

RICHLAND COUNTY CHAPTER 980 COMMITTEE

March 9, 2020

A meeting of the Richland County Chapter 980 Committee was held at 1:00 p.m. on March 9, 2020 in Conference Room C of the Community Services Building, 221 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Members Present: Tracy Thorsen, Mike Bindl, Benjamin Southwick, and Scott Timm (via phone).

Members Absent: Lynn Newkirk, Mary Collins Johnsrud.

Others Present: Meghan Rohn, Dane Kanable.

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

Approve February 18, 2020 Richland County Chapter 980 Committee Minutes: Motion by Ben Southwick, seconded by Mike Bindl to approve the February 18, 2020 Richland County Chapter 980 Committee Minutes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Housing Options for Impending Release of Sex Offender Richard Sugden: Tracy Thorsen updated the committee on the various ongoing strategies being utilized by the committee to identify a suitable housing option. To date, no responses have been received from the advertisements routinely being run in the newspaper, or from the correspondence that was sent to all local town boards clerks and County Board Supervisors. Ben Southwick was able to send a letter to Mr. Bradshaw, the owner of the property located on County Hwy B, inquiring if he would be interested in leasing the property. However, there was no response received. The County is still set to take ownership of the property in a few months.

The apartment located above a non-operational bar in Bear Valley was discussed. Scott Timm voiced several concerns about the property, and noted that while the bar is not operational at this time, it is for sale and there is the potential for it to be purchased and re-opened. Another cause for concern is a young couple, including a young woman, living within approximately 100ft of the apartment, as well as the son and 8-year-old grandson of the property owner living on an adjacent property. Discussion was held regarding the potential for this arrangement to raise the same concerns that the judge had with the previous property that was identified. The committee agreed that when everything is taken in consideration this property should not be pursued.

An update was provided regarding the County owned property referred to as the "Komar" property that the Chapter 980 Committee requested the Richland County Property Committee consider retaining ownership of for the purpose of providing a suitable housing option. Benjamin Southwick explained that three members of the Property Committee inspected the property, decided to advertise the property for sale, and it was determined there is already a buyer, Mr. Carpenter. Benjamin Southwick explained that this violated open meetings laws. After speaking with Junior Marshall, Chairman of the Property Committee, Benjamin Southwick noted it seems the Property Committee

members felt it was in the best interest of the County to not become a landlord and it would be best to sell the property, as is standard practice with tax deed properties. At this point in time, this property cannot be considered an option. Benjamin Southwick also spoke with Jeanetta Kirkpatrick and explained the potential of not located a housing option by the set deadline, or being granted an extension, and explained the consequences could be costly if the County is held in contempt of court and fines are issued.

Tracy Thorsen reported that the potential rental property located on 3784 County Hwy ZZ would have met the required criteria, however after learning the details of the agreement the owners were no longer interested. Dane Knable noted that he was approached by an individual who is considering purchasing a property located at 15262 Buften Hollow Rd, and entering into a lease agreement with the State, however he wanted some assurances of the agreement before moving forward with the purchase. Mike Bindl will have Lynn Newkirk review the property to ensure it meets all of the necessary requirements and also check cell service in the area. Benjamin Southwick discussed some options of various contingency agreements the buyer and seller could enter into. Dane Knable will give the individual both Tracy Thorsen and Benjamin Southwick's contact information. If they are in fact interested in pursuing purchasing the property, the committee should request an extension from the court.

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for March 23, 2020, at 1:00pm the Community Services Building.

Adjourn: Motion by Benjamin Southwick, seconded by Mike Bindl to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Rohn

Confidential Administrative Secretary