

Racine County Ch 980 Committee
Ives Grove Office Complex
14200 Washington Ave
Public Works and Development Services Auditorium
Sturtevant, WI 53177
Monday, September 23, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting attended by: Assistant Corporation Counsel John Serketich, Assistant Corporation Counsel Erika Motsch, Legal Coordinator for the Office of the Corporation Counsel Nicole Jurgens, Racine County Real Property Lister/GIS Manager Kim Christman, Aging and Disability Operations Crisis Supervisor Amy Hart, Public Works and Development Services Director Julie Anderson, DOC Corrections Field Supervisor Nancy Ahler, and DHS Contract Specialist Angie Serwa (by phone)

1. Convene meeting

The meeting of the Ch. 980 Committee was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Assistant Corporation Counsel John Serketich. Attorney Serketich gave a brief statement on the status of the committee.

2. Public Comments

There were no members of the public present and, therefore, no comments.

3. Approve Agenda & Minutes

Agenda for September 23, 2019 meeting and Minutes from August 19, 2019 meeting reviewed.

Motion: Julie Anderson moved to approve both the agenda and minutes. Seconded by Kim Christman.

Action: All Ayes, No Nays. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

4. Discuss/consider process for making recommendation to DHS and Court for Chapter 980 sex offender placement

9:05 – Discussion held.

Michael Fink: Review hearing last week on 09-16-19 before Judge Nielsen regarding dual residency issues. Juneau County has been ordered to form a committee and attempt to find suitable housing for Fink. The Court has given the parties, including Racine County, time to brief the Court as to their position on the dual residency issue. Angie Serwa indicated that DHS has opined that Fink's residence is Racine County. DHS has not asked for official representation but if they do it will be by the DOJ Atty Adamson. Juneau County has 120 days to submit their report so the hearing will not be held until after that time period. Review Hearing 12-16-19 at 2:00 pm.

James Hinkle: Review hearing last week on 09-16-19. Atty Weitz moved for damages and joinder. Potential penalty for failure to find housing is \$1,000.00 per day. Corporation Counsel is preparing responses to Weitz's motions which are due 10-01-19, Weitz's reply due 10-11-19. Hearing for the Court's Decision on 10-25-19.

Daniel Williams: Atty Evan Weitz is defense counsel but has not yet filed motions for damages or joinder.

Assembly Bill 55: Per Angie, no movement on bill yet that she is aware of.

Discussion held regarding the importance of locating suitable housing ASAP so as to comply with the statutes and avoid punitive damages. DHS's vendors are not interested in Racine County, likely because the price is too high compared to Milwaukee, Kenosha, and Waukesha Counties. The previous vendors that did own homes in Racine County are no longer on DHS's vendor list for a variety of reasons but mostly due to population density which disqualify the potential home from meeting the statutory limits/restrictions. Rural areas are more likely to meet criteria. Outagamie, Manitowoc, and Milwaukee have had successful placements since 184; Angie Serwa guestimates there have been at least 10 placements since. Milwaukee found an apartment in an industrial area.

Racine County has partnered with Milwaukee Realtor Bob Flood to provide MLS services. Purchasing is working for RFI to try to find new local vendors.

Discussion regarding Racine County using county owned land and partnering with DHS; Angie Serwa indicated that DHS would partner with the County if a suitable location was located. Discussed in-rem parcels and the various reasons they were not suitable: flood plains, already sold, too expensive, etc. Potential solution of reviewing potential in-rem properties to take ownership of then offer sale to a vendor or County would act as vendor.

Question posed by Kimberly Christman: can County give a temporary tax break as an incentive? Corporation Counsel to research if it is a possibility. However, even if the County identifies a suitable property, it would take, minimally, four (4) months before the property would become the County's. Kim Christman suggested pursuing an exemption for Racine County since the state has not been able to find suitable housing even before the law change.

Discussion held regarding the difficulties in the area: speculative buying, Foxconn, etc. Corporation Counsel expects that the issue will play out in other counties. County may want to find an additional realtor beyond Bob Flood since so many properties are sold in less than 24 hours.

Discussion held regarding placing modular home on vacant land: land cost, plus the building, plus hookups could easily end up over \$200,000. PWDS and GIS to provide examples of price break down.

Next meeting Monday Oct 28, 2019 at 9:00 am.

Action items:

1. Corp Counsel to research if incentives to potential vendors.
2. Julie and Kim to provide price break down of placing a modular home on vacant land before 09-30-19.

5. Closed Session

There were no discussions that required a closed session, therefore, the meeting remained open for its entirety.

6. Adjournment

Motion: Julie Anderson moved to adjourn meeting at 10:02 a.m. Seconded by Kim Christman.

Action: All Ayes No Nays. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**