

# Joint Meeting of the Richland County Executive & Finance Standing Committee & the Joint Ambulance Committee

May 13, 2025

The Richland County Executive & Finance Standing Committee and the Joint Ambulance Committee convened on May 13, 2025, in person and virtually at 6:30 PM in the County Boardroom of the Richland County Courthouse.

**Call To Order:** Executive & Finance Committee Chair Williamson called both the meetings to order at 6:30 PM.

**Roll Call:** Deputy Clerk Hege conducted roll call. Executive & Finance Standing Committee member(s) present: Gary Manning, Mark Gill, Ingrid Glasbrenner, David Turk, Steve Williamson, and Marc Couey. Committee member(s) absent: Steve Carrow, Craig Woodhouse, and Melvin “Bob” Frank.

Joint Ambulance Committee member(s) present: Kerry Severson, Shirley Welte, Brian McGraw, Daniel Timm, Glen Niemeyer, Don Stanke, Gordon Palmer, and Doug Duhr. Joint Ambulance Committee member(s) absent: Julie Fleming, Todd Coppernoll, Tom McCarthy, Mary Rognholt, Jerome Durst, Tim Willis, Jean Nicks, and Terrance Jindrick.

**Verification Of Open Meetings Law Compliance:** Deputy County Clerk Hege confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed.

**Approval Of Agenda:** Motion by Manning, second by Gill to approve the agenda. Motion by Stanke, second by Welte to approve the agenda. Motion carried with Palmer in opposition and the agenda was approved.

**Public Comment:** None.

Executive & Finance Standing Committee Chair Williamson requested each committee member to introduce themselves and what municipality they represent.

Executive & Finance Standing Committee: Gary Manning – Richland County Board District 8, Mark Gill – Richland County Board District 9, Ingrid Glasbrenner – Richland County Board District 10, David Turk – Richland County Board Chair/District 13, Steve Williamson – Richland County Board Vice Chair/District 17, Marc Couey – Richland County Board District 18.

Joint Ambulance Committee: Kerry Severson – Richland County Board District 16, Shirley Welte – Dayton Township, Brian McGraw - Committee Chair/Eagle Township, Daniel Timm – Henrietta Township, Glen Niemeyer – Ithaca Township, Don Stanke – Orion Township, Gordon Palmer – Richland Township, and Doug Duhr – Rockbridge Township.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Future Administration Of The Richland County Ambulance Service:** County Board Chair Turk giving a brief history of the creation of the Joint Ambulance Committee in via resolution in 2014 and restructuring of Richland County to an administrative form of government since that time. County Board Chair Turk emphasized the importance of the Ambulance Service and the desire to have a sustainable and viable service to the citizens of Richland County. County Board Turk stated that the intent of Richland County was to pursue repealing the resolution from 2014 by the end of 2025 and replacing it with a new resolution that will have an updated structure to how the ambulance service is

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governed. County Board Chair Turk reiterated that the overall goal of Richland County was to ensure that the ambulance service was available to serve the citizens of Richland County. County Administrator Clements stated the next steps would be to decide to which one of the five county standing committees the ambulance service would report. Administrator Clements stated that it would most likely be the Public Safety Standing Committee since that is the committee that Emergency Management already reports to and referenced the need to update appendix A of the committee structure document. Administrator Clements stated that there was not a desire to eliminate the Joint Ambulance Committee, but that it would be an advisory committee and reference other county departments that have advisory committees. Supervisor Turk emphasized the importance of the Joint Ambulance Committee as being the voice for the communities served by the ambulance service. Administrator Clements stated that the county board is ultimately responsible for the financial oversight of the county and state that the ambulance service needs to be reporting to a committee that can provide that level of oversight.

Committee Chair Williamson called for comments from the Executive and Finance Committee first and then for comments from the Joint Ambulance Committee. There were no comments from any member of the Executive and Finance Committee.

Mr. McGraw, Chair of the Joint Ambulance Committee spoke to the history of the Joint Ambulance Committee and how it was created during a time when there was concern that the ambulance service was going to be able to answer calls. Mr. McGraw stated the opinion that the Joint Ambulance Committee has done an excellent job of maintaining the ambulance service and getting the service to the point to where it makes sense to him that Richland County would take the service back and run it as a normal department of the county. Mr. McGraw emphasized the accomplishments of the Joint Ambulance Committee including acquiring a separate facility for the ambulance service and stabilizing the workforce regarding recruiting and retaining of staff for the ambulance service. Mr. McGraw stated his opinion that the ambulance service should go back to the county and run like a regular county department and stated that he thought having the Joint Ambulance Committee as an advisory committee was a good idea. Mr. McGraw asked the members of the Joint Ambulance Committee for their thoughts. Mr. Palmer vehemently expressed his concerns about the activities of the last several months and referenced a memorandum of agreement between the Joint Ambulance Committee and Richland County. Mr. Palmer expressed his feelings that the Joint Ambulance Committee has had no oversight of the ambulance service in the last several months specifically regarding the hiring of staff and the Ambulance Director in particular. County Board Chair refuted Mr. Palmer's statement and state that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Ambulance Committee were involved with the hiring of the current Ambulance Director. Extensive discussion ensued referencing the memorandum of understanding between the Joint Ambulance Committee and Richland County and the specific verbiage regarding the administration of the ambulance service. County Corporation Council Windle gave a brief explanation of the changes made by the appointment of a County Administrator. Extensive discussion ensued. Mr. Palmer expressed his concerns on the budget and expenditures for the Ambulance Service. Extensive back and forth discussion on the revenues and expenditures ensued with input from members of the Executive and Finance Committee and the Joint Ambulance Committee.

Committee Chair Williamson called for any final comments from those in attendance. Mr. Palmer questioned how the ambulance service was going to be administered for the remainder of 2025. County Board Chair Turk reminded those in attendance of the responsibilities of the County Administrator. Extensive discussion on what specific duties the Joint Ambulance Committee was responsible for ensued. Mr. Palmer made a motion to abolish the Joint Ambulance Committee. Corporation Council Windle

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reminded Mr. Palmer that that motion was not on the agenda. Brief discussion ensued.

**Adjourn:** Committee Chair Williamson entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Manning, second by Gill to adjourn. Motion carried and the Executive and Finance Committee was adjourned at 7:19 p.m. Joint Ambulance Committee Chair McGraw entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Stanke, second by Welte to adjourn. Motion carried and the Joint Ambulance Committee adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Myranda H. Hege  
Deputy County Clerk