

# Richland County

## Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

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### November 21st 2022

The Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee convened on Monday, November 21st, 2022, by WebEx.

Committee members present included County Board Supervisors Steve Carrow, Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Bob Frank, Dave Turk, Kerry Severson and Mayor Todd Coppernoll.

Also in attendance was Assistant to the Administrator Cheryl Dull taking minutes, Administrator Clinton Langreck and several department heads, county employees, general public, County Board Members and WRCO.

Not present: Erin Unbehaun

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Murphy-Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.
2. **Proof of Notification:** Chair Murphy-Lopez 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 Murphy-Lopez asked for approval of the agenda. Moved by Supervisor Frank to approve the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Turk. All voting aye, motion carried.
4. **Public Comments:** None
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Chair Murphy-Lopez stated the minutes will be approved at the next meeting as they were not available.
6. **Emails from the public:** Chair Murphy-Lopez presented 2 emails he received from the public. One was anti-referendum and one was pro-referendum.
7. **Public education information report:**
  - a. State shared revenues: Chair Lopez prepared a chart that shows what the accumulative lose is from the State.
  - b. Highway Department: There is a meeting scheduled next week to meet with the County Clerk and the Highway Commissioner to verify how much levy is used for blacktop.
  - c. UW-Richland: There is an updated chart that reflects what the Campus funds have dropped over time.
  - d. Debt: Reflects the annual debt payments the County makes which is what goes on the debt levy.
  - e. Pine Valley census comparison: This report reflects the census comparisons with other Counties. The report shows we may be understaffed.
  - f. Updated budget cuts: There were some discrepancies with the proposed budget that Chair Murphy-Lopez worked to match up.Moved by Supervisor Carrow to adopt the updated public education reports, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Frank. All voting aye, motion carried.
8. **Correspondence from committees:**
  - a. Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee: This was reviewed previously. They are projecting profits in 2023-2027. Chair Murphy-Lopez prepared a list of questions and a request for information that still needs to be sent back to the Committee. No one objected to the information requests.
  - b. Public Works Standing Committee: Chair Murphy-Lopez prepared a list of questions and a request for information that still needs to be sent back to the Committee. No one objected to the information requests.
  - c. Public Works Standing Committee: Chair Murphy-Lopez prepared a list of questions and a request for information that still needs to be sent back to the Committee. No one objected to the information requests.
  - d. HHS & Veterans Standing Committee: Chair Murphy-Lopez prepared a list of questions and a request for information that still needs to be sent back to the Committee. No one objected to the information requests.
  - e. Land & Zoning Standing Committee: Chair Murphy-Lopez felt the Committee did a good job of coming up

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with cuts. Chair Murphy-Lopez & Supervisor Carrow prepared a list of questions and a request for information that still needs to be sent back to the Committee. No one objected to the information requests. Supervisor Seep has concerns of the increased septic reporting fees being an additional tax on the citizens. Cathy Cooper will add this item to the next agenda.

- f. Fair, Recycling & Parks Standing Committee: Chair Murphy-Lopez & Supervisor Carrow prepared a list of questions and a request for information that still needs to be sent back to the Committee. No one objected to the information requests.
- g. Education Standing Committee: Supervisor Carrow & Chair Murphy-Lopez prepared a list of questions and a request for information that still needs to be sent back to the Committee. No one objected to the information requests.
- h. Finance & Personnel Standing Committee: They need to submit their response yet. Next Finance & Personnel meeting is December 6<sup>th</sup>.
- i. Symons Natatorium Board: Supervisor Carrow & Chair Murphy-Lopez prepared a list of questions and a request for information that still needs to be sent back to the Committee. Supervisor Brewer stated the cost of maintaining the buildings is the real issue. Discussion followed concerning removing "Increase donations" from the request or if it should be left in. Moved by Severson to add a bullet to "create an endowment", 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Carrow. All voting aye, motion carried.
- j. Richland Economic Development Board: The Richland Economic Development Board sent back a response and even added more information than what was requested. Supervisor Carrow & Chair Murphy-Lopez prepared a list of questions and a request for information that still needs to be sent back to the Committee.

Moved by Supervisor Frank to pass the feedback and comments back to the committees, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Carrow. Roll call requested. All voting aye, motion carried.

- 9. **Report on presentation at Richland Center School Board:** Supervisor Carrow reviewed his presentation to the School Board. He added there was no questions after the presentation.
- 10. **Video scripts:** Supervisor Turk reviewed the design behind the different scripts he prepared. He also felt there was some urgency to get information out to the public as there is already dialogue out in the public that we are not responding to.
- 11. **Levy referendums in Wisconsin at the past election:** Chair Murphy-Lopez reviewed the statistic of the recent public safety referendums. 17 out of 20 passed. After discussion it was felt public safety should be put on the referendum.
- 12. **County Board survey:** Chair Murphy-Lopez stated that after updating the Financial Plan, we ended up with \$700,000 extra that could be used to reduce something. He reviewed 3 questions he proposed to send to County Board to respond to. 1) What percent increase in property taxes are County Board members comfortable with? 2) What are the priorities of the County Board for funding? 3) Is the County Board comfortable with raising taxes through additional short-term borrowing for capital projects and court ordered placements?  
  
Extensive discussion followed on short-term borrowing and its affects. Moved by Carrow to approve the framework as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Frank. Roll call vote requested. All voting aye, motion carried.
- 13. **Future agenda items:** none
- 14. **Adjournment:** Next meeting will be December 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm in the County Board Room. Moved by Supervisor Frank to adjourn at 8:21 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Turk. All voting aye, motion carried.

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