



**OFFICE OF KIM TRUEBLOOD
COUNTY CLERK
MARATHON COUNTY**



Marathon County Mission Statement: Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business.

ADJOURNED ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – AGENDA WITH MINUTES

THE ADJOURNED ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors, composed of thirty-eight (38) members, will convene at the Marathon County Courthouse, Assembly Room, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, on **Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** to consider the following matters:

A. OPENING OF SESSION:

1. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Gibbs at 7:00 p.m., the agenda being duly signed and posted
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Followed by a Moment of Silence/Reflection
3. Reading of Notice
4. Request for silencing of cellphones and other electronic devices
5. Roll Call – At roll call, 34 supervisors were present as shown:

Aarrestad	17	Maszk	26 (W)
Baker	23	McEwen	18 (7:15)
Bootz	12	Morache	6
Buch	7	Niemeyer	38
Bushman	24	Oberbeck	9
Covelli	33	Opall	37
Dickinson	29 (W)	Ritter	13
Drabek	31	Robinson	4
Gibbs	32	Rosenberg	21
Gisselman	5	Seefeldt	14
Gonnering	28	Seubert	27
Hart	3 (7:50)	Sherfinski	16
Hartinger	22 (W)	Sondelski	25
Krause	10	Straub	15
Lamont	36	Ungerer	8 (W)
Langenhahn	35	Van Krey	1
Leahy	11 (W)	Venzke	30 (Absent)
Lemmer	2	Wilhelm	34
Marshall	20	Xiong	19 (7:45)

(W) indicates attendance by WebEx

6. Acknowledgment of visitors

B. EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS:

7. Standing Committee Chairpersons or Designees - None
8. Education Presentation from Progressive Energy Regarding Conduit Bonding Request – Ralph McGinley, Linda Templen from Husch Blackwell, and Nick Coyle from Progressive Energy gave a presentation. Questions were asked and answered. The powerpoint presentation will be archived into the meeting materials. Discussion was had and questions were asked and answered.

C. CONSENT AGENDA:

9. Approval of minutes from the September 19 & 26, 2023 County Board Meetings
10. Referral of bills and communications to respective committees
11. Authorizing the Clerk to issue orders, bills, and claims from the last session through this session
12. Ordinances:
 - a. Town of Knowlton Rezone – Tim Vreeland for Andrew Borntreger #O-36-23
 - b. Town of Wien Rezone – Tim Vreeland for National Holdings, LLC #O-37-23
13. Resolutions:
 - a. Offer to Purchase Portion of Property at Stewart Ave and 72nd Ave #R-53-23

Discussion: None.

Action: Motion by Sherfinski, Second by Wilhelm to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried on a roll call vote unanimously.

Follow Through: None.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

14. Resolution to Accept State-Local Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Assistance #R-54-23

Discussion: None.

Action: Motion by Maszk, Second by Wilhelm to approve the resolution. Motion carried on a roll call vote with Sondelski voting No.

Follow Through: None.

E. EXTENSION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

15. Marathon County Government's Role in Providing Affordable High-Quality External Childcare #R-55-23

Action: Motion by Sherfinski, Second by Baker to approve the resolution.

Action: Motion by Robinson, Second by Van Krey to postpone the vote until the December meeting due to the Chamber of Commerce town hall meeting tomorrow night.

Discussion: Discussion was held both in favor of and in opposition to the motion to postpone.

Action: Motion by Sherfinski, Second by Bushman to call the question and end debate on the motion to postpone. Motion carried 33-4 on a roll call vote as follows:

Yes: Aarrestad, Bootz, Buch, Bushman, Covelli, Dickinson, Drabek, Gibbs, Gonnering, Hart, Hartinger, Krause, Lamont, Langenhahn, Leahy, Lemmer, Marshall, Maszk, McEwen, Morache, Niemeyer, Oberbeck, Opall, Ritter, Rosenberg, Seefeldt, Seubert, Sherfinski, Straub, Ungerer, Van Krey, Wilhelm, Xiong - 33

No: Baker, Gisselman, Robinson, Sondelski – 4

Action: Motion to postpone carried 25-12 on a roll call vote as follows:

Yes: Bootz, Buch, Drabek, Gibbs, Gisselman, Gonnering, Hart, Hartinger, Krause, Lamont, Langenhahn, Leahy, Lemmer, Marshall, Maszk, McEwen, Morache, Niemeyer, Oberbeck, Opall, Robinson, Rosenberg, Seefeldt, Van Krey, Xiong - 25

No: Aarrestad, Baker, Bushman, Covelli, Dickinson, Ritter, Seubert, Sherfinski, Sondelski, Straub, Ungerer, Wilhelm - 12

Follow Through: Resolution will be taken up at the December meeting.

F. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

16. Announcements and / or Requests
- Appropriate signatures requested
17. Motion to Adjourn – Motion by Hart, Second by Van Krey to adjourn. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

ORDINANCES

#O-36-23 – Town of Knowlton Rezone, Tim Vreeland for Andrew Borntreger

WHEREAS, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors has been petitioned to amend the General Code of Ordinances for Marathon County Chapter 17 Zoning Code by Tim Vreeland on behalf of Andrew Borntreger to amend the General Code of Ordinance for Marathon County Chapter 17 to rezone lands from G-A General Agriculture to N-C Neighborhood Commercial described as Lot 1 of CSM 11294-47-156, located in the Northeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼ and that part of the Northwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 32, Township 28 North, Range 4 East, Town of Wien. The area to be rezoned to Neighborhood Commercial is described as Lot 1 of preliminary CSM. Parent Parcel #084-2804-321-0995.

WHEREAS, the petition was referred to the Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee (the Committee) for public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Committee, on due notice, conducted a public hearing thereon, pursuant to Section 59.69, Wisconsin Statutes on October 3, 2023 to consider the petition to amend Chapter 17; and

WHEREAS, the Committee being duly informed of the facts pertinent to the changes proposed, having reviewed the staff report, and duly advised of the recommendations of the Town of Wien hereby recommends the petition be GRANTED AS APPLIED FOR

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon does ordain as follows: The General Code of Ordinances for Marathon County Chapter 17 Zoning Code (and accompanying Zoning Map) is amended as stated above.

Dated this 3rd day of October, 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

#O-37-23 – Town of Wien Rezone – Tim Vreeland for National Holdings, LLC

WHEREAS, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors has been petitioned to amend the General Code of Ordinances for Marathon County Chapter 17 Zoning Code by Tim Vreeland on behalf of National Holdings LLC to amend the General Code of Ordinance for Marathon County Chapter 17 to rezone lands from G-A General Agriculture to U-R Urban Residential located in part of the Southeast ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 9, Township 26 North, Range 7 East, Town of Knowlton. The area to be rezoned is described as Lot 1 of the preliminary certified survey map. Parent Parcel #048-2607-093-0982.

WHEREAS, the petition was referred to the Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee (the Committee) for public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Committee, on due notice, conducted a public hearing thereon, pursuant to Section 59.69, Wisconsin Statutes on October 3, 2023 to consider the petition to amend Chapter 17; and

WHEREAS, the Committee being duly informed of the facts pertinent to the changes proposed, having reviewed the staff report, and duly advised of the recommendations of the Town of Knowlton hereby recommends the petition be GRANTED AS APPLIED FOR

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon does ordain as follows: The General Code of Ordinances for Marathon County Chapter 17 Zoning Code (and accompanying Zoning Map) is amended as stated above.

Dated this 3rd day of October, 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLUTIONS

#R-53-23 – Offer to Purchase Portion of Property at Stewart Ave and 72nd Ave

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 59.52(6)(c) permits the Marathon County Board of Supervisors to sell or convey county property on such terms that the board approves; and

WHEREAS, Corre, Inc., on behalf of the City of Wausau and the Town of Stettin, have offered to purchase 301 square feet of new highway right of way owned by Marathon County at 72nd Avenue and Stewart Avenue and have offered to purchase a temporary limited easement on 313 square feet of certain property owned by Marathon County at the same location; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wausau and Town of Stettin seek these acquisitions to complete improvements to Stewart Avenue, specifically to complete the construction of a recreational trail in the area; and

WHEREAS, the offer to purchase the 301 square foot parcel and the 313 square foot easement is \$1,350.00; and

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2023, the Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee recommended that the County approve the proposed sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors authorizes appropriate County staff to complete the sale of 301 square feet of new highway right of way owned by Marathon County at 72nd Avenue and Stewart Avenue and complete the creation of a temporary limited easement on 313 square feet of certain property owned by Marathon County at the same location for the total price of \$1,350.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that appropriate county officials are authorized to execute documents necessary to finalize the sale and encumbrance of properties identified in this Resolution, and the County Board of Supervisors directs county staff to complete the transaction identified herein.

Respectfully submitted this 24th day of October, 2023.

HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

#R-54-23 – Resolution to Accept State-Local Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Assitance

WHEREAS, Section 65.90(5)(a) dictates that appropriations in the Marathon County budget may not be modified unless authorized by a vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2023, the Environmental Resources Committee approved the acceptance of a \$300,000.00 grant from Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) for a project scoping activity relative to safe room feasibility in conjunction with the feasibility study for an ice arena; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2023, the Public Safety Committee approved the acceptance of a \$300,000.00 grant from Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) for a project scoping activity relative to safe room feasibility in conjunction with the feasibility study for an ice arena; and

WHEREAS, Marathon County’s share of the \$300,000.00 grant, \$37,500, has already been allocated from non-levy sources for the ice arena feasibility study and no additional match funds are needed; and

WHEREAS, on October 11, 2023, the Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee approved the acceptance of a \$300,000.00 grant from Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) for a project scoping activity relative to safe room feasibility in conjunction with the feasibility study for an ice arena; and

WHEREAS, on October 11, 2023, the Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee reviewed and recommended a 2023 budget transfer to allow the \$300,000.00 in grant funds to be expended by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department relative to the proposed scoping activity..

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Marathon County Board of Supervisors authorize and direct the budget transfers as listed below:

Transfer from:	GRANT FUND Grant Awards Revenue Fed/State WEM
Transfer to:	Co Parks Operation Cost Center 58292 Parks & Rec Area Improvement
Amount:	\$300,000.00
Re:	Safe room scoping project

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Class 1 Notice of this transaction be published within (10) days of its adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs the Marathon County Clerk to issue checks pursuant to this resolution and the Marathon County Treasurer to honor said checks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper officers of Marathon County are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to affect this policy.

Respectfully submitted this 24th day of October, 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, & PROPERTY COMMITTEE, AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

~~#R-55-23 – Marathon County Government’s Role in Providing Affordable High-Quality External Childcare~~

~~WHEREAS, a shortage of affordable, high-quality child care is directly impacting Marathon County families and indirectly impacting Marathon County businesses through workforce shortages; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the EEED committee has been tasked with preparing recommendations for Marathon County Government’s role in supporting affordable high-quality childcare, with input from non-EEED Supervisors and other Marathon County Stakeholders, per Marathon County’s Strategic Plan Objective 10.3, Outcome Measure 3, and~~

~~WHEREAS, the certified family child care segment of the child care industry has been decimated, declining from 5000 certified family care providers statewide in 2001i to 580 in 2018ii, diminishing a substantial source of lower~~

cost, high quality childcare slots, and

WHEREAS, at least one report indicates that state regulation, including the YoungStar rating system and the reauthorization of the CCDBG in 2014, has played a major role in the substantial decrease in the number of certified family care providers: “The answer has become clear. Many states chose overly burdensome regulation and procedures that pushed many childcare providers out of the

market, replaced by higher cost center based care.”ⁱⁱⁱ “Additionally, YoungStar likely has contributed to a decline in family childcare providers that has limited parental choice and driven up costs”^{iv}, and

WHEREAS, the Marathon County has an integral role in certified family child care as the Marathon County Department of Social Services is the local certification agency for certifying family care providers, and

WHEREAS, the state provides financial child care assistance to lower income families through Wisconsin Shares, with a state wide total of more than \$300,000,000.00 provided over the last 12 months to more than 17,500 Wisconsin families to assist in providing child care to more than 31,000 children ^v, and

WHEREAS, family child care providers must be either certified or licensed to be eligible to accept Wisconsin Shares funding, and

WHEREAS, the federal and state government have provided \$10,641,766 of taxpayer funded subsidies to Marathon County child care providers since May 2020^{vi}, a level of funding which was not widely known to local taxpayers or local governments, and for which local input was not sought or approval received, and

WHEREAS, expanding childcare subsidies is contrary to the goal of increasing the number and percentage of self-sufficient households in Marathon County as stated in Marathon County’s Strategic Plan Objective 10.3 Outcome Measure 1 adopted April 25, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is not the role of Marathon County Government to subsidize external child care using taxpayer funds from the property tax levy, the sales tax levy, or from ARPA funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in general, the County believes that a significant part of the answer to Wisconsin’s early care and learning problems is to reduce government regulations and place more authority into the hands of parents and childcare providers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County will identify state and county regulations that negatively impact the number of certified family child care providers in the County, and provide options for eliminating or mitigating these impacts, including but not limited to providing recommendations for feedback to the State and developing potential pilot programs to reduce unnecessary child care regulation while still maintaining high standards of health and safety. County staff are directed to provide a report to EEEDC detailing the results of this effort on a quarterly basis.

—Dated October 24, 2023

— i Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners, “Working to Transform Early Childhood Education and Care”, November 2001, Page 11

— ii Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Division of Early Care and Education, “2018 Annual Report Early Care and Education in Wisconsin”, March 2019, Page 22

— iii “Off Track: An Assessment of Wisconsin’s Early Care and Learning System for Young Children.” Angela Rachidi, Ph.D. SEPTEMBER 2022, Page 7, Page 14, Entire Document

— iv *ibid*, page 15

— v <https://def.wisconsin.gov/wishares/stats>

— vi EEED Packet 20230706, page 22

EXTENSION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes prepared by Kim Trueblood, County Clerk