

MARCH SPECIAL MEETING

March 12, 2024

Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 5 PM. Roll call found all members present except Supervisor(s) Miller, Luck, Gottschall, and Fleming.

Chair Brewer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Williamson, second by Frank for approval of the agenda. Motion carried and agenda declared approved.

Public Comment: None

Attorney Andy Phillips from Attolles Law, S.C. reviewed the proposed revisions to the Rules of the Board. Attorney Phillips reviewed section 2.05 (A) relating to the use of a committee on committees to populate committee member assignments. Use of the word “elect” or “appoint” was reviewed in Section 2.01 (A)(4). Discussion continued regarding the process in which individuals are selected for committees. To elect the committee on committees, Attorney Phillips suggested adding language that the election should occur by ballot with the five members receiving the most votes on the ballot being elected. Administrator Pesch clarified that each County Board member could receive a ballot that contained their name with the list of the other County Board Supervisors and votes for others could be tallied from that ballot. Attorney Phillips reviewed section 4.03 (A) relating to remote attendance at meetings. Supervisor Carrow noted the desire for cameras to be left on for those attending remotely. Glasbrenner questioned whether or not the remote attendance policy applied to all meetings or just those of the County Board and Administrator Pesch clarified that it applied to County Board meetings only. Supervisors Voyce and Couey expressed the need for flexibility in remote attendance. Attorney Phillips noted there was consensus to allow up to six instances of remote attendance at the regularly scheduled County Board meetings in a year, no such limitation on committee meetings, and Board Chair approval is needed to exceed six remote attendance occurrences in a year. Discussion continued regarding remote attendance at closed session meetings. Attorney Phillips noted a possible solution in allowing remote attendance at closed session meetings would be that those attending remotely shall be excused from closed session part of a meeting unless provided opportunity to remain by the Board Chair or Committee Chair. Supervisor Gentes inquired about the Public Comment section and the need for a sign-in sheet. Attorney Phillips stated he could add “must provide their name and address prior to beginning comment”. Attorney Phillips noted reviewed the proposed changes discussed in meeting:

2.05 (A):

Addition: “Such election shall occur by ballot with the five members receiving the most votes on the ballot being elected”.

4.03 (A)

Addition: “A Board Member authorized under these Board Rules to attend a meeting by remote communication (telephonic or video conference technology) shall be considered present for a meeting with full rights to participate and vote. A Board Member may attend no more than six regularly scheduled County Board meetings in any calendar year without the approval of the Board Chair in his or her sole discretion. There is no limitation on the number of committee meetings that a Board Member may attend by remote communication”. Addition: “if attending by video” and “unless granted permission to remain in the meeting by the Board Chair or Committee Chair”.

Supervisor Rynes inquired about the use of a calendar year and Attorney Phillips noted the language could be amended to change the timeframe from April 1st – March 31st.

2.01 (A)(4): Edit: appointed changed to elected

Attorney Phillips noted that Sections 3.01 (C) and (D) may need to be amended if you the proposed Committee Structure being reviewed later in meeting is adopted.

Motion by Cosgrove second by Seep to adopt the Board Rules as presented, with amendments discussed, and with any changes required after committee structure is adopted. Discussion continued. Supervisor Voyce questioned the hurry in making these changes now. Supervisor Carrow cited 4.06 (B) relating to debate and questioned whether or not the wording should be softened. Supervisor Rynes noted that the Board Rules should function as a tool for the Board Chair. Motion carried and Board Rules adopted as noted above.

Attorney Phillips reviewed the proposed revised Richland County Board Committee Structure. Attorney Phillips noted that the revised committee structure is clearer in authority, function, and reporting. Supervisor Voyce noted she was not in favor of Pine Valley being a subcommittee and Supervisor Seep noted that there is a tradition in County Board control in the Pine Valley enterprise and is opposed to drastic management and oversight changes. Supervisor McKee noted that he agreed with Supervisor Seep and that it should remain as a stand-alone committee. Supervisor Rynes noted he doesn't understand the concerns as the new structure contains more oversight. Supervisor Gentes noted that the facilities would not have been built in the green manner without active County Board involvement. Supervisor Frank questioned if any members of the public would like to comment. Therese Deckert noted she has a hard time in understanding another layer of oversight and questioned whether or not it would delay keeping things moving forward. Administrator Pesch provided clarification on the movement of items from committee to County Board and noted that Pine Valley does not currently function as a statutory Board of Trustees but does function as a committee. Attorney Phillips noted that the current governance of Pine Valley under the Board of Trustees model is antiquated and given it is now operating as a committee, it should have the corresponding label of committee to be consistent with statutory requirements. Supervisor Voyce stated she felt the current HHS committee already has several things on their agenda and Supervisor Glasbrenner responded by stating that HHS committee meetings are getting shorter and more time is available to learn about other departments as less micromanaging is occurring. Supervisor Manning stated he had not heard a single reason why the Board shouldn't move forward and questioned what there was to lose. Supervisor Seep suggested the possibility of a Public Hearing before the structure is changed. Supervisor Turk noted that the discussion in this meeting is about committee structure and not fundamentally altering Pine Valley's structure. Chair Brewer stated he saw nothing wrong with the revised committee structure. Supervisor Turk stated he felt the proposed revisions to committee structure as presented are the next steps and a hard provision could be built in to review in a year to see how things are working. Supervisor Gentes stated her desire for a legislative liaison committee and Chair Brewer noted that the proposed Executive and Finance Standing Committee could complete said duties. Supervisor McGuire questioned if something happened that caused scrutiny. Supervisor Turk noted that steps were taken two years ago to better align county operations with the County Administrator form of government and streamlined operations. Supervisor Glasbrenner inquired about the meeting schedules and Administrator Pesch provided a brief overview of a proposed meeting schedule. Supervisor Seep questioned the placement of the Veterans Service Commission and Attorney Phillips replied by stating would be under the Other Boards and Committees category although it is a little different than other committees in that category. Motion by Manning second by Couey to adopt the Richland County Board Committee Structure with minor amendments discussed at meeting with an effective date of April 16, 2024. Discussion continued. Motion by Voyce second by Gentes to make Pine Valley a separate standing committee. Roll Call vote taken for motion to make Pine Valley a separate standing Committee: Ayes: Carrow, Seep, McKee, Gentes, Severson, Couey, and Voyce; Nays: Brewer, Rynes, Manning, Glasbrenner, Turk, Cosgrove, Frank, Williamson, McGuire. With 7 Ayes and 9 Nays, the motion to make Pine Valley their own standing committee fails and does not carry. Roll Call vote taken to adopt Richland County Board Committee structure with minor amendments discussed at meeting with an effective date of April 16, 2024: Ayes: Carrow, Brewer, Rynes, Manning, Glasbrenner, Turk, Cosgrove, Frank, Williamson, Couey, McGuire; Nays: Seep, Gentes, Severson, Voyce. With 11 Ayes, 4 Nays, and 1 abstention (McKee) the motion

to adopt Richland County Board Committee structure with minor amendments discussed at meeting with an effective date of April 16, 2024 carried.

Motion by Manning, second by Rynes to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)

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COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

I, Derek S. Kalish, County Clerk in and for the County of Richland, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the proceedings of the County Board of Supervisors of Richland County for the Special Meeting held on the 12th day of March, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek S. Kalish", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Derek S. Kalish
Richland County Clerk