

**Racine County Ch 980 Committee**  
Ives Grove Office Complex  
14200 Washington Ave  
Public Works and Development Services Auditorium  
Sturtevant, WI 53177  
Monday, February 24, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.

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**Meeting attended by:** Assistant Corporation Counsel Erika Frank Motsch, Legal Coordinator for the Office of the Corporation Counsel Nicole Jurgens, Racine County Real Property Lister/GIS Manager Kim Christman, Aging and Disability Services Administrator Michelle Goggins, Public Works and Development Services Department 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 9:08 a.m. by Assistant Corporation Counsel Erika Frank Motsch. Attorney Motsch gave a brief statement on the status of the committee.

**2. Public Comments**

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

**3. Approve Agenda & Minutes**

Agenda for February 24, 2020 meeting and Minutes from January 27, 2020 meeting reviewed.

**Motion:** Michelle Goggins 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**

9:09 – Discussion held.

Michael Fink: This case is before Judge Mark Nielsen, who is currently out on medical leave. Corporation Counsel has not received any information of when he is expected to return or the Court's plans for coverage of this case. Motion hearings are scheduled for March 16, 2020 for petitioner's pending motions to compel, impose sanctions (damages), and on the constitutionality of the 1,500-ft restrictions.

James Hinkle & Daniel Williams: Motion hearings for petitioners' motions to compel and on the constitutionality of the 1,500-ft restrictions were set to be heard on February 14, 2020 before Judge Wynne Laufenberg. At that hearing, the Court only heard arguments on the petitioner's motion on the constitutionality of the 1,500-ft restrictions. The Court set the Motion to Compel over to April 24, 2020. The Court stated that it expected to hear testimony from DHS & the County regarding the County's efforts to find suitable housing on that date.

Preston Rintamaki: This case is set for a status conference on April 27, 2020 at 2:30 pm before Judge Laufenberg. Nancy Ahler indicated that there is a proposed residence for petitioner located at 9437 W 3 Mile Road, Raymond, WI; unsure if family owned. Per Angie Serwa, DHS was not aware of this potential placement. Nancy/DOC to forward that information to Angie/DHS.

Per Angie Serwa, a pending petition for the following individual who is currently placed at Sand Ridge was approved by Judge Wynne Laufenberg on February 14, 2020:

Hung Tran: Racine County Case No. 04CI3. Angie/DHS to request that order to be forwarded to Corporation Counsel.

#### Further Discussion:

Discussion held regarding structure of future committee meetings and agenda. Over the next few weeks, HSD and Corporation Counsel will discuss revising the Committee's agenda to include more specific reporting requirements for placement efforts performed by HSD.

Corporation Counsel proposed that a contact person should be identified for the Committee that is not a member of Corporation Counsel due to that creating a potential conflict for litigation related to the Committee/placement efforts of the County for Chapter 980 offenders. Michelle Goggins asked how other counties were structuring their committees; Attorney Motsch explained that although there is not any real data that has been collected on that issue, that, amongst other resources like the corporation counsel listserv, counties that are engaged in the placement of Chapter 980 offenders have organized a standing monthly call to discuss their experiences. From those resources, it seems that each county's structure is unique and as the Chapter 980 committee is new, still evolving.

Questions posed to DHS/Angie Serwa at the last meeting were provided to Corporation Counsel via e-mail on February 12, 2020. DHS statutorily cannot own and rent a property for Chapter 980 purposes. DOC Nancy Ahler confirmed that DOC also cannot own and manage properties for Chapter 980 purposes.

Michelle Goggins asked the committee if HSD should refocus some efforts on rental properties. Michelle shared that since Amy Hart's departure, a dedicated staff member has yet to be identified to focus on rental properties, which are more labor intensive than identifying potential properties for sale for vendors to consider. During the evaluation of rental properties, common issues related to placement were that the landlords were not returning calls, and, that when landlords did speak with HSD, the landlords were not interested in renting properties for Chapter 980 placement.,

Angie Serwa discussed that during an audit of the lists Racine County sent to potential vendors, she noted that one home on the list from January was near a place of worship. Michelle Goggins indicated that they use the tax roll to identify places of worship and that it may be a new church but that she will remind the staff performing the searches about cross referencing on restricted locations.

Michelle Goggins provided an update regarding replacement of committee member Amy Hart; she has been working within HSD to identify the best member(s) for the role.

Attorney Motsch reviewed which committee members may be required to testify at upcoming motion hearings and their roles. Corporation Counsel will contact those individuals prior to the hearings to discuss further.

Next Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2020 at 9:00 am. Matters to be discussed: in-rem and other properties for potential locations.

#### **Action Items:**

Corporation Counsel to work with HSD on reporting requirements regarding property searches to be presented at future committee hearings.

#### **5. Closed Session**

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

**6. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Kim Christman moved to adjourn meeting at 9:42 a.m. Seconded by Michelle Goggins.

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

Recorded February 24, 2020  
Nicole Jurgens  
Office of the Corporation Counsel