

**MINUTES OF THE SUPERVISED RELEASE COMMITTEE RE:  
Sexually Violent Persons  
May 21, 2019  
10 AM Room G034**

**PRESENT:** Richard Eaton, Corporation Counsel; Diane Cable, Director, DHS; Nancy Huberty, DHS SW Manager; Matt Rokus, Eau Claire Police Dept; Joel Brettingen and Cory Schalinske, Eau Claire County Sheriff's Dept; Sherry Deyoe and Amanda McCarthy, Mike Felton, Dept of Corrections; Rod Eslinger, Planning & Development; Jackie Krumenauer, DHS Admin Specialist II, Committee Clerk

**PUBLIC:** Gerald Wilkie, Joshua Andrew, Zachary Chumas, Anne Hamland, Samuel Chumas, Matthew Moseler, Hilary Andrew, Sheryl Parrish, Sally Kaiser, Pete Halseth, Jim Buckman, Jodene Chumas, Kathy Turner, Austin Avleta, Sara Ruckman, Julian Emerson, Carol Hendzel, Marcia Bollinger, Aimee Wold, Tom Pederson, Kim Bodeau, Dawn Benning, Barbara Connell, Cymbre Snyder, Allison Fischer, Etta Larson, Robert Shugarts, Samantha Ucnsl, Todd Nordlund, Emily Nordlund, Don Boedau, Anne McMenoduny, Joseph Phillips, Jennifer Phillips, Jim Licbrean, Julie Nelson, Eric Nelson, Kathryn Venit, Craig McIntosh, Kathy Turner, Blake Snyder, Jim Lieberman, James Chumas, Allison Fisher, Michael Weiss, Colleen Bates.

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Call meeting to Order by Richard Eaton, Chair at 10 a.m.

**Call of the Roll**

The purpose of the Committee was briefly explained by Chairman Eaton. The Supervised Release Committee re: Sexually Violent Persons has been meeting since October in an attempt to find appropriate residential placement for sexually violent persons being released from Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center.

**Public Input** - Per Committee operating procedures, a period of public input was held. Chairman Eaton public input will be limited to 2 minutes per person since there are so many people present today.

Gerald Wilkie, District 19 representative and resident near Webster & Fear, opposing residential placement of a sexually violent person at 1621 Webster Avenue. Mr. Wilkie also requested the courtesy of sitting in on the Closed Session.

Pastor Joshua Andrew read letter also opposing Webster Avenue as he has a church place of worship in his home.

Zach Chumas presented a petition signed by 295 citizens in the neighborhood opposing the placement. Map also distributed, urged Committee to allow Mr. Wilkie to sit in on Closed Session.

Anne Hamland shared family picture, lives close to proposed property. Allow Mr. Wilkie to sit in on Closed Session.

Sam Chumas recent graduate and passes by proposed property daily.

Matt Moseler bikes and walks near proposed property and not a safe idea for placement on Webster.

Hillary Andrew shared she was a victim of sexual abuse and shares concerns about proposed property for the safety of children and grandchildren in the area. Vote no. Also Mr. Wilkie to sit in on Closed Session.

Sheryl Parrish would not be permitted to see her ten grandchildren if proposed property was used to house sexually violent persons. Allow Mr. Wilkie to sit in on Closed Session.

Pete Halseth please allow the same opportunity for his kids to live in a safe neighborhood.

Jim Ruckman concerned citizen raised concerns about group home nearby. Allow Mr. Wilkie to sit in on Closed Session. Have an elected official on the Committee.

Jodene Chumas the area was named through a National Initiative for Safe Route to school walking or biking. There are bus stops nearby and the local Fairfax swimming pool, in-home daycares. The temptation is too great, and the sex offender is being set up for failure.

Sara Ruckman gave the Committee a spreadsheet listing nearby establishments: group homes, schools, daycares, churches.

Julian Emerson here to listen and gain information.

Tom Pederson personally questioned the role of the Committee and expressed concerns for wife and kids safety.

Kim Bodeau so many telling their stories, thank you to law enforcement and acknowledged the difficult challenge this presents to the community for placements of sex offenders rehabilitating back to Eau Claire County. This proposed area presents the person for failure. Do we install security systems in our home? Who cares about us? Allow Mr. Wilkie to sit in on Closed Session.

Dawn Benning opposed the purchase of the property. She understands the high recidivism rates for prisoners and the need for rehabilitation. Was a victim of sexual assault as a young girl. Allow Mr. Wilkie to sit in on Closed Session.

Cymbre Snyder we are all talking about safety and it isn't about IF he will reoffend it is about WHEN. Urge you to reconsider property. No parents are at bus stops when children get off/on the bus daily. Allow Mr. Wilkie to sit in on Closed Session.

Etta & Cane they live next to group home and younger families currently. Future there will be no younger families in the neighborhood. Sexual assault relative serving time and he isn't allowed to see her children. Mention of autistic children in the neighborhood, 12, 10 and 5 yo girls and other than frequently walk route.

Robert Shugarts law enforcement background, dealt with offenders in the past, group home goes up and no one says anything. Electronic monitoring device easily come off. Concerned for all residents in the area. Move to the country where there's no neighbors and no threat. Reconsider where to put facility.

Todd Nordlund explained when his neighbor wanted to get a third dog he was repeatedly contacted by police officers asking his permission. Now we have a sexually violent person potentially moving into the neighborhood and no contact by law enforcement except a card on the door. He called the number on the card but no one called him back. He questions the system, secrecy of the Committee, hard to get to this meeting. This is a nice neighborhood with kids. Give more notice next time.

Don Boedau this is a stable neighborhood, lots of foot traffic, too tempting for offender and concerns for all. Allow Mr. Wilkie to sit in on Closed Session.

Anne McMenoduny impact causes a different atmosphere for the neighborhood. Has four younger kids.

Joseph Phillips stated facts: kids ride bikes to swimming pool in their swimsuits, new sidewalks were installed to provide safe biking walking. These decisions not good. Kids are our best resource, County doesn't care about kids.

Jennifer Phillips - .5 mile of daycare Beautiful Minds.

Eric Nelson enjoyed the neighborhood, walks, kids and grandkids. The property does fit the parameters of the law but thinking about current and future for neighbors.

Kathryn Bennet concerns for walkers to school. GPS monitoring won't work. She shared a story about honeybees in the neighborhood and had to sign an agreement. The bees were farther away from their home than the proposed sex offender would be.

Craig McIntosh appreciates the difficult of the Committee but fear, fear, fear for nine grandkids. If you are in favor of this location, raise your hand? Find a new location! This is the wrong neighborhood, homes will become worthless. More permission needed for dogs and chickens that a sex offender.

Kathy Turner complained she heard about this last night. Safe Walk to School route, kids on bikes, walking. How many kids at risk in this area?

Jim Chumas Support to family and friends in this room today.

Allison Fischer schoolteacher and has seen children who've been in these situations. Thanks to all the neighborhood for voting no.

The Public Input session was closed at 10:55 a.m.

**Approval of May 14, 2019 meeting minutes** – Diane Cable made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated May 14, 2019. Second by Matt Rokus. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting minutes were approved.

Chairman Eaton addressed the comment related to secrecy and there is no secrecy. Please contact his office if you have any questions.

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §19.85(1)(d) a motion was made by Nancy Huberty to move into Closed Session. Diane Cable at this time recommended that Mr. Wilkie be allowed to join the Closed Session. Second to the motion on the floor to move into Closed Session by Rod Eslinger. The motion carried and the Committee moved to Closed Session at 10:59 a.m. to Room G052.

A motion was made by Nancy Huberty, second by Rod Eslinger - Moved to open session at 11:29 a.m. The motion carried and the Committee returned to Room G034.

Chairman Eaton shared with the public - at this time the Committee voted No to consider Webster Avenue property for potential placement of sexually violent persons. (clapping) We all live in the community and the Committee is statutorily mandated to seek appropriate placement. In the future, the Committee will continue to deny elected officials request to attend Closed Sessions. We have set a past precedence regarding elected officials attendance at Closed Sessions but your comments have been heard.

### **Next Steps & Planning**

- Search continues for appropriate property in the county
- Law Enforcement will canvass potential properties & prepare report for committee. Their presence on the Committee is a strength to the community.
- Next week State DHS Michael Chase will be present at the meeting to answer any further questions you may have and share information about the Supervised Release Program.

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 28, 2019 10 a.m. in Room G034.**