

## **SEPTEMBER SPECIAL MEETING**

September 24, 2024

Call To Order: Chair Turk called the Special Meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Roll Call: Roll call found the following members present: Supervisor(s) Carrow, Miller, Brewer, Kramer, McKee, Hendricks, Manning, Gill, Glasbrenner, Harwick, Woodhouse, Turk, Cosgrove, Williamson, Couey, Fleming, and Brookens. Members absent: Frank and Severson. McGuire joined meeting at 6:08 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: County Clerk Kalish led the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Clerk Verification Of Open Meeting Laws Compliance: County Clerk Kalish confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed.

Approve Agenda: Motion by Cosgrove second by McKee to approve agenda. Motion carried and the agenda declared approved.

Chair Turk welcomed everyone to meeting and thanked them for attending.

Discussion with WCA Attorney Andy Phillips Regarding Roles And Responsibilities In County Government: WCA Attorney Andy Phillips gave a presentation regarding the roles and responsibilities in county government. Attorney Phillips reviewed the governmental structures of Wisconsin counties, the duties of the County Administrator, and the duties of the County Board of Supervisors. Attorney Phillips noted that the role of the County Board of Supervisors does not include supervision of employees, but does include action as the legislative body, enacting policy, and holding staff accountable for policy implementation. Attorney Phillips noted the County Board Chair is the head of the legislative body and committees serve to assist in policy development. Phillips also noted that duties of county administration include a focus on the day-to-day operations of the county, carrying out policy direction, and providing information necessary to make policy development decisions. Attorney Phillips reviewed a county organizational chart and stressed the importance of working together. Key takeaways presented by Phillips included: the county is a creature of a legislative state with no independent authority, the County Board serves as legislative policy makers, a strong committee needs to be in place, the County Board has no management role outside of the committee structure, and micromanaging stifles activity.

Supervisor Hendrickson asked Attorney Phillips if County Board members could be excluded from Closed Session. Corporation Counsel Windle cited the exclusionary authority included in the adopted Rules of the County Board. Attorney Phillips noted that given an exclusionary authority is included in the adopted Rules of the County Board, County Board Supervisor may be excluded from Closed Session.

Discussion on Specific County Topics: Pine Valley Operations, Ambulance Service Operations, And Cyber Security Incident: Administrator Pesch shared the most recent information available regarding the cyber security incident including a frequently asked questions document. Administrator Pesch also reviewed steps taken to manage cyber security incident and noted there are things that cannot be discussed for a variety of reasons. Corporation Counsel Windle provided brief overview of Pine Valley investigation. Corporation Counsel noted positive changes have emerged as a result of the managerial/operational resistance to change and that the behavior of the former Pine Valley Community Village Administrator was unknown by the county. Chair Turk noted that Pine Valley Community Village is fully staffed, has reduced its reliance on agency costs, and has a healthy 2025 budget. Chair Turk noted that the Ambulance Service is fully staffed. Richland County Emergency Services Director Jessen introduced himself to those assembled, provided brief staffing update, and reviewed Emergency Services response time statistics.

Question & Answer Regarding Specific Topics Discussed Above: A total of 25 citizens addressed the County Board with their questions/concerns regarding the cyber security incident, Pine Valley operations, and Ambulance Service operations. Administrator Pesch and Chair Turk answered questions and addressed concerns as needed.

Adjourn: Motion by Manning, second by Gill to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
 )SS  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

I, Derek S. Kalish, County Clerk in and for the County of Richland, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the proceedings of the County Board of Supervisors of Richland County for the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

*P. S. Kal*

Derek S. Kalish  
Richland County Clerk

*Note: Published minutes are unapproved until approved at next regularly scheduled County Board meeting.  
Resolutions and meeting packet materials can be found by accessing the following link:  
<https://administrator.co.richland.wi.us/minutes/county-board/>*