

**RULES AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
AND ETHICS BOARD**

November 30, 2018

The Rules and Resolutions Committee and Ethics Board met on Friday, November 30, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, located on the third floor of the Courthouse, 181 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Committee members present included: David Turk, Chad Cosgrove, Ed Pulvermacher, Donald Seep and Jayme Walsh.

Others present included: Victor Vlasak, County Clerk; Ben Southwick, Corporation Counsel; Barb Scott, MIS Director; Jeanetta Irkpatrick, Board Chairman; and Shaun Murphy-Lopez

Committee Chair Turk called the meeting to order.

The Clerk verified that the meeting was properly noticed. Copies of the agenda were emailed to all Rules and Resolutions Committee members; a copy was posted on the Courthouse Bulletin Board and County web site; a copy was faxed to The Richland Observer; and copies were emailed to Fruit Broadcasting, LLC and County Department Heads.

Motion by Cosgrove, second by Walsh that the agenda, as amended, be approved. Motion carried.

Motion by Seep, second by Pulvermacher that the printed copies of the minutes for the November 21st meeting be approved. Motion carried.

The posting of video recordings of County Board meetings was discussed. The 2006 Cable Access Coordinator Agreement between the City of Richland Center and Ben Koelsch, d/b/a Nova Video is still in place. The Agreement extends to videotaping and cablecasting County Board meetings. Barb Scott indicated that the County web site will include a link to the recordings.

The Committee discussed the draft of a resolution for the creation of a committee to study the administration of County government. The committee would consist of 13 members, 7 being Supervisors, 4 being department heads and 2 being citizens. The committee would study options for the administration of Richland County government and make a recommendation to the County Board as to the best option, with an explanation its reasoning. Motion by Cosgrove, second by Seep to present the resolution to the County Board for approval. Motion carried. The resolution would contain a recommendation to appropriate \$5,000 from the Contingency Fund and would be offered by both the Rules and Resolutions Committee and the Finance and Personnel Committee.

Corporation Counsel Southwick addressed the agenda item regarding requesting an opinion from the Attorney General about reducing the size of the County Board. Corporation

Counsel Southwick had been asked to provide advice regarding a request from three County Board Supervisors concerning the petition-referendum provisions set for in Wisconsin Statutes, section 59.10 (3) (cm) dealing with changing the size of the County Board. It was Corporation Counsel Southwick's opinion that the petition-referendum procedure set forth in that section is not applicable to Richland County. Richland County is a self-organized county per section 59.10 (1). Section 59.10 (1) (a) is applicable to Richland County: "In counties with a population of less than 750,000 and more than one town, sub. (3) (a) to (c) applies." It is Corporation Counsel Southwick's opinion that subsection (cm) is not included in the above quoted language and is not applicable to self-organized counties such as Richland County.

Corporation Counsel Southwick stated that the proponents of changing the size of the County Board have two options. 1. Have the County Board adopt a resolution directing the Corporation Counsel to seek a formal opinion from the Wisconsin Attorney General on the question. 2. Wait until new supervisory districts are created by the County Board after the 2020 census.

Shaun Murphy-Lopez distributed information regarding 2005 Wisconsin Act 100 which made changes to Wisconsin Statute 59.10 (3) (cm). The Statute addresses changes in the size of county boards and the redistrict, readjust and change of the boundaries of supervisory districts. The Statute also addressed the petition and referendum process for decreasing the size of county boards.

Motion by Walsh, second by Cosgrove that a resolution be presented to the County Board directing Corporation Counsel Southwick to request an opinion from the Attorney General of Wisconsin on the following question: "Does the petition/referendum procedure set forth in Wisconsin Statutes, section 59.10(3)(cm) for reducing the size of a county board during the decade apply to counties which are self-organized under Wisconsin Statutes, section 59.10(a)". Motion carried.

Motion by Walsh, second by Pulvermacher to adjourn to Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Victor V. Vlasak
Richland County Clerk