



MARATHON COUNTY RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

Meeting Location: Courthouse Assembly Room, B-105, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI or WebEx

Committee Members: Kurt Gibbs (Temporary Chair), David Baker, Chris Dickinson, Kody Hart, Jacob Langenhahn, Craig McEwen John Robinson, Rick Seefeldt.

Supporting Staff: Lance Leonhard, Michael Puerner, Kim Trueblood, Toshia Ranallo

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.*

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:

Phone #: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 146 235 4571

When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Public Comment (not to exceed 15 minutes)**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the October 24, 2023 Rules Review Committee Meeting**
- 4. Topics for Discussion and Possible Action**

- A. Review and consideration of existing Marathon County Board Rules*, discussion of potential revisions, and next steps for the Committee
(Committee members are asked to review all sections of Chapter 2 and Section 4.20 of the Marathon County Code of Ordinances prior to the meeting to bring ideas for future discussion – see below for link to rules)

- 5. Adjournment**

***Marathon County Code of Ordinances can be found online at the link below:**

https://www.municode.com/library/wi/marathon_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=12551

Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 or e-mail countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting. For TDD telephone service, call the Human Resources Department at 715-261-1451.

SIGNED /s/ Kurt Gibbs
Presiding Officer or Designee

EMAILED TO: WDH, City Pages, Record Review, Wausau Pilot
Mid-West Radio Group, WAOW, WSAW
BY: Toshia Ranallo
DATE/TIME: 11/01/2023 at 2:30 p.m.

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE
BY: Toshia Ranallo
DATE/TIME: 11/01/2023 at 2:30 p.m.



MARATHON COUNTY RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

Meeting Location: Courthouse Assembly Room, B-105, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI or WebEx

Committee Members present: Kurt Gibbs (Temporary Chair), David Baker, Chris Dickinson, Kody Hart, John Robinson, Rick Seefeldt (8:15am)

Other Supervisor Present: Supervisor Jean Maszk

Supporting Staff: Lance Leonhard, Michael Puerner, Kim Trueblood, Toshia Ranallo

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Gibbs called the meeting to order at 8:06am.

2. Public Comment (not to exceed 15 minutes) - None

3. Approval of the Minutes of the October 11, 2023 Rules Review Committee Meeting

ROBINSON MADE A MOTION; SECOND BY HART TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED, BUT NOT UNANIMOUS. Supervisor Baker opposed the approval of the minutes; however, he did not feel an amendment was necessary. He expressed his belief that item F, concerning whether the County Board Chair should serve as the Chair of the NCHC Board, was not addressed with a specific recommendation. Supervisor Baker requested that this particular item be revisited and discussed at a future meeting.

4. Topics for Discussion and Possible Action

A. Should the County Board Chair serve as the Chair of the NCHC Board?

Discussion/Comments:

- Consider deferring the discussion to the future for further clarification after Supervisor Baker seeks to articulate the reasoning behind the request.
- Discussion regarding the administrator's appointment process and its legality.
- Corp Council's input is required to address the appointment process.
- The rules regarding eligibility for appointment to the board could be framed to affect the process under the county board's control.
- Uncertainty about when a rule change would take effect and its impact on prior appointments.
- Request to defer the discussion to gather more information and answer questions.
- Defer the topic to a future meeting, pending additional information and Corp Council's response.

B. Calling the Question

Discussion/Comments:

- Supervisors expressed the need for possible rule changes.
- Suggested potential changes, like increasing the majority requirement, possibly from 2/3 to 3/4.
- Considered the impact on the potential abuse or weaponization of "Calling the Question."
- Mentioned the withdrawal of the request to change the majority requirement.
- Proposed focusing on educating the board about the proper use of "Calling the Question."
- Suggested limiting "Calling the Question" to 1 or 2 times per meeting.
- Concerns raised about limiting the number of times a supervisor can use "Calling the Question."
- Emphasized the need to address abuse of "Calling the Question" that interrupts meaningful discussion.
- Corp Council discussed the authority of the chair to rule on procedural motions.
- No consensus or motion reached; it will be debated further at the organizational meeting.

C. Create a Rule That Allows Three Committee Members to Place An Item Directly on the Agenda:

Discussion/Comments:

- Current process and its historical context were discussed.
- The existing rule allows for the chair to refer items to the appropriate committee.
- Concerns about committee shopping, the need for rationale, and the prevention of walking quorums were raised.
- Suggested only committee chairs should have the authority to place items on the agenda.
- A proposed solution was to let the full board decide if an item is germane and within committee jurisdiction in case of an objection.
- Mention of Lincoln County's different process where any two supervisors can place an item on the full board agenda.
- A mention of past experiences where items were not forwarded to committees and were brought directly to the full board.
- The need for a time frame and tracking mechanism for requests.
- Suggested involving the clerk's office in the process to create a tracking mechanism.
- A suggestion to improve orientation for new supervisors on the process.

D. Closed Session Recording

Discussion/Comments:

- Concerns about sensitive information disclosure.
- Questions about redaction responsibility.
- Technological challenges with platforms like Webex.
- Need for clear rules and guidelines.
- Considering researching recording solutions.

E. Appointment to Various Boards, Commissions, Task Forces Process Discussion:

Discussion/Comments:

- Request for transparent appointment process.
- Debate on full board vs. committee authority.
- Consideration of statutory requirements.
- Complex implementation challenges.
- Lack of consensus, further review needed.

5. Adjournment

MOTION BY HART; SECOND BY SEEFELDT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:40AM. MOTION CARRIED.

***Marathon County Code of Ordinances can be found online at the link below:**

https://www.municode.com/library/wi/marathon_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=12551

MEETING ATTENDANCE – RULE 1(f)

Section 2.01(1):

- (f) *Meeting Attendance.*
1. *Educational Meetings.* Supervisors are permitted to attend any monthly educational meeting of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors, or any meeting of a subordinate body of the Board, in person or by approved audio-visual means. Only members physically present for a meeting may attend a closed session discussion.
 2. *Monthly Business Meetings.* Supervisors must attend any monthly business meeting of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors in person. ~~The County Board Chair shall have the authority to permit attendance by approved audio-visual means at a voting meeting in the following circumstances:~~
 - ~~a. Inclement weather;~~
 - ~~b. Other emergency or unforeseen circumstance~~
 - ~~c. Anticipated lack of quorum.~~
 - ⇧ The County Board Chair shall have the authority to permit any individual supervisor to attend a monthly business meeting by approved audio-visual means in the event that a medical circumstance precludes the supervisor from appearing in person.

REVISION OF MARATHON COUNTY BOARD RULE 2.01(3)(b)

(b) *Consideration of Agenda Items.*

1. Any supervisor desiring to have an item not currently being considered by any committee placed on the County Board agenda may request that such an item be considered by contacting the County Board Chairperson in writing. The County Board Chairperson shall, upon receipt of a written request, refer the issue to the appropriate committee **within 7 days of receipt of the request**. The receiving committee shall, in turn, take up the matter **no later than the second scheduled business meeting of the committee from the date the request is received**. ~~within 60 days for appropriate action~~. The supervisor making said request shall be notified of the committee meeting and will be expected to attend the meeting to discuss the issue presented.
2. **Upon written or emailed request of two Supervisor members of a Standing Committee relative to an item that is germane to the jurisdiction of the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee chair will add the item to the agenda of the Standing Committee meeting no later than the second scheduled business meeting of the committee from the date the request is received.**
3. In the event an item considered by a committee is not advanced to the full County Board, any two County supervisors may make a request in writing to the County Board Chairperson that the item be considered by the full County Board. Upon receipt of such a request, the County Board Chairperson shall place the item on the Executive Committee Agenda within 60 days of the County Board Chairperson's receipt of the written request. The Executive Committee shall consider whether to advance the item to the full County Board. If a majority of the Executive Committee approves, the item shall be placed on the agenda for consideration by the full County Board.

NOTE: The intent of Section (b) of Rule 3 is to provide sufficient flexibility to the Board Chairperson and Committee Chairs to set meeting agendas while also ensuring that matters proposed for consideration by supervisors are addressed in a timely fashion and not unduly delayed.

CALLING THE QUESTION – RULE 3(e)

Section 2.01(3):

- (e) *Calling of the Question.* During a meeting of the County Board of Supervisors, if a Supervisor moves the previous question during debate on any main, subsidiary, privileged, or incidental motion where the motion is applicable, the following procedures apply:
1. If the question is called during debate, the County Board Chair shall first ask if there is any objection to the question being called. If there is no objection, debate will be considered ended on the pending motion.
 2. If there is an objection to the question being called, the County Board shall vote on the closing of debate. Two-thirds of the members present are required to end debate and call the previous question.
 3. If debate is ended with or without objection, any Supervisor in the queue to speak on the pending motion prior to the question being called shall be allowed to speak on the pending motion. However, any supervisor in the queue shall not be permitted to offer a subsidiary or incidental motion once debate has been closed on a pending motion.

Commented [MP1]: Legal note: I think something like this is necessary - if debate is closed but a supervisor in the queue then is permitted to, for instance, divide the question or amend the motion, debate would still be closed on the main question once we return to that question.