

Richland County

Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

January 3rd, 2023

The Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee convened on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023, in person and by WebEx.

Committee members present included County Board Supervisors Steve Carrow, Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Bob Frank with Dave Turk and Erin Unbehaun by WebEx.

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

Not present: Kerry Severson and Mayor Todd Coppernoll

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Murphy-Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.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 Carrow. All voting aye, motion carried.
4. **Public Comments:** Alan Lins asked to speak. Mr. Lins introduced himself. He spoke on Economic Development and his disappointment as to the County proposing to back out of the Economic Development funding. He feels the City of Richland Center has not looked into their future plans far enough to insure that keeping the Economic Development Director will be long term without reengaging with the County.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Chair Murphy-Lopez asked for approval of the minutes from the December 22nd meeting. Moved by Supervisor Frank to accept the minutes as presented, 2nd by Supervisor Carrow. Motion carried
6. **Guest speaker: Washington County Executive Josh Schoemann:** Chair Murphy-Lopez introduced Josh Schoemann. Mr. Schoemann reviewed Washington and Green Lake Counties and City of Princeton referendums. In Washington County, he felt the reason the referendum didn't pass was because of the increase in county government. In Princeton the referendum passed. He recommended if Richland County is going to ask for an operational levy, they need to start education sooner than later and Senator Marklein should be advised on what the levy limits have done to County's. He felt education is key, not so much with the municipal board but more with the voters, therefore the Board Members getting out in the public is key. In reference to timeline discussion, he felt a 2024 referendum with a 12 to 24-month runway was wiser to get more education out to voters prior.
7. **Draft referendum report:** Chair Murphy-Lopez reviewed 07A, the findings from research that has been completed, the results compiled from that research and the changes to correspond with the recommendation. His conclusion is that most of these short falls through 2026 can be handled with short term borrowing in reviewing the 5-year financial plan. Supervisor Frank and Turk have concerns concerning #2 on page 3. By committing to this are we limiting ourselves to our future capabilities as any access funds could be used somewhere. Administrator Langreck stated his concerns with getting a ¾ vote to enable short term borrowing each year through 2027.

Moved by Supervisor Carrow to refer the Referendum Report to the Finance & Personnel Committee for consideration at their 1/3/23 meeting, 2nd by Supervisor Frank.

Moved by Supervisor Frank to amend the report to eliminating #2 on page 3 in document 07A Executive Summary, change Richland Economic Development funding to ½ of the current reduction in document 07E, eliminate line 226.02, change line 226.03 to be \$400,000.00 on the 5-year plan and update bar chart, 2nd by Supervisor Carrow.

Roll call vote requested on motion to amend, all voting aye, motion carried.

Roll call vote requested to refer to Finance & Personnel Committee with the 4 amended changes, all voting aye, motion carried.

Floyd Bartow asked to speak. He had concerns if the voters would understand what is being proposed to be on the referendum. Chair Murphy-Lopez agreed but explained that State Statute dictates how the question is

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worded.

8. **Future agenda items:** None.

9. **Adjournment:** Moved by Supervisor Carrow to adjourn at 11:30 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Frank. All voting aye, motion carried.

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