

RICHLAND COUNTY CHAPTER 980 COMMITTEE

April 4, 2019

A meeting of the Richland County Chapter 980 Committee was held at 9:30 a.m. on April 4, 2019 in the Main Conference Room of the Community Services Building, 221 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Members Present: Tracy Thorsen, Mike Bindle and Lynn Newkirk.

Members Absent: Mary Collins Johnsrud, Benjamin Southwick and Scott Timm.

Others Present: Meghan Rohn.

Approve Agenda and Posting: Motion by Mike Bindl, seconded by Lynn Newkirk to approve the agenda and proper posting. Motion carried.

Consideration of Housing Options for Impending Release of Sex Offender: Tracy Thorsen has not heard back from the vendor interested in pursuing the purchase of the property located at 28564 Fruit Street in Gotham. As a result, a message was left with the vendor. Tracy Thorsen also noted she is alerted any time Zillow lists a new property in Richland County.

Lynn Newkirk shared a map of properties that are either owned by the county or are in the process of being acquired by the county. The map was reviewed by the committee and most of the properties consist of only land with a few exceptions. If there was a County owned property with a livable residence the County could potentially enter into a lease with the state. Discussion was held regarding what this process would look like and it was noted it would likely require the involvement of both the Corporation Council, Benjamin Southwick, and the County Board. Properties currently in the process of being acquired by the county were also discussed and Mike Bindl noted that he was informed that this process can take up to six months or more to be completed. Lynn Newkirk will send a list of the County owned properties so the committee so any properties that should be pursued can be referenced.

The option of placing an advertisement in the paper was discussed. As previously requested, Tracy Thorsen drafted an advertisement stating *“SEEKING RENTAL PROPERTY: Richland County is seeking a rural rental property on behalf of an adult male who would reside there. The residence must be located within the County. Year lease with guaranteed payment and option to renew! Please contact Tracy Thorsen (Health and Human Services) at 608-649-5935 for more details and residence requirements.”* At this point in time Tracy Thorsen recommended moving forward with placing the ad Shopping News. Lynn Newkirk questioned if the advertisement should be placed in the observer in addition to the Shopping News and the question was also raised as to how much information can be disclosed regarding the case if people call in response to the ad. It was determined that Tracy Thorsen would follow up with Benjamin Southwick and get his opinion in regards to both of these questions.

Motion by Mike Bindl, seconded by Lynn Newkirk to place an advertisement in the Shopping News seeking a rental property stating *“SEEKING RENTAL PROPERTY: Richland County is seeking a rural rental property on behalf of an adult male who would reside there. The residence must be located within the County. Year lease with guaranteed payment and option to renew! Please contact Tracy Thorsen (Health and Human Services) at 608-649-5935 for more details and residence requirements.”* Motion carried.

Tracy Thorsen reported she received a request from the defense attorney in the case to obtain the meeting minutes for this committee. Scott Timm had asked for the judge’s order to provide to the defense attorney as well. The attorney noted that another hearing would be held today and confirmed that Judge Sharp recused himself from the case and Judge Darcy Rood from Vernon County has been assigned as a replacement. Tracy Thorsen discussed the level of detail in the minutes and noted they outline the effort being put forth to accomplish the overall goal of the committee. Tracy Thorsen also noted that this particular defense attorney is pushing for counties to utilize their own properties to house these individuals due to the belief that it is the most expedient route. This is proving not to be the case.

Mike Bindl followed up on the property located at 31489 Town Hall Drive in Muscoda and there was confusion as to whether it was ever confirmed if the property was actually condemned. Tracy Thorsen was able to pull the property up on the Zillow website and the property is no longer listed for sale.

Tracy Thorsen will contact Jeanetta Kirkpatrick and inform her that an advertisement will be going into the paper and an email will be sent to the other County Board members informing them of the efforts of this committee. Meghan Rohn will also include Jeanetta Kirkpatrick on the minutes of any future meetings.

Adjourn: Tracy Thorsen contact members of the committee via email with information regarding the next meeting date and time once she has had an opportunity to speak with Benjamin Southwick. Motion by Mike Bindl, seconded by Lynn Newkirk to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Rohn

Confidential Administrative Secretary