Personnel outlining their findings. He reviewed the outline of what the report should consist of. Supervisor Turk stated sub bullet 5 states Consequences of the referendum passing versus failing but doesn't state what we recommend should it fail. Our committee has been task with that as #5 in the Resolution. 5<sup>th</sup> sub bullet should say "recommendation if a referendum fails". Then add a sub bullet with referenced sources." Moved by Supervisor Turk to adopt the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee report outline with those recommended changes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Frank. All voting aye by roll call, motion carried.
12. **Public education:** Chair Murphy-Lopez present his recommendations of education. Radio, newspaper and social media. For the newspaper, a draft letter will be brought to next meeting to approve to send out. Plan a morning show in late August or early September. Supervisor Severson recommends a couple public forums and outreach by going out to other elected bodies and community groups. Supervisor Carrow recommends any organization where you can get people to come to. Chair Murphy-Lopez stated we to decide who will do it. Supervisor Frank felt these are great ideas, but wondered if this outside of what County Board as us to do. After discussion it was suggested by Supervisor Turk to go back to County Board at the next meeting and request

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an amendment. Administrator Langreck stated Corp Council is looking into what staff and board members can do to make sure when we are educating the public that we are not overstepping into political lobbying. Chair Murphy-Lopez asked Administrator Langreck, if he finds there is any statute language concerning this that it be brought to this committee first. Supervisor Turk volunteered to create the education video and will also help develop some talking points to be consistent through all 3 education levels.

Chair Murphy-Lopez will develop some talking points to bring back to the next meeting.

Moved by Supervisor Frank to develop information to educate the public about the work of Referendum Ad Hoc Committee via radio, newspaper and social media platforms, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Turk. All voting aye by roll call votes, motion carried.

**13. Future agenda items:** Severson – more data and graphs. Towns association will meet again in September and Jean Nicks is the chair. Unbehaun – more data and can assist with creating that if needed.

**14. Adjournment:** Next meeting will be Monday, August 22nd @ 6:00 pm in the County Board Room. Moved by Supervisor Carrow to adjourn at 7:47 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Frank. All voting aye, motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Cheryl Dull

Richland County Assistant to the Administrator