

Richland County

Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

October 10th, 2022

The Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee convened on Monday, October 10th, 2022, in the County Board Room at the Richland County Courthouse, 181 W Seminary Street, in person and by WebEx.

Committee members present included County Board Steve Carrow, Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Bob Frank, Dave Turk and Kerry Severson by Webex.

Also present was Assistant to the Administrator Cheryl Dull taking minutes, Administrator Clinton Langreck logged on by Web Ex with several department heads, county employees, general public, County Board Members and WRCO logged in by Web Ex. John Couey was present from MIS running the teleconferencing.

Not present: Todd Coppernoll and Erin Unbehaun

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Murphy-Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
2. **Proof of Notification:** Assistant to the Administrator Dull verified that the meeting had been properly noticed. Copies of the agenda were sent by email to all Committee members, County Board members, WRCO, County department heads, Richland Observer, Valley Sentinel and a copy was posted on the Courthouse Bulletin Board.
3. **Agenda Approval:** Chair Murphy-Lopez asked for approval of the agenda. Moved by Supervisor Frank to approve the agenda, second by Supervisor Turk. All voting aye, motion carried.
4. **Public Comments:** None
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Chair Murphy-Lopez asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes for the September 7th and September 27th meeting. Moved by Carrow to accept the minutes as present, 2nd by Frank. Motion carried.
6. **Video scripts:** Supervisor Turk has prepared and presented draft scripts. Discussion followed on the Shared Revenue and Levy Limits script with some possible adjustments suggested. The Committee Identified topics for future videos – Budget 101, What does County Government do?, How does Richland County treat it's employees? Which could be split into 2 separate topics, and Misconceptions. Supervisor Turk will turn the first 2 scripts into videos and bring back to the next meeting for review and then will start working on the ideas that have been shared tonight.
7. **Public education information report:**
 - a. Highway Department: Chair Murphy-Lopez has added education information on page 16 of the presentation. Discussion followed concerning the wheel tax, the highways budget and some ideas were contributed to add to the education information.
 - b. UW-Richland: Chair Murphy-Lopez added in a couple charts concerning enrollment created from information he received as a result of his open records request he made a couple months ago. He also added the percent of state support decrease and information on the list of staff positions are no longer filled on page 16.
 - c. Departmental staffing comparison with other counties:
 - i. Addition of Iowa County: Chair Murphy-Lopez updated the staffing chart on page 20 adding in Iowa County.
 - ii. Health & Human Services Department detail: Chair Murphy-Lopez added in a Health and Human Services staff chart. There have been a lot of questions recently concerning the HHS staffing counts. Extensive discussion followed on staff counts, how they are staffed, how those are funded and if costs are paid to the county for the contracted staff. The staff count in the Classification will be updated after the next HHS & Veterans meeting on Thursday.
 - d. 5-year financial plan expense and revenue categories: New charts have been prepared but not yet added relating to 5-year financial plan. Chair Murphy-Lopez reviewed and explained the charts that are in the report and asked for feedback from the committee.
 - e. Other updates: Pine Valley proposed to cover their wage increases by increasing revenues. The Counties

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contingency fund will be almost depleted at the end of 2022 to balance the budget. The plan is to start putting money back into the contingency fund in 2027. Chair Murphy-Lopez pointed out a couple discrepancies due to the data for the Property Tax Levy being 2 months old when comparing the dollar amounts to what is in the resolutions.

Moved by Supervisor Carrow to adopt an updated public education information report to use in communicating with the public, committees, boards, agencies, and other bodies and called for discussion, 2nd by Supervisor Frank. All voting aye, motion carried.

8. Correspondence from committees:

- a. Richland Economic Development Board: The Board responses to Resolution was “they would like to stay with the current model”. Moved by Supervisor Frank to accept the 2 bullet points addressed to Richland Economic Development Board and add a 3rd bullet; 1) Research from other counties that have private funding for economic development including the amount of time it takes to raise funds and how the governing board is represented by private contributors., 2) Resolution 22-91 directs the RED Board to explore half of its budget coming from private sources, which amounts to approximately \$37,000 per year. We are seeking information about how much of that amount the RED Board would like to have placed on a referendum versus a permanent reduction in the RED budget., 3) Identify the private businesses that are supporting the Economic Development in other Counties., 2nd by Supervisor Turk. All voting aye, motion carried.
- b. Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee: Discussion was held concerning the response from Pine Valley to Administrator Langreck in reference to the Resolution. Moved by Supervisor Murphy-Lopez to request from Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee; 1) A copy of Pine Valley's 2023 proposed budget showing how proposed profits are being determined, including their amount and how proposed profits relate to other projected expenses and revenues., 2) Financial projections showing how proposed profits are being determined for the years 2024 – 2027, including their amount and how they relate to other projected expenses and revenues., 3) The current financial plan projects \$300,000 in profits from Pine Valley for each of the years 2023 – 2027. Resolution 22-92 directed Pine Valley to explore the possibility of increasing that amount to approximately \$740,000 per year. We are seeking information about how much of that \$440,000 difference the Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee would like to have placed on a referendum versus a permanent reduction in Pine Valley's property tax operating levy amount (i.e., increase to the profits returned to the general fund)., 2nd by Supervisor Frank. Moved by Carrow to amend the request to ask the Committee for the rationale for approximately \$1.2M in the Capital Fund, 2nd by Frank. All voting aye on the motion to amend, motion carried. All voting aye on the motion to approve the 3 bullet point plus the amended bullet point, motion carried.
- c. Public Works Standing Committee: The response to the Ad Hoc Committee was discussed. They questioned why the Courthouse maintenance budget wasn't reduced. Commissioner Elder stated, the public works committee decided to stick with the big departments to take the hit on the budget and leave the Courthouse budget alone as it is a small budget. Moved by Frank to request that the Public Works Committee respond the questions; 1) How proposed reductions to the property tax levy will be made in years 2025, 2026, and 2027, including the types of projects and purchases that will not be funded., 2) The Highway Department is already projecting a \$567,000 decrease to highway reconstruction projects by 2027 to fund increases employee wage and benefits. What is the total budget for highway reconstruction projects in the operating levy, and is it large enough to absorb additional reductions through 2027?, 3) The portion of the Courthouse Maintenance budget that may be included in reductions to the property tax levy., 4) Why MIS prioritized items in the 5-year financial plan over the purchase of new computers. (As detailed in item 08, page 2), 2nd by Supervisor Carrow. All voting aye, motion carried.
- d. Other committees:

9. Responses from the public to

- a. Sheriff's Department social media post: Chair Murphy-Lopez presented responses from the public. There were 39 shares and he couldn't see comments from those shares. Director Scott recommended a different format to share educational information so that the comments come back to one spot.
- b. Richland Observer article on Veterans Department: Chair Murphy-Lopez shared a newspaper article concerning the Veterans.

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c. WRCO interview: Supervisor Brewer did a morning show with Mayor Coppernoll. It is archive on WRCO's website if anyone wants to listen to it.

10. Report on presentations at:

- a. Richland Center City Council: Supervisor Turk present to the City Council. He shared the results and questions from that presentations. He also received several questions at the meeting concerning the ambulance.
- b. Symons Natatorium Board: Supervisor Frank presented to Symons. He reported the board was very surprised when they learned the Sheriff's department does not get revenue from the citations they write, the school district gets that revenue. Other fees such as court fees and jail fees go to other sources.

11. Presentation at Richland Center School Board: School Board President Unbehaun reported the next school board meetings are Oct 17 and Nov 7th and they will make room on the agenda if someone could present at either of those. Supervisor Carrow can do it at 7:00 pm on November 7th.

12. Future agenda items: None

13. Adjournment: Next meeting will be Monday, October 31st @ 6:30 pm in the County Board Room. Moved by Supervisor Carrow to adjourn at 8:18 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Frank. All voting aye, motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Cheryl Dull

Richland County Assistant to the Administrator