

March 2, 2021

NOTICE OF MEETING

Please be advised that the Richland Rules and Resolutions Committee will convene at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, March 4th, 2021, via teleconferencing at the webex.com link found below:

<https://richlandcounty.my.webex.com/webappng/sites/richlandcounty.my/meeting/download/ddc61d94f9334c50941d6ffd7ec74775?siteurl=richlandcounty.my&MTID=mdbb253c86151722113fc7fcb3e725b77>

Thursday, March 4th, 2021; 1:00 pm Central Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 182 442 2904

Password: richland

Join by phone: +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

Access code: 182 442 2904 #

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Notification
3. Agenda Approval
4. Previous Meeting Minutes
5. Discussion and possible action County Board Rule #6 regarding previous employees' appointments to committee, board and commissions
6. Celebrating Women's History Month
7. Recognition of Long Serving Municipal Elected Officials
8. Discussion and possible action regarding Survey on County Board Size
9. Discussion and possible action regarding resolution for retiring employees
10. Future Agenda Items
11. Adjournment

A quorum may be present from other Committees, Boards, or Commissions. No committee, board or commission will exercise any responsibilities, authority or duties except for the Rules and Resolutions Committee.

CC: Committee Members, Richland Observer, WRCO, Valley Sentinel, Bulletin Board and Our Files

RULES AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

AND ETHICS BOARD

February 4th, 2021

The Rules and Resolutions Committee and Ethics Board met on Thursday, February 4th, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. virtually.

Committee members present included: Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Chad Cosgrove, Kerry Severson, Melissa Luck and Donald Seep.

Also present was:

Committee Chair Murphy-Lopez called the meeting to order.

The Administrator 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 a copy was emailed to Fruit Broadcasting, LLC.

Motion by Cosgrove, second by Luck that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

Motion by Luck, second by Seep for approval of the minutes for the previous meeting. Motion carried.

5. County Board Rule #18 regarding the taking and recording of minutes – Motion by Murphey-Lopez, second by Seep to table. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

6. Celebrating Black History Month — Motion Seep, seconded by Cosgrove to present a resolution to the County Board celebrating Black History Month. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding County Board Size and Committee Functions and Structure

Motion by Luck, seconded by Cosgrove to receive and file information on the County Board's size. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

Motion by Luck, seconded by Seep to develop a survey asking County Board members to give input on their preference for the future size and organization of the Richland County Board. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

8. Future agenda items — Process on brining resolutions of appreciation for employees. Appreciation for employees, resolution recognizing.

9. Motion by Seep, seconded by Cosgrove, adjourn to Thursday March 4th on WebEx, All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Richland County Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Amendment to Rule 6

Department	Administration	Presented By:	Administrator
Date of Meeting:	04 Mar 2021	Action Needed:	Resolution
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Committee Structure (C)
Date submitted:	01 Mar 2021	Referred by:	

Recommendation and/or action language:

Motion to...amend Rule 6 of the Richland County board to include language to address appointments of previous employees.

Background: *(preferred one page or less with focus on options and decision points)*

In the process of assigning members to Richland County committees, boards and commissions, there are occasional situations where a previous employee of the County is interested in serving on a committee that oversees a department where they previously worked. This leads to a situation where concerns of impacts from previous personal relationships may outweigh the advantage of having a committee, board, or commission member with direct experience with the department.

(Please reference rule amendment below)

Attachments and References:

Proposed Amendments – Rule 6	
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Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

(summary of current and future impacts)

Approval:

Review:

Clinton Langreck

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)

Richland County Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Rule 6

The Chair shall preserve order and decorum and decide all questions of order, subject to appeal to the Board. The Chair shall, after receiving the advice of the committee on committees, appoint all committees subject to confirmation by the Board by motion. The following committees shall be elected by a majority of those present by ballot:

Committee on Committees; the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be automatic members;

Highway and Transportation Committee;

Pine Valley Board of Trustees.

The first ballot for any committee seat shall be an informal ballot. Each succeeding ballot shall be a formal ballot and supervisors may only vote in formal ballots for all persons who have received the top three numbers of votes on the informal ballot for that seat.

In the event of a prolonged, unexcused absence of a Supervisor or citizen member of a committee, board or commission, the chair of that committee, board or commission shall notify the County Board Chair of the absence. Except as to the Highway Committee and the Board of Trustees of Pine Valley Community Village, the County Board Chair shall have the authority to make a temporary appointment upon the prolonged, unexcused absence of any Supervisor or citizen member of any committee, board or commission, after the approval of such appointments by of the County Board. Such temporary appointments shall cease upon the return of the absent member. Permanent vacancies of a citizen member seat on a committee, board, or commission, except the Board of Trustees of Pine Valley Community Village, the Veterans Service Commission and the Commission on Aging, shall be filled by the County Board after receiving the recommendation of the supervising committee, board or commission which shall have solicited nominations for the vacancy by a two consecutive week notice in The Richland Observer, which notice shall also be posted on the County's website.

No supervisor or citizen members shall serve on a committee, board or commission charged with oversight of a department in which the supervisor, or citizen member served the department as an employee, without having separated from employment with the department two years prior to their assignment to such committee, board or commission.

No Supervisor or citizen member shall serve without interruption for the equivalent of more than 3 consecutive, 2-year terms on any committee, board or commission. An individual who has served as a citizen member of a committee, board or commission who becomes a Supervisor is eligible to serve as a Supervisor member of the same committee, board or commission for not to exceed 6 years. A supervisor who has served on a committee, board or commission and who ceases being a Supervisor is eligible to be appointed as a citizen member of the same committee, board or commission for not to exceed 6 years.

The first section of this paragraph does not apply to:

- (a) committees elected by ballot and members serving on a related State board of committee;
- (b) citizen members of the Fair and Recycling Committee;
- (c) statutory 3-year terms of members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment;
- (d) service on committees, boards or commissions for a term of less than 3 years in length;

Richland County Committee

Agenda Item Cover

(e) service by a Supervisor for a partial Supervisory term.

Except for committees elected by ballot and members serving on a related State board or committee, no Supervisor or citizen member shall serve without interruption for the equivalent of more than three consecutive, two year terms on any committee or board, commencing in April, 1976. This limitation shall not apply to the statutory 3-year terms of members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Service on all committees, boards and commissions for term of less than 3 years in length shall not be counted for the purposes of this Rule, nor shall service by a Supervisor for a partial Supervisory term be counted.

Richland County Rules & Resolutions Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Women's History Month

Department	n/a (County Board)	Presented By:	Shaun Murphy-Lopez
Date of Meeting:	3/4/21	Action Needed:	Resolution
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Committee Structure, Section D
Date submitted:	3/1/21	Referred by:	None

Recommendation and/or action language:

Recommend a motion, to present a resolution to the County Board celebrating Women's History Month.

Background:

March is Women's History Month, an annual observance remembering the contributions and achievements of women over the course of history in a variety of fields. Historian Crystal Foley of the Richland County History Room has summarized notable contributions and achievements of Richland County women:

- The most notable is Ada L. James (1876-1952), daughter of David Goodrich James and Laura A. Briggs James. She and both of her parents were instrumental both locally and statewide in campaigning and organizing for women's suffrage. She also worked as a social worker for Richland County for many years and contributed to child and family assistance programs very early in Richland County, probably 1920s through 1940s. The Richland County History Room has information on her. Also the Wisconsin State Historical Society has several boxes of her papers because when she died in 1952 the Richland County History Room did not exist. There is a historical marker dedicated to her in Krouskop Park next to the 4-way stop sign.
- Dr. Bertha Reynolds (1868-1961) was a long-time doctor in the Lone Rock area. She delivered many babies on both sides of the Wisconsin River and had a practice in Lone Rock and then Avoca. It was rumored that before he was famous, Charles Lindbergh was a pilot who would travel around the country doing shows at fairs and other programs. One time Dr. Reynolds needed to get across the Wisconsin River and there was a flood or something preventing her from getting across so Charles Lindbergh gave her a ride across the river and back. There is a historical marker dedicated to her near the fire station in Lone Rock.
- Mary Maria Cook Speidel (1848-1931). Sebastian Spiedel, was a jeweler in Richland Center. When he died, his son, Charles took over. Charles' widow, Mary Spiedel, became the first woman licensed watch repairer in the country. Her daughter, Edna Spiedel Pier became the second woman licensed watch repairer in the country.
- Margaret Helen Scott (1898-1994) wrote quite a few books about the history of Richland Center and Richland County and she was the first historian at the Richland County History Room, which she organized starting in 1969. She was also a teacher, librarian, and artist.
- Eno Downs Jones Renney (1876-1933) and Emelia E. Snyder (1906-1968) were both local artists.
- Another early woman doctor was Dr. Sarah A. Thomas Elliott. She studied at Colorado State University around 1896. Her husband, Dr. T.B. Elliott was also a doctor. She studied after he died. She interned in Chicago around 1901 and practiced in Richland Center after that. Other times she studied 1907 in Vienna, Austria.

Obituaries of each of these women are included in the attachment.

Richland County Rules & Resolutions Committee

Agenda Item Cover

A Resolution Celebrating Women's History Month

WHEREAS the County Board wants to join in the celebration of March as Women's History Month, which has been celebrated across the country since March 1987, when Congress first designated it, and

WHEREAS women have struggled with adversity to achieve full inclusion in American society, and

WHEREAS notable Richland County women such as Ada James, Dr. Bertha Reynolds, Mary Speidel, Margaret Scott, Eno Renney, Emelia Snyder, and Dr. Sarah Elliott have made contributions to that struggle, and

WHEREAS unnamed women across many centuries have held careers and raised families in Richland County, and,

WHEREAS the Richland County History Room educates residents about the history of our county.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Richland County Board of Supervisors that the County Board hereby celebrates March as Women's History Month, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board encourages residents to learn about and embrace the historical contributions of women in Richland County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

Attachments and References:

Attachment: Obituaries of Notable Richland County Women

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

Approval:

Review:

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)

Ada James, Well Respected Citizen, Dies



A long and useful life came to a close Monday night, September 29th, when Miss Ada James, 76, answered the final call and passed away at her home, 383 East Haseltine street, following a long illness.

Miss James' life, or the greatest share of it, had been devoted to doing kindly deeds to the less fortunate and her passing will be keenly felt by those she aided, as well as the entire city and county. She was a prominent leader in civic affairs and also in club life, belonging to many worthy organizations in the city. She was a prominent leader in the Woman's Suffrage movement, prominent in political as well as city affairs and gained state wide praise for her worthy deeds.

Miss James was active in temperance circles, served as chairman of the Salvation Army fund drive in this county and at one time was a member of the Richland Center Police Commission. Rooms in the building she owned on E. Court street were made available by her for the use of the youth of the community as a recreation center.

The D. G. James Memorial Fund, started in November 1922, was administered by Miss James. This fund was set aside as a trust fund to care for needy and deserving children and widows as well as to aid young persons in their education. Many received aid from this fund which helped them to take college work or training in other fields of education giving them a start in life which they otherwise would not have received.

Miss James was a descendant of one of Richland Center's pioneer families, her grandfather George H. James, coming here in 1855 and some seven years later opened a hardware store which in later years was owned and operated by Miss James' father D. G. James. The James residence on East Haseltine street has been the home of Miss James during her entire life. The last few years her companion has been the former Richland county public health nurse, Miss Mary Ahlhorn.

Surviving are two nephews, James E. Brindley, Richland Center mayor, and Richard Brindley, La Crosse; three nieces, Mrs. Dan Young, Richland Center, Mrs. F. G. Cook, Hillsboro, and Mrs. Theodore Stark, Minneapolis; a brother-in-law E. E. Brindley and a sister-in-law Mrs. O. B. James, Richland Center.

Ada L. James was born March 23, 1876, in Richland Center, to David G. and Laura Briggs James. She attended the Richland Center schools graduating in 1894, later teaching in the Richland Center schools. Miss James never married but continued to live in the old home until her death.

Funeral services are to be held at the Lunenschloss-Doudna Funeral Home this Thursday afternoon with Glen Turner officiating at the Unitarian service. Burial will be in the family lot in the Richland Center cemetery.

The family has made a request that there be no flowers but will accept gifts to be placed in the cancer fund.

In Memoriam

The real measure of a successful life is not in terms of length of life but how well it is lived! Many know the greatness of character and intellect of Miss Ada James. Character is essentially the thought of an individual translated into terms of social action.

The secret—if it be a secret—of Miss James' long and successful career in many lines of endeavor, will be found in her vision and breadth of mind; in an unquenchable faith in her neighbor and in love for all with whom she came in contact. Not interested in creeds and doctrines, she was most tolerant toward all religious faiths. Her consuming passion and desire was for the upright life and to help her fellow man to better living.

Hundreds have been helped by Miss James, by good advice, by financial aid, by untiring daily work as Chairman of the Richland County Children's Board. This was her chosen work and she never failed those who came to her for aid.

To we who worked with her during the past years, as Board members and Welfare workers, we pen this memorial with knowledge of her interest and devotion in the problems of the needy of our county. In our love and respect for her we rejoice at this time for the privilege of working with her. Through our contacts with her she has built in our lives a monument that will never be torn down. We cherish her memory with love and gratitude and know she will live on with us as well as with those she befriended, in whose interest she devoted her life.

Children's Board. Kittie Weitzel, Ray Lawton, Helen Thomson, Joe Seep, P. L. Lincoln, Lucile Edwards, Amos Peckham, Dr. Bertha Reynolds, Hattie Loveless.

Welfare Department. Eleanor Starr, Dollie Johnson, Beatrice Hurlless, Edith Pier, Catherine Recob.

Dr. Bertha Reynolds, Favorite County Doctor in Area, Dies



DR. BERTHA REYNOLDS

LONE ROCK—Dr. Bertha Reynolds, 93, one of the most beloved country doctors in area medical history, died Tuesday (Oct. 31, 1961) in a Dodgeville hospital after a long illness.

Dr. Reynolds' career as a physician began in 1902 in the horse and buggy days, and she continued serving Lone Rock, Avoca, and Spring Green area patients for about 50 years.

After receiving her medical training at the University of Nebraska and the Women's Medical College, Chicago, Ill., she got her first job as assistant physician at a Prairie du Chien sanitarium. She took over her brother's Lone Rock practice in 1904, where she practiced until 1940 when she retired and moved to Avoca.

But her retirement was short-lived, and she soon returned to active practice when Avoca lost its resident physician.

Although her first calls were made with a horse and buggy, she soon graduated to a Model T and often had Lone Rock youths do her driving for her.

In many instances when roads were flooded she resorted to airplane travel to get to her patients. At one time she made an emergency call with a then unknown barnstorming pilot named Charles A. Lindbergh.

She was one of the physicians who worked through a 1918 influenza epidemic and the tornado of 1914, which kept her on the job without sleep for 40 hours.

Through the years Dr. Reynolds was awarded many honors for her medical service.

But perhaps the greatest triumph of all was the appreciation of the hundreds of people whom Dr. Bertha Reynolds brought into the world.

Funeral services will be held Friday morning at 10:00 a. m. at the Pratt Memorial Chapel with Rev. J. Leslie Leonard officiating. Burial will be in the Bear Valley Cemetery.

DEATH OF MARY SPEIDEL

Mrs. Mary M. Speidel, pioneer business lady of this city, died at her home in this city on March 25 at the age of 82 years. She had been in failing health for some time. Mrs. Speidel, whose maiden name was Mary Cook, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Cook, was born on November 10, 1848 in Newark, New York. At the age of 17 she came with her parents to this county and settled in the town of Rockbridge. On June 29, 1876, she was united in marriage to Charles Speidel and to this union five children were born, Clarence, who died in early boyhood, Mrs. Edna Pier, of Monrovia, California; Mrs. Edith Downs, Lester and Clyde Speidel, of this city. She also leaves one brother, John Cook, of International Falls, Minnesota, and two sisters, Mrs. Florence Brewer and Mrs. Etta Davis, of this city.

Mrs. Speidel for many years assisted her husband in the jewelry store and following his death kept on with the work with her son, Clyde.

Funeral services were held Sunday from the Pratt Funeral Home, Rev. Dawson, of the Episcopal church officiating. Burial was made in the city cemetery.

Margaret H. Scott

Margaret Helen Scott, 95, of Richland Center, died Tuesday, Mar. 29, 1994.

She was born Dec. 26, 1898 in Richland Center to Lena and John T. Scott. As a child she attended the old White School, the Southside School and the high school. During her high school days, she gave a lot of her time, helping her mother take care of her invalid brother, John Jr. who died at nine years of age in 1911.

Her educational career was: University of Wisconsin B.A., 1921, University of California, teacher's certificate, 1932, and Chicago University M.A., 1943.

Her professional career: 1921-1923, teacher of history and English, Ladysmith High School and librarian; 1923-1929, teacher of English in the Richland Center High School; 1935-1936, teacher of English in the Baraboo Junior High; 1936-1937, teacher of history and librarian, Marion, Ala.; 1937-1943, assistant librarian, Talladega College, Talladega, Ala.; 1944-1945, opened a library in a coal company town in Stone, Ky.; 1945-1947, school, city and county librarian, Lapeer, Mich.; and 1948-1966, librarian, Talladega College, Talladega, Ala.

During her years at Talladega College, she set up a library in the poorest of areas. She also asked the college for a bookmobile, to take books out to the very poor black schools.

During the years before retirement, she wrote poetry, painted, and took many slides with her camera.

She retired in 1964 and moved back to Richland Center. In the first three years, she spent indexing 152 years of the local newspapers. It was also during this time, she organized the Historical Room at the A. Keith Brewer Library. She gave 10 years to this project. In 1978, the room was named in her honor. Also during this time, she started working on her first book, "Richland Center, Wisconsin, A History". Then four more books followed: "The Place Names of Richland County", "Glory to Thy Name", "The Role of the River" and "Energy's Footprints", and "Say Ah, A Hundred Years of Medicine in Richland County."

In 1979, Margaret moved to Schmitt Woodland Hills. She was asked by Bruce Barrett if she would write about the Warehouse, here in Richland Center that was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. She did, and "The Warehouse" became her sixth book. She has another book now being printed at The Richland Observer. This book is about her life in the south, and is called "The Miracles of Dixie".

She was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, member of the Gray



Margaret Helen Scott

Ladies for 21 years, honorary member of Delta Kappa Gamma for many years, and the Coterie group for many years.

Margaret has had many articles written about her in The Richland Observer. She has received many awards and honors for her writings. She said she had a wonderful life, and she did.

To her family, she was known as "Auntie".

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother.

Survivors include her sister, Agnes Erma Morton; two nieces, Margaret Ann (Paul) Foster and Marydith Mae Paulson; great-nieces and nephews, Sandra and Bob Totten, Mark and Sandy Paulson, David Paulson, Paula Whitehurst, Scott Foster, Cindy and Bill Jacobson, Kevin and Gina Foster; great-great-nieces and nephews, Lisa and Curtis Waltz, Julie, Paige and Molly Paulson, Emily and Mark Jr. Paulson, Heather Whitehurst, Thia, Dow, Brandon and Nicole Foster, and Chad Jacobson and numerous good friends.

Funeral services will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church at 11 a.m. Saturday, Apr. 2, 1994 with Rev. Jim Wilson and Sara Chaney co-officiating. Burial will be in the Richland Center Cemetery. Friends may call at the Pratt Memorial Chapel on Friday, Apr. 1 from 5-8 p.m. and at the church from 10 a.m. until service time Saturday. Memorials may be made to Trinity United Methodist Church.

—Word was received in the city recently of the death at Huston, Texas, of Mrs. Frank J. Renney, who will be remembered here as Miss Eno Downs, a former resident of this city for many years. Mrs. Renney was 57 years of age and is survived by her husband and one son Buford. Funeral services were held at Huston and burial made there.

Emelia Snyder Dies Sunday

Miss Emelia E. Snyder, 62, lifelong resident of the immediate area, died Sunday at the Richland Hospital, where she had been a patient since Wednesday, when she was taken suddenly ill.

Miss Snyder, who lived most of her life on a farm just northwest of the city, was a recognized artist, having been mentioned in a Life Magazine article in 1941, and having received firsts in several local and area contests. Only last week her name was included among the winners in the Hill and Valley Regional Art show.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at 3 p.m. at the Pratt Memorial Chapel with the Rev. Louis Stoker officiating. Burial was in the Richland Center cemetery.

Republican Observer 4-Dec-1913 - p. 12

—Dr. Sara Elliott, formerly of this city, died Wednesday last at West Palm Beach, Florida, where she had been for some time past. Mrs. Elliott was well known here and had many friends in this city and county. The body was brought to Lone Rock where funeral services were held Sunday, burial being made in the Button cemetery in the town of Buena Vista.

Richland County Rules & Resolutions Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Recognition of Long Serving Municipal Elected Officials

Department	n/a (County Board)	Presented By:	Shaun Murphy-Lopez
Date of Meeting:	3/4/21	Action Needed:	Resolution
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Committee Structure, Section D
Date submitted:	3/1/21	Referred by:	None

Recommendation and/or action language:

Recommend a motion, to present a resolution to the County Board recognizing the contributions of long-serving municipal board members in Richland County.

Background:

Recently State Senator Howard Marklein recognized Richland County resident Marilyn Williamson for her service as the Town of Eagle Treasurer for 34 years. Subsequently, clerks in each of Richland County's 16 townships, five villages, and one city were contacted to determine if any other elected officials have served their municipality for 20 or more years. Richland County official directories were also consulted in the County Clerk's office, to verify or fill in missing information.

The longest serving municipal official in Richland County is the Town of Sylvan Clerk Judy Murphy, who has been in office since 1975 (46 years). Other elected officials who have served more than 40 years include Yuba President Jim Huffman (44 years), Yuba Treasurer Janet Bladl (44 years), Orion Treasurer Judy Shadewald (42 years), Westford Treasurer Sonya Klang (42 years), and Yuba Trustee Ron Bladl (42 years).

These elected officials, as well as additional people listed in the chart below, have earned our respect and gratitude for their years of dedication to the residents of Richland County.

Municipality	Individual	Years Served	Role
Town of Bloom	Calvin Brown	30	Chair (1991 – present)
Town of Eagle	Marilyn Williamson	34	Treasurer (1985 – 2019)
Town of Henrietta	Verlin Coy	34	Chair (1987 – present)
Town of Marshall	Steven Chupp	23	Supervisor (1998 – present)
Town of Marshall	Jerome Durst	20	Chair (2001 – present)
Town of Orion	Judy Shadewald	42	Treasurer (1979 – present)
Town of Richland	David Jelinek	28	Supervisor (1993 – 2015); Chair (2015 – present)
Town of Rockbridge	Scott Banker	30	Supervisor (1991 – 1997); Chair (1997 – present)

Richland County Rules & Resolutions Committee

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Town of Rockbridge	Don Clark	28	Supervisor (1993 – present)
Town of Sylvan	Judy Murphy	46	Clerk (1975 – present)
Town of Westford	Sonya Klang	42	Treasurer (1979 – present)
Town of Westford	John Scheahan	34	Supervisor (1987 – 2021)
Village of Boaz	Jean Nicks	21	Trustee (2000 – 2014), President (2014 – present)
Village of Cazenovia	Mike Adelman	38	Trustee (1983 – present)
Village of Cazenovia	Steve Bauer	30	Trustee (1991 – present)
Village of Cazenovia	Tim Hanco	33	Trustee (1988 – present)
Village of Cazenovia	Robin Landsinger	20	Clerk (2000 – present)
Village of Cazenovia	Mary Shields	20	Treasurer (2000 – present)
Village of Viola	Kent Kanable	23	Trustee (1998 – present)
Village of Yuba	Janet Bladl	44	Treasurer (1973 – 2017)
Village of Yuba	Ron Bladl	42	Trustee (1978 – 2020)
Village of Yuba	Jim Huffman	44	Trustee (1977 – 2001) President (2001 – 2021)

Attachments and References:

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

Approval:

Review:

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)

Richland County Rules & Resolutions Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Survey on County Board Size

Department	n/a (County Board)	Presented By:	Shaun Murphy-Lopez
Date of Meeting:	3/4/21	Action Needed:	Resolution
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Committee Structure, Section E
Date submitted:	3/1/21	Referred by:	None

Recommendation and/or action language:

Recommend a motion to postpone indefinitely the development of a survey asking County Board members to give input on their preference for the future size of the Richland County Board.

Background:

At the February meeting of the Rules and Resolutions Committee, the committee passed a motion to develop a survey asking County Board members to give input on their preference for the future size and organization of the Richland County Board. This survey was intended to fulfill the schedule adopted in Resolution No. 21-17, which established a timeline for drawing supervisory district boundaries during the 2021 redistricting process (creating new supervisory districts for the years 2022 through 2031).

Since the last meeting, the Wisconsin Counties Association has issued information indicating they will be proposing a revised timeline to the State Legislature and Governor, effectively delaying redistricting efforts for two years. Due to this potential change in schedule, the development of a survey regarding Board size is no longer timely. However, a survey regarding organization of the County Board may still be appropriate, as the County continues to transition to an Administrator form of government.

Depending upon developments with state statutes regarding redistricting, a repeal of Resolution No. 21-17 may also be in order at this or future committee meetings.

Attachments and References:

Attachment A: Legal Memorandum
Attachment B: Proposed WCA Timeline

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

Approval:

Review:

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)

LEGAL MEMORDANDUM

TO: Mark D. O'Connell, Executive Director
Kyle Christianson, Director of Government Affairs
Marcie Rainbolt, Government Affairs Associate
Wisconsin Counties Association

FROM: Andrew T. Phillips and Bennett J. Conard
von Briesen & Roper, s.c.

RE: 2021 Redistricting Process and Census Delay

DATE: February 11, 2020

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Census Bureau (the "Bureau") adjusted its 2020 operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in delays to the Bureau's reporting and publishing of data ("P.L. data") necessary to redistrict at the county and municipal levels of government. The P.L. data is typically received no later than April 1, but now is not expected until at least July 30, 2021. Because of these delays, counties will not be able to commence the redistricting process within the timeframe required by statute, and, depending on the extent of the delay, counties may be unable to complete the redistricting process prior to the December 1 deadline for filing nomination papers for the 2022 spring election.

This memorandum provides a brief overview of the statutory deadlines in the county redistricting process, the difficulties faced by counties due to the delayed release of the P.L. data, and potential options to address these issues.

ANALYSIS

A. Key Federal Deadlines

In the typical redistricting process, the Bureau must provide states with the P.L. data no later than March 31 of the year following the census (*i.e.*, March 31, 2021 for the 2020 census). 13 U.S.C. 141(c). However, the Bureau has announced it will not be able to provide the P.L. data until at least July 30, 2021.¹ Importantly, the Bureau has indicated July 30 is the earliest the P.L.

¹ <https://www.npr.org/2021/01/27/961247853/census-numbers-for-dividing-up-house-seats-delayed-until-april-30-bureau-says>

data would be released and has not provided any indication of when counties may actually expect receipt of the P.L. data.

B. State Statutory Deadlines for Counties

1. Step 1 – County Tentative Plan (60 days, but no later than July 1)

The county and municipal redistricting process commences once the state receives the P.L. data and the data is made available to counties. Wis. Stat. § 59.10(3)(b)1. When the P.L. data becomes available, every county has 60 days to create a tentative redistricting plan,² hold a public hearing³ on the tentative plan, and adopt the tentative plan (collectively, “Step 1”). Wis. Stat. § 59.10(3)(b)1. However, Wis. Stat. § 59.10(3)(b)1. also contains a hard deadline of July 1 to complete Step 1 in its entirety (*i.e.*, not simply commence Step 1 by the July 1 deadline). Obviously, the July 1 deadline is impossible for counties to meet given the P.L. data will not be released until sometime after July 30, 2021.

2. Step 2 – Creation of Municipal Wards (60 days)

Counties must then transmit the tentative plan and also a written statement regarding the proposed location of wards to each municipality within the county. Wis. Stat. § 59.10(3)(b)1. Each municipality must then create wards or adjust its ward lines in accordance with the tentative county plan⁴ within 60 days of receipt of the tentative plan (“Step 2”). Wis. Stat. § 59.10(3)(b)2.

3. Step 3 – Adoption of Final County Plan (60 days)

Finally, every county board must hold a public hearing⁵ and adopt a final supervisory district plan within 60 days after every municipality in the county completes Step 2 (“Step 3”). Wis. Stat. § 59.10(3)(b)3. During a typical redistricting process, Step 3 would be completed no later than the end of October. This then gives county clerks sufficient opportunity to prepare for the nomination paper circulation period for the next spring election (the first election utilizing the new districts). The nomination paper circulation period commences on December 1. Wis. Stat. § 8.02.

² The tentative plan must set forth the number of supervisory districts proposed by the board and tentative boundaries or a description of boundary requirements. Wis. Stat. § 59.10(3)(b)1.

³ The public hearing is subject to the Class 3 notice requirements in Wis. Stat. § 985.07, which would require three insertions in the county’s official newspaper.

⁴ Municipalities are not required to strictly comply with the county’s tentative plan, but must (1) make a good faith effort to accommodate the tentative plan for the county or counties in which it is located; and (2) to divide itself into wards in a way that permits the creation of supervisory districts that conform to the population requirements of the tentative plan.

⁵ Like the public hearing on the tentative plan, the public hearing on the final plan is subject to the Class 3 notice requirements in Wis. Stat. § 985.07, which would require three insertions in the county’s official newspaper

C. Consequences for Failure to Adhere to Statutory Deadlines

While there are no direct penalties associated with missing the July 1 statutory deadline discussed above, there are a multitude of consequences and downstream effects that will result from not completing the redistricting process in time.

As mentioned above, the nomination paper circulation period for the 2022 Spring election commences on December 1. The existing county redistricting plan will remain in effect if the redistricting process is not completed prior to this date. See Wis. Stat. § 59.10(3)(b)4. (providing that a final redistricting plan remains in effect until the plan is superseded by a subsequent plan enacted pursuant to statute and filed with the Secretary of State). This scenario would be problematic for several reasons, including:

1. County supervisors are required to be qualified electors and residents of their respective districts. If redistricting is completed after the nomination paper deadline for the 2022 spring election, there could be situations in which candidates for certain districts are no longer residents of their district based on the new redistricting plan. Likewise, if the process is completed after the spring election, county supervisors may be deemed to have vacated their office if they are no longer a resident of their district under the new redistricting plan. Wis. Stat. § 17.03(4)(c).
2. Possible legal challenges for failure to comply with the statutory deadlines for redistricting.
3. Possible legal challenges under constitutional redistricting principles (*i.e.*, “one person, one vote” principles) if existing supervisory districts no longer satisfy constitutional tests based on new P.L. data.

D. Potential Solutions.

There are potential solutions to the problems identified above, but implementation would require amendments to existing statutes. While there are additional avenues to explore, in light of the Bureau’s inability to provide a definitive deadline for delivery of the P.L. data, it seems the best solution may be to postpone the redistricting process.

CONCLUSION

Due to delays in the 2020 U.S. census process, counties will not be able to commence the redistricting process within the timeframe required by statute, and, depending on the extent of the delay, completion of the redistricting process prior to the December 1 deadline for filing nomination papers for the 2022 spring election may be impossible. A statutory change is required to address this issue so that counties and municipalities do not run afoul of their statutory duties and also to avoid downstream consequences resulting from the failure to redistrict in the time provided under current law.

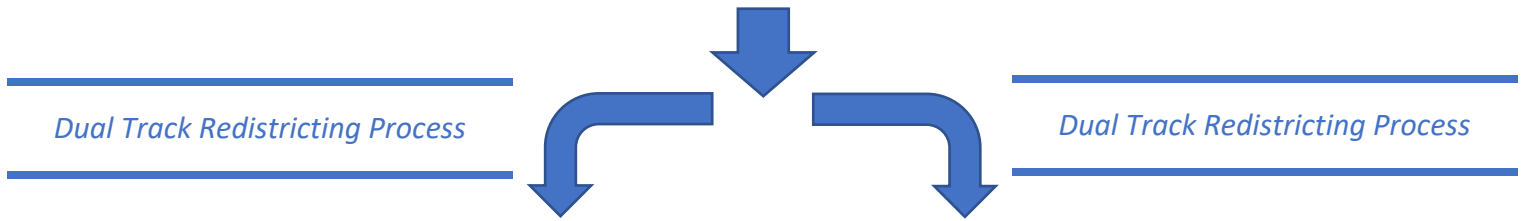
If you have any questions surrounding this memorandum, please do not hesitate to contact us. We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the Association and its member counties.

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Redistricting Changes

Key Dates and Proposed Timeline

Release of P.L. Data expected by September 30



Counties and Municipalities

Legislature

09/30/2021	Counties may begin Phase 1 (tentative plan)	Legislature begins state redistricting process
11/23/2021	Publication of Type A Notice for 2022 Spring Elections (using current districts and wards)	
12/01/2021	2022 Spring Election Nomination Papers	
02/28/2022	Deadline for Counties to complete Phase 1	
03/01/2022	Municipalities begin Phase 2 (adjustment of wards)	
04/01/2022	Deadline for completion of Legislative Redistricting	
04/05/2022	Spring Election (using current (2010) districts and wards)	
04/11/2022	Publication of Type A Notice for 2022 Fall General Elections (using new state districts)	
04/15/2022	2022 Fall General Election Nomination Papers	
05/15/2022	Deadline for Municipalities to complete Phase 2 New wards effective Spring 2023 for municipal elections	New wards take effect for state elections in fall 2022
06/01/2022	Counties begin Phase 3 (adoption of final county redistricting plan)	
06/12/2022	Ballots printed and mailed for fall primary (using new wards)	
08/01/2022	Deadline for Counties to complete Phase 3. New county districts take effect in Spring 2024	

Richland County Rules & Resolutions Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Resolutions for Retiring Employees

Department	n/a (County Board)	Presented By:	Shaun Murphy-Lopez
Date of Meeting:	3/4/21	Action Needed:	Resolution
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Committee Structure, Section D
Date submitted:	3/1/21	Referred by:	None

Recommendation and/or action language:

None recommended

Background:

At last month's Rules & Resolutions Committee meeting, Supervisor Severson suggested a future agenda item for retired employees who have not received resolutions of recognition from the County Board. Follow-up research indicated these employees were in the Highway Department. Highway Commissioner Roger Petrick is compiling a list of employees from past years who were not recognized and will contact Corporation Counsel Ben Southwick to request that resolutions be drafted for the County Board.

Attachments and References:

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

Approval:

Review:

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)