

## **RICHLAND COUNTY CHAPTER 980 COMMITTEE**

**May 28, 2019**

A meeting of the Richland County Chapter 980 Committee was held at 9:00 a.m. on May 28, 2019 in the Main Conference Room of the Community Services Building, 221 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Members Present: Tracy Thorsen, Mike Bindl, Benjamin Southwick, Scott Timm (by phone), and Mary Collins Johnsrud.

Members Absent: Lynn Newkirk.

Others Present: Meghan Rohn.

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

Approve April 29, 2019 Richland County Chapter 980 Committee Minutes: Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Mary Collins Johnsrud to approve the April 29, 2019 Richland County Chapter 980 Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

Approve May 14, 2019 Richland County Chapter 980 Committee Minutes: Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Mary Collins Johnsrud to approve the May 14, 2019 Richland County Chapter 980 Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

Consideration of Housing Options for Impending Release of Sex Offender: Benjamin Southwick reported that he received the court minutes as well as hand written correspondence from Judge Rood. The hand written correspondence states that Richland County is not absolved of its obligation to find an alternative placement. The court minutes provided by the defense attorney however did state that Richland County would not be assessed any penalties.

Updates were provided regarding the property Larry Sebranek has been in contact with the committee about. Tracy Thorsen reported that she did speak with Larry Sebranek again to answer some additional questions and it was noted that the owners of the property are still thinking it over and have not made a decision at this point. Discussion was held regarding the main factor for many property owners is the potential risk to their reputation if things do not go well. Tracy Thorsen noted that she did receive one additional call in response to the newspaper advertisement. The caller did not identify themselves and asked generic questions, however it confirms the ads should continue to run. Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Mary Collins Johnsrud to continue to run advertisements in the local publications until an alternative placement is identified. Motion carried.

Updates were given regarding other potential leads. Tracy Thorsen reported she never received a call from Mr. Kaul and Benjamin Southwick noted he would be willing to send a letter since he is under the impression that Mr. Kaul may have an empty home that may be available. Mark Schmitz, a realtor from Madison with ties to the area continues to watch for potential properties. Scott Timm

spoke with Mr. Schmitz earlier in the month regarding a duplex, however there were issues with the septic and in the end the property did not work out.

The next court hearing is scheduled for June 11, 2019 to review the supervised release plan for the Ashland County placement. Benjamin Southwick explained that there are currently eight or nine tax delinquent properties that the counties is in the process of acquiring and ownership should be finalized around August. At that point in time the properties would typically be auctioned off, however if there was a suitable residence on one of the properties it would not need to be auctioned off and the County could potentially enter into a lease agreement. Benjamin Southwick will look into these properties and see if any of them currently have homes on them. The Building and Grounds Committee as well as the County Board would need to be involved in the process, so if an alternative placement is not identified by July this should be considered so that items can be placed on the appropriate agendas if needed.

Adjourn: The next meeting was scheduled for June 12, 2019 at 2:00pm in the main conference room of the Community Services Building. Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Mary Collins Johnsrud to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Rohn

Confidential Administrative Secretary