

RESOLUTION R05-2021-1387

IN SUPPORT OF
ADDING A SPECIFIC REFERENCE IN WIS. STAT. § 70.11(2) TO PROPERTY OWNED
BY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS AS EXEMPT FROM REAL PROPERTY
TAXES

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309 by the Governor upon petition of local units of government and are comprised of Counties and other Municipalities located within their defined geographical area, and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are granted broad powers in order to address the “physical, social and economic development of the region”, which may include holding title to real property for such purposes, and

WHEREAS, Member Counties provide funds annually to Regional Planning Commissions for the purpose of meeting operational expenses pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(14), and

WHEREAS, Dissolution of Regional Planning Commissions requires that “all outstanding indebtedness of the commission has been paid and all unexpended funds returned to the local units which supplied them” pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0309(15), and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are therefore a direct instrument of and created for the benefit of the counties and municipalities that fund them, and

WHEREAS, all Real Property, including Real Property owned by Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, is subject to the application of Wis. Stat. § 70.11 for the purpose of obtaining property tax exempt status, and

WHEREAS, because Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) specifically references other joint “districts” of communities, such as joint water authorities created under § 66.0823, but not specifically planning commissions created under § 66.0309, ambiguity exists as to whether or not planning commissions qualify for exemption under § 70.11(2), and

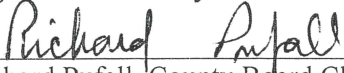
WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created by local units of government and its assets are constructively assets of those local units of government,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to rectify the existing ambiguity in Wis. Stat. 70.11(2) the following language be added to specifically include Regional Planning Commissions as an additional exemption under this statute: **“regional planning commissions created under Wis. Stat. 66.0309”**, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Ashland County strongly encourages and supports the State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. § 70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation, and

BE ALSO RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Wisconsin Counties Association, Senator(s) Bewley, Representative(s) Meyers, and the other members of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

Signed at the City of Ashland, Wisconsin on this 20th, day of July, 2021.


Richard Pufall, County Board Chair


Heather Schutte, Ashland County Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true, correct, and complete copy of a resolution duly and regularly passed by the Ashland County Board of Supervisors of the County of Ashland on the 20 day of July, 2021 and that said resolution has not been repealed or amended, and is now in full force and effect.

Dated this 20 day of July, 2021


Heather W Schutte, Ashland County Clerk