



**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.*

**EDUCATIONAL & ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING AGENDA WITH MINUTES**

THE EDUCATIONAL & ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING 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 **Thursday, November 2, 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, 32 supervisors were present as shown:

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

(W) indicates attendance by WebEx

6. Acknowledgment of visitors
7. 15-Minute Public Comment

**B. BUDGET HEARING**

8. Overview of Published Budget by HR Finance & Property Committee Chair Robinson
  - a) Administrator’s Budget Message - Document available [HERE](#)
  - b) Administrator’s Presentation of the Budget – Available [HERE](#) (starting at 40:00)
  - c) Overview of Changes Adopted by Committee for Publication
9. Public Reading of the Proposed 2024 Budget – Clerk Trueblood

10. Public Input Regarding Proposed 2024 Budget  
The following citizens spoke regarding the 2024 budget: Lucille Harvey, Beth Martin, Kari Sweeney, Lindsay Nevitt, Valerie Johnson, Jay Coldwell, Sonja Ackerman, Anie Leonoff, Patrick Bacher, Jeff Johnson, Kathy Garvey, Joanne Leonard, Jack Hoogendyk, LaVerne Rondeau, Patricia Rondeau, Dixie Terrell Wilhite, Tom Johansen, David Sturgeon, Mary Hoffmann, Rob Hughes, Nicole Riggs, Steven Reiner
11. Closure of Public Hearing – Public Hearing closed at 8:09 p.m.

C. BUDGET DISCUSSION BY BOARD MEMBERS

12. Discussion by Board Members Regarding Proposed 2024 Budget – Supervisor Baker responded to public comments regarding the library budget.

D. EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS:

13. Standing Committee Chairpersons / Designees – None.

E. EDUCATIONAL DISCUSSION (Regarding Agenda Items for Thursday, November 9, 2023)

14. Ordinances:

- a) Town of Rib Falls Rezone – Tim Vreeland for Maynard Matthie #O-38-23  
Discussion: None.  
Action: None.  
Follow Through: Will be placed on the November 9 agenda for action.
  - b) Town of Guenther Rezone – Matthew Hoeft #O-39-23  
Discussion: None.  
Action: None.  
Follow Through: Will be placed on the November 9 agenda for action.
  - c) Town of Hull Rezone – Tim Vreeland for Mitch Gumz #O-40-23  
Discussion: None.  
Action: None.  
Follow Through:
  - d) Town of Plover Rezone – Jason Pflieger for Bradley Krueger #O-41-23  
Discussion: None.  
Action: None.  
Follow Through: Will be placed on the November 9 agenda for action.
  - e) Town of Reid Rezone – Michael & Janice Kleman for Chris & Krystal Kleman #O-42-23  
Discussion: None.  
Action: None.  
Follow Through: Will be placed on the November 9 agenda for action.
  - f) Town of Plover Rezone – Marathon County Parks, Rec & Forestry for Micke Family Trust #O-43-23  
Discussion: None.  
Action: None.  
Follow Through: Will be placed on the November 9 agenda for action.
15. Resolutions:
- a) County Board of Supervisors:
    - 1) Change in Supervisory District Boundaries Resulting from Village of Weston Annexation #R-56-23  
Discussion: None.  
Action: None.  
Follow Through: Will be placed on the November 9 agenda for action.

- b) Environmental Resources Committee:
- 1) Town of Ringle Local Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Section 13 #R-57-23  
Discussion: None.  
Action: None.  
Follow Through: Will be placed on the November 9 agenda for action.
  - 2) Town of Ringle Local Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Section 11.03(7) #R-58-23  
Discussion: None.  
Action: None.  
Follow Through: Will be placed on the November 9 agenda for action.
  - 3) Town of Ringle Local Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Section 4.08(3) #R-59-23  
Discussion: None.  
Action: None.  
Follow Through: Will be placed on the November 9 agenda for action.
- c) Transportation Coordinating Committee & Health & Human Services Committee
- 1) Approval of the 2024 85.21 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Grant Application #R-60-23  
Discussion: None.  
Action: None.  
Follow Through: Will be placed on the November 9 agenda for action.
- d) Health & Human Services Committee:
- 1) Resolution Supporting Senate Bill 328 – Health Care Transparency #R-61-23  
Discussion: None.  
Action: None.  
Follow Through: Will be placed on the November 9 agenda for action.
- e) Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee:
- 1) 2024 Budget and Property Tax Levy Resolution #R-62-23  
Discussion: Question regarding the HRFC contingency fund.  
Action: None.  
Follow Through: Will be placed on the November 9 agenda for action.
- f) Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee and Executive Committee
- 1) Establish Salaries for County Board Supervisors for 2024 and 2025 #R-64-23  
Discussion: Corrected resolution will be the one that is signed on 11/9.  
Action: None.  
Follow Through: Will be placed on the November 9 agenda for action.
- g) Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee and Infrastructure Committee:
- 1) Resolution Supporting Applications to PSC for Broadband Expansion #R-63-23  
**\*\*Action will be taken on this item at the November 2 meeting**  
Discussion: HRFC Chair Robinson explained the need for the resolution.  
Action: Motion by Robinson, Second by Sherfinski to approve the resolution. Motion carried on a roll call vote.  
Follow Through: Will be placed on the November 9 agenda for action.

## F. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

### 16. Announcements and / or Requests

- Vice Chair McEwen thanked everyone for their support during his recent health challenges.
- Signatures requested for HRFC and INFR

### 17. Motion to Adjourn – Motion by Covelli, Second by Dickinson to adjourn. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

#R-63-23 – Resolution Supporting Applications to PSC for Broadband Expansion

WHEREAS, broadband access is essential for economic development, virtual and lifetime learning, rural prosperity, and telehealth health services in Marathon County; and

WHEREAS, Marathon County has recognized the importance of broadband access in ensuring the health, safety and economic prosperity for all residents; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the county is currently “unserved” and “underserved” in terms of access to reliable and adequate broadband services; and

WHEREAS, the County has recognized the need to play a role in enhancing broadband access to its residents based on the findings and work done in association with the 2009 Broadband Gap Analysis, the 2015 Broadband Connectivity Task Force Report, and the 2019 Broadband Assessment and Plan prepared by Design Nine; and

WHEREAS, based on meetings and discussions with Internet Service Providers and evaluating the recommendations of Design Nine the County Board created a Broadband Task Force and charged it with identifying strategies, partners and potential funding sources that will support the expansion of broadband services to underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has an existing opportunity to expand broadband services through the Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program administered by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC); and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2023, to assist PSC grant applicants, the Marathon County Broadband Task Force recommended supporting applicants Frontier Communications and Charter Communications to this PSC grant cycle with statements of support and a commitment of allocating ARPA funds for reimbursement of expenses up to \$100 per crossing to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County, up to a total allocation not to exceed \$495,100.00, based upon proposed projects from Frontier covering 846 crossings and Charter covering 4105 crossings; and

WHEREAS, these reimbursement funds would be available to applicants through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as an allowable use of funds pursuant to ARPA expenditure categories 5.16 and 5.17 and Section 602(c)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act as amended; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2023, the Marathon County Infrastructure Committee and the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee voted to recommend supporting applicants Frontier Communications and Charter Communications in this PSC grant cycle with statements of support and a commitment of allocating ARPA funds for reimbursement of expenses up to \$100 per crossing to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County, up to a total allocation not to exceed \$495,100.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors authorizes appropriate county officials to act under this resolution to convey County support for and commit County resources to the broadband service expansion applications of Frontier Communications and Charter Communications. County officials are also authorized to work with and support these grant applicants through suitable means they have determined to be most advantageous to the interests of Marathon County within the constraints of the Budget approved by the County Board.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors authorizes the allocation of ARPA funds for reimbursement of expenses for PSC grant applicants Frontier Communications and Charter Communications up to \$100 per crossing, up to a total allocation not to

exceed \$495,100.00, based upon the proposed total crossings identified in these applicants' respective grant applications. These funds will be available only if the respective PSC grant applications are approved, and funds distributed, by PSC, and shall be used to reimburse associated costs up to \$100 per crossing. If the PSC grant applications of Charter Communications or Frontier Communications are not approved by the PSC during this Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program application period, the encumbrance associated with the denied application, up to the total encumbrance of \$495,100.00 if both projects are not approved, shall cease, and the funds unencumbered shall be available for reallocation by the Marathon County Board.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these amounts are committed through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as an allowable use of funds pursuant to ARPA expenditure categories 5.16 and 5.17 and Section 602(c)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act as amended.

November 2, 2023

HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Minutes prepared by Kim Trueblood, County Clerk