

Richland County

Rules & Strategic Planning Standing Committee

September 7, 2023

The Rules and Strategic Planning Standing Committee met on Thursday, September 7th, 2023, at 10:12 a.m. in the County Board Room at 181 W. Seminary Street via videoconference and teleconference.

1. Call To Order: Chair Turk called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

2. Roll Call: Clerk Kalish conducted roll call. Committee members present: Brewer, Glasbrenner, Gentes, Turk, and Fleming. Committee members absent: Cosgrove, Frank, and Seep.

4. Approval Of Agenda: Motion by Brewer second by Fleming to approve agenda. Motion carried and agenda declared approved.

5. Approval Of March 2, 2023 Minutes: Motion by Gentes second by Fleming to approve March 2, 2023 minutes. Motion carried and March 2, 2023 minutes declared approved.

6. Public Comments: No one present for Public Comment.

7. Discussion & Possible Action – Utilization Of Corporation Counsel: Attorney Windle stated he would like committee input on what tasks he should be completing as the county's Corporation Counsel and confirmation that he is providing services to county as expected. Administrator Pesch stated she is an advocate for a protocol to be in place that defines the utilization of Attorney Windle's service as Corporation Counsel. Consultant Hochkammer noted that a policy could be drafted that something should be in place. Discussion regarding the procedure for requesting use of Corporation Counsel's services continued. Administrator Pesch indicated her preference for a policy would include department head level interaction with oversight from the County Administrator as needed. Administrator Pesch will review topic further and present a draft policy to committee at a future meeting. No further action taken on agenda item at the meeting.

8. Discussion & Possible Action – County Board Rules Review: Administrator Pesch noted that many of the current Rules of the Board need updated as some do not align with parameters set forth in state statute or how the county currently operates. Turk stated he was in favor of a review of the rules and Gentes noted a methodical approach to review the rules would be most efficient. Brewer questioned whether or not the review could be handled by current staff and Pesch replied that staff could complete first review. Consultant Hochkammer noted that the Rules of the Board affect many functions of the county and stated that a big picture review would also be helpful. Glasbrenner asked how the committee could help and Hochkammer replied by stating that basic feedback is helpful. Administrator Pesch noted that a systematic approach would be used to review the overall operations of the county and that a draft of the proposed rules changes could be completed by staff and brought back to committee for review. Attorney Windle noted there is an omission of enforcement with the current set of rules. Administrator Pesch will review rules and present proposed changes for committee review at a future meeting. No further action taken on agenda item at the meeting.

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9. Discussion & Possible Action – Strategic Plan Review: Troy Maggied of Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission briefly reviewed the status of and difference between the county’s current strategic and comprehensive plans. Maggied noted that there is remaining grant funding for projects within Richland County and a common theme is the improvement of relations between the city and county. Maggied stated that clarity from the county is needed to move forward with the comprehensive plan. Glasbrenner questioned the status of the extension and Maggied stated the extension was approved and notification was sent to staff no longer with the county. Administrator Pesch stated that further review is needed from she and Consultant Hochkammer to familiarize themselves with both plans as they stand. Committee requested the comprehensive plan be forwarded to full County Board for approval.

10. Discussion & Possible Action – Ethics Policy Review: Attorney Windle stated that the current ethics ordinance has no avenue for discretion and no standards for the establishment of a complaint. Attorney Windle also stated that he is in favor of the complainant having to identify an alleged violation of a specific provision within an ethics ordinance and emphasizing, but not requiring, the need for supporting documentation to substantiate a claim of violation. Discussion regarding complaint procedure followed. Administrator Pesch stated that some utilize a code of conduct that supervisors are expected to follow as officials of the county. Discussion regarding a code of conduct followed. Administrator Pesch will review topic further and present proposed changes to ethics ordinance to committee at a future meeting. No further action taken on agenda item at the meeting.

11. Discussion & Possible Action – Amendments To The Land & Zoning Standing Committee Structure: Wisconsin Act 32 was reviewed by committee. This act removed the requirement for a member of the Land & Zoning Standing Committee to be the Farm Services Agency (FSA) Chair or their designee. Motion by Glasbrenner second by Fleming to amend Land & Zoning Committee Structure to reflect the changes made with Wisconsin Act 32. Motion carried and amendment forwarded to full County Board for approval.

12. Future Agenda Items:

Glasbrenner: Determination of residency for county officials

3. Proof Of Notification: Clerk Kalish confirmed the meeting was properly noticed.

13. Adjournment: Motion by Brewer second by Fleming to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Derek S. Kalish
Richland County Clerk