

RICHLAND COUNTY CHAPTER 980 COMMITTEE

February 18, 2020

A meeting of the Richland County Chapter 980 Committee was held at 2:30 p.m. on February 18, 2020 in the Main Conference Room of the Community Services Building, 221 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

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

Others Present: Meghan Rohn, Dane Kanable.

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

Approve February 5, 2020 Richland County Chapter 980 Committee Minutes: Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Mike Bindle to approve the February 5, 2020 Richland County Chapter 980 Committee Minutes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Housing Options for Impending Release of Sex Offender Richard Sugden: Tracy Thorsen gave an update regarding ongoing efforts being made by the committee to find a housing option for Mr. Sugden. At this point in time there have been no responses from local town clerks, vendors or any inquiries made resulting from the advertisements being run in the Shopping News. Benjamin Southwick noted an email was sent to all Richland County Board Supervisors and one response was received noting two possible landlords and these leads will be followed up on.

Tracy Thorsen contacted a landlord regarding a potential rental space above a bar in Bear Valley. She provided them with Scott Timm's contact information, however he has not been contacted at this time. Mary Collins Johnsrud noted this would most likely not be an option do to there being no cell service in that area.

Two County Board Members viewed the County owned Komar property that the Property Committee was requested to consider as a housing option. It was learned that while there is cell service, there is not a house on the property, only trailer homes. The septic system on the property is not in good condition, and several trees and trailers would need to be removed. Mike Bindle noted that after speaking with the Board Members who visited the property, it appears there is already a buyer interested in the property and it is not likely the County will be interested in pursuing this as an option. Tracy Thorsen noted this committee has the option to request that the Property Committee reconvene to finalize a decision.

Mike Bindle discussed a rural property located at 29626 County Highway B with a vacant single family home that the County may be taking ownership of. Benjamin Southwick discussed the timeline for the County acquiring the property, noting it would still be at least four months. If this option were pursued the committee would need to petition the court for a 120 day extension.

Discussion was held regarding the potential costs for bringing the Komar property up to a livable standard. Mike Bindle estimated the septic system could be upgraded for under \$10,000. Benjamin Southwick questioned if there are any cost sharing options through the State for initial expenses if the County pursued cleaning up the Komar property. Scott Timm stated that they are not able to purchase property and was not aware of any options of funding for up front expenses, however will follow up with his administration. Discussion was held regarding the option of the County possibly recouping the initial costs of up grading the property through the lease agreement, and this would also result in the property being more valuable for resale in the future. Scott Timm explained, on average, individuals remain on supervised release for between 2.5 to 3 years. Tracy Thorsen also informed the committee that Larry Sebranek contacted her with the name of some potential landlords, Gordon and Marsha Keller, and Tracy has an appointment to speak with them tomorrow and will let Lynn Newkirk know if they have any properties available.

Discussion was held regarding how the committee should proceed and it was determined the Property Committee should be requested to reconvene to finalize a decision regarding the Komar property and also be presented with information regarding the property located at 29629 County Highway B. If the Property Committee chooses to pursue the County Hwy B property, the next step would be petitioning the court for an extension until the County is able to obtain ownership of the property and enter into a lease agreement. Benjamin Southwick noted it may even be a possibility to make contact with the current owner, who resides in the state of Oregon, and see if an arrangement could be made to access the home before the County actually takes ownership. Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Mary Collins Johnsrud for Benjamin Southwick to request the Richland County Property Committee to reconvene to consider two property options for Chapter 980 placement. Motion Carried

Mary Collins Johnsrud suggested inquiring if the owner of the property located on County Highway B would be interested in paying the back taxes and then entering into a lease agreement with the State. Benjamin Southwick noted he would be willing to try and contact him. As follow up from the previous meeting, Mary Collins Johnsrud also confirmed it was not an option to utilize a monitoring bracelet to test functionality at potential properties.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 9, 2020 at 1:00p.m.

Adjourn: Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Lynn Newkirk to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Rohn

Confidential Administrative Secretary