

# Richland County Executive & Finance Standing Committee

August 13, 2024

The Richland County Executive & Finance Standing Committee convened on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 in person and virtually at 5:00 PM in the County Boardroom of the Richland County Courthouse.

**Call To Order:** Committee Chair Williamson called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Roll Call:** Clerk Kalish conducted roll call. Committee members present: Carrow, Turk, Manning, Gill, Glasbrenner, Frank, Williamson, and Couey. Committee member(s) absent: None. Rynes arrived at 5:08 PM.

**Verification Of Open Meetings Law Compliance:** Clerk Kalish confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed.

**Approval Of Agenda:** Motion by Frank second by Manning to approve agenda with the following changes: #7 moved to #14, #11 moved to #19, #12 and #15 moved to #9, and the addition of an “s” to the word “employee” in agenda item #16. Motion carried and amended agenda declared approved.

**Approval Of Minutes From June 25<sup>th</sup> and July 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 Meetings:** Committee Chair Williamson asked if any member desired the minutes of the June 25, 2024 and July 9, 2024 meetings be read or amended. Hearing no motion to read or amend the minutes of the June 25, 2024 and July 9, 2024 meetings, Committee Chair Williamson approved as published.

**Discussion – Update On The County Comprehensive Planning Process And Discussion Of County Data For Inclusion In The Plan:** Troy Maggied, Executive Director of Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and various staff members reviewed proposed updates to Richland County’s comprehensive plan. Review of proposed updates included the scope of work, community engagement activities, data points and maps included in plan updates, and project timeline. Maggied noted that the plan will be updated with an increased focus on intergovernmental relations. Discussion followed regarding various elements of plan updates, data points, and community engagement. No further action taken on this item at meeting.

**Discussion & Possible Action – Leasing Of New Vehicle For The Ambulance Service:** EMS Director Jessen reviewed leasing quote for new vehicle for the Ambulance Service. Joint Ambulance Committee Chair McGraw noted the Joint Ambulance Committee requested this be brought forward to Executive & Finance Standing Committee for review. Supervisor Frank questioned whether or not the expense was included in 2025 budget and what the next steps are. Administrator Pesch noted that the role of the Joint Ambulance Committee needs to be reviewed and clarified for operational purposes. EMS Director Jessen noted the expenses for the lease could be covered within the 2025 proposed vehicle maintenance line and asked if funding for expense could be split between Fund 10 and Fund 51. Committee Chair Williamson noted that the purchase should be sent back to committee for review and that the general consensus was that it was acceptable to move forward. No further action taken on this item at meeting.

**Discussion - Original Intent Of The Joint Ambulance Committee And Current Functionality Of Committee:** Administrator Pesch reviewed Resolution 14-149 and noted that nominations to this committee may not have been approved by County Board in the recent past and that those municipalities

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that are paying for services feel they have a stronger say in operations than their funding facilitates. Administrator Pesch also stated that the role of the Joint Ambulance Committee needs to be reviewed and clarified for a clearer understanding of their role as a committee. Administrator Pesch stated that the committee could function the same as every other county committee or as a stand-alone committee. Joint Ambulance Committee Chair McGraw noted concerns were raised from the committee with regards to the hiring of the most recent EMS Director due to a perception of minimal involvement in the hiring and approval process of that position. McGraw also noted that there was no reference as to how the process was completed as this was the first time the position had been filled since the Ambulance Service was created. Supervisor Frank asked what the Joint Ambulance Committee does and McGraw replied by stating the committee meets regularly to hear all matters of operations and involved in hiring matters before County Administrator form of government existed for Richland County. Supervisor Glasbrenner noted that if the committee functions like other county committees, many members are not directly involved in the hiring of employees and cited her involvement with the Community & Health Services Standing Committee as an example. Supervisor Rynes noted that operations changes have occurred since the position of County Administrator has been in place in Richland County. McGraw noted that the distinguishing characteristic with the Joint Ambulance Committee is the municipalities' financial contribution. Administrator Pesch noted she did not want to minimize the contribution nor the county's involvement with the Ambulance Service as it is vital to the county as a whole, but did note there were other costs that are not always recognized. Administrator Pesch noted she was seeking guidance and input from the Executive & Finance Standing Committee on how the committee felt about the committee and its operations. County Board Chair Turk noted that it is important to examine the relationship between the county and the Joint Ambulance Committee. Supervisor Glasbrenner asked what needed to be addressed in this meeting and Administrator Pesch noted the approval of appointments to the Joint Ambulance Committee. McGraw reviewed current structure of the Joint Ambulance Committee. Supervisor Frank stated that if the committee is a county committee, it should be treated as such. Supervisor Glasbrenner asked where the Joint Ambulance Committee is on the county committee structure and Administrator Pesch noted that the Joint Ambulance Committee reports to the Executive & Finance Standing Committee. EMS Director Jessen noted that he preferred the Joint Ambulance Committee reports to the Public Safety Standing Committee. No further action taken on this item at meeting.

**Resolution Recognizing The Retirement Of Health & Human Services Employee:** Health & Human Services Director Clements reviewed the resolution recognizing the retirement of a Health & Human Services employee. Motion by Frank second by Glasbrenner to approve resolution recognizing the retirement of a Health & Human Services employee. Motion carried and resolution forwarded to full County Board for approval.

**Discussion & Possible Action – Confirmation Of Ethics Board:** Attorney Windle reviewed resolution declaring the Executive & Finance Standing Committee as the Ethics Board under Ordinance 23-6. Motion by Manning second by Gill to approve resolution declaring the Executive & Finance Standing Committee as the Ethics Board under Ordinance 23-6. Motion carried and resolution forwarded to full County Board for approval.

**Discussion & Possible Action – Schedule Date For Next Committee On Committees Meeting:** Next meeting of the Committee on Committees scheduled to occur on Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the County Board Room.

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**Discussion & Possible Action – Approval Of Ordinance Amendment To Remove Iowa County From The Tri-County Airport:** Corporation Counsel Windle reviewed the ordinance amendment to remove Iowa County from the Tri-County Airport and provided brief background on subject matter. Motion by Rynes second by Glasbrenner to approve ordinance amendment to remove Iowa County from the Tri-County airport. Motion carried and ordinance amendment forwarded to full County Board for approval.

**Reports – Administrator’s Report - UW Campus Update – County Treasurer Vacancy Update:**  
**UW Campus:** Administrator Pesch reported that the soccer fields have been mowed, trails have been cleared and mowed, the date for Venture Architect’s presentation is being finalized, and fobs have been rekeyed and the process on how to do that is now known.

**County Treasurer:** Administrator Pesch noted that Even rescinded his resignation as County Treasurer and is working on evenings and weekends as time permits. Administrator Pesch also noted there is two applicants and the advertisement for the position has been extended.

**County Administrator:** Administrator Pesch noted that there was a chemical spill in town earlier today and the incident is under control and evaluation. Pesch also noted the following: creation of the 2025 budget is underway and a first draft will be examined soon, roofing is leaking in/near her office and it was discovered that the source of the leak is a piece of roof that was not replaced when the rest of the roof was, and that many air-conditioning units will need to be replaced soon as they are from 1989. Supervisor Kramer asked where the hay from the soccer fields is going and Pesch noted she did not know.

**Public Comment:** Brandon Fetterly, former Dean of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Richland addressed the committee. Fetterly stated that there was a large amount of equipment of value that needs disposed of and requested that the items be allocated with the best interest of the taxpayers in mind.

Chair Williamson called for a recess at 6:22 PM. Committee reconvened at 6:27 PM.

**Closed Session: The Chair May Entertain A Motion To Enter Closed Session Pursuant To Wis. Stat, Sec 19.85(1)(C): Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation Or Performance Evaluation Data Of Any Public Employee Over Which The Governmental Body Has Jurisdiction Or Exercises Responsibility – Performance Review Of County Employee And Review Of Employee Grievance –** Motion by Manning second by Frank to convene into Closed Session pursuant to Wis. Stat, Sec 19.85(1)(C). Roll call vote taken: Ayes-Carrow, Rynes, Manning, Gill, Glasbrenner, Turk, Frank, Williamson, and Couey. Nays: None. With 9 Ayes and 0 Nays, motion carried and committee convened into Closed Session at 6:30 PM. Due to his virtual attendance, County Board Chair Turk was not able to participate in Closed Session portion of meeting. Clerk Kalish left meeting at 6:30 PM.

**Return To Open Session:** Meeting reconvened into Open Session at 7:39 PM. Supervisor Rynes was not present when meeting reconvened into Open Session.

**Possible Action On Items From Closed Session:** Committee Chair Williamson stated that no action was needed for items discussed in Closed Session.

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**Discussion & Possible Action: Provision Of Corporation Counsel Services Through Contracted Staff Or County Employee:** Administrator Pesch reviewed internal and external costs of Corporation Counsel. Discussion regarding workload of Corporation Counsel, hours needed to complete work, and the cost of Corporation Counsel services. Corporation Counsel Windle provided brief overview of current Corporation Counsel services provided to Richland County. Supervisor Couey noted his discomfort with hiring more employees before the results of the wage study are known. Supervisor Carrow asked if there is capacity to continue with additional Corporation Counsel services in the current state and Corporation Counsel Windle stated no additional time is available. Discussion regarding the cost of external and internal services followed. Committee Chair noted that consensus was reached to review this again once wage study is complete. Administrator Pesch noted that the preliminary findings of the wage study indicated that wages are not as poor as believed to be. Frank noted he would like to see the 2025 budget before making a decision. No further action taken on this item at meeting.

**Appointments:** None.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Future Agenda Items:**

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval of contract with Abt Swayne for Corporation Counsel services.  
Discussion & Possible Action: Approval of Comprehensive Plan items for Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Manning second by Frank to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.



Derek S. Kalish  
County Clerk