



**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, July 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following matters:

The meeting will be broadcast on Public Access or at <https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard>

A. OPENING OF SESSION:

1. Meeting called to order by County Board Chair at 6:00 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 cell phones and other electronic devices
5. Roll Call – on roll call, 30 supervisors were present as shown:

Aarrestad	17	Lemmer	2
Bootz	12	Marshall	20
Conway	16	Maszk	26
Covelli	33	Morache	6
DeBroux	11 (excused)	Opall	37 (excused)
Dickinson	29	Poole	36
Drabek	31	Radtke	10 (excused)
Fifrick	15	Reynolds	30
Foote	9 (excused)	Ritter	13
Gibbs	32	Robinson	4
Gisselman	5	Rosenberg	21
Hagen	28	Schoenborn	18 (excused)
Hart	3	Seefeldt	14
Hartinger	22 (absent)	Seubert	27 (excused)
Hoppa	7	Sondelski	25
Jacobson	24	Ungerer	8
Jensen	38	Voll	23
Kroll	1	Wilhelm	34
Langenhahn	35	Xiong	19

(W) indicates attendance by WebEx

6. Acknowledgment of visitors

B. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS:

7. Standing Committee Chairs or Designees

C. CONSENT AGENDA:

8. Approval of minutes from the June 13 & 18, 2024 meetings
9. Referral of bills and communications to respective committees
10. Authorizing the Clerk to issue orders, bills, and claims from the last session through this session.

11. Appointment:
 - a) Marathon County Local Emergency Planning Commission – Brian Kowalski
12. Ordinances:
 - a) Environmental Resources Committee:
 1. Town of Knowlton Rezone – Tim Vreeland for Keith Ziembra #O-23-24
13. Resolutions:
 - a) Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee
 1. Reauthorization of Self-Insurance for Worker’s Compensation #R-32-24

Discussion: None.

Action: Motion by Drabek, Second by Covelli to approve the Consent Agent as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote unanimously.

Follow Through: None.

ORDINANCES

- D. Motion to Reconsider Text Amendment Updates to Chapter 17 – Tyler Seehafer

Discussion: Questions were asked and answered.

Action: Motion by Morache, Second by Conway to reconsider the text amendment for Chapter 17. Motion carried 24-6 on a roll call vote as follows:
 Yes: Aarrestad, Conway, Covelli, Dickinson, Fifrick, Hagen, Hoppa, Jacobson, Jensen, Lemmer, Marshall, Maszk, Morache, Poole, Reynolds, Ritter, Robinson, Schoenborn, Seefeldt, Sondelski, Ungerer, Voll, Wilhelm, Xiong - 24
 No: Bootz, Drabek, Gibbs, Kroll, Langenhahn, Rosenberg - 6

Action: Motion by Langenhahn, Second by Drabek to postpone action until 30 days after the certiorari action is completed by the circuit court. Motion failed 10-20 on a roll call vote as follows:
 Yes: Bootz, Drabek, Gibbs, Hagen, Kroll, Langenhahn, Poole, Robinson, Rosenberg, Seefeldt - 10
 No: Aarrestad, Conway, Covelli, Dickinson, Fifrick, Hoppa, Jacobson, Jensen, Lemmer, Marshall, Maszk, Morache, Reynolds, Ritter, Schoenborn, Sondelski, Ungerer, Voll, Wilhelm, Xiong - 20

Follow Through: Reconsideration passed, text amendment ordinance will be voted on.

- E. Reconsideration of Text Amendment Updates to Chapter 17 – Tyler Seehafer #O-24-24

Discussion: Questions asked and answered.

Action: Motion by Morache, Second by Rosenberg to uphold the decision of ERC and deny the text amendment changes. Motion failed 8-22 on a roll call vote as follows:
 Yes: Bootz, Drabek, Gibbs, Kroll, Langenhahn, Poole, Robinson, Seefeldt - 8
 No: Aarrestad, Conway, Covelli, Dickinson, Fifrick, Hagen, Hoppa, Jacobson, Jensen, Lemmer, Marshall, Maszk, Morache, Reynolds, Ritter, Rosenberg, Schoenborn, Sondelski, Ungerer, Voll, Wilhelm, Xiong - 22

Follow Through: Ordinance is returned back to ERC with direction to pass an ordinance consistent with the text amendment changes.

RESOLUTIONS

- F. EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE and HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, & PROPERTY COMMITTEE:
 14. Approval of Budget Amendment to Allocate up to \$50,000.00 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Participation in the 2024 Uniquely Wisconsin Program #R-30-24

Discussion: Questions asked and answered.

Action: Motion by Covelli, Second by Langenhahn to approve the budget transfer. Motion carried 29-1 with Jacobson voting No.

Follow Through: None.

- G. HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, and PROPERTY COMMITTEE:
 15. Approval of 2025 Annual Budget Revenue and Expense Assumptions #R-31-24

Discussion: None.

Action: Motion by Fifrick, Second by Morache to approve the resolution. Motion carried on a roll call vote unanimously.

Follow Through: None.

H. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

16. Motion to go into Closed Session (roll call vote suggested), pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 19.85(1)(e), for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, to wit: analysis of County's right of first offer through landfill gas purchase agreement.

Discussion: None.

Action: Motion by Robinson, Second by Xiong to go into closed session. Motion carried on a roll call vote unanimously.

Follow Through: None.

17. Motion to Return to Open Session (Roll call Vote NOT required)

Discussion: None.

Action: Motion by Morache, Second by Xiong to return to open session. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously.

Follow Through: None.

18. Discussion and Possible Action Resulting from Closed Session Discussion

Action: Motion by Robinson, Second by Bootz to direct administration to not exercise the purchase option presented by Viridi. Motion carried on a roll call vote unanimously.

I. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

19. Announcements and/or requests

- Administrator Leonhard reminded the board of the tour of the Youth Opportunity Center immediately following the meeting.
- Supervisor Xiong invited everyone to the Wausau Hmong Festival coming up this weekend.
- Chair Gibbs reminded the board of the Joint Towns Meeting on Thursday, July 25, at 6:30 p.m. at Memories Ballroom.
- Supervisor Seefeldt encouraged everyone to attend the Wisconsin Valley Fair, July 30-August 4.

20. Move to adjourn – Motion by Langenhahn, Second by Aarrestad to adjourn. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

APPOINTMENT

Local Emergency Planning Commission – Brian Kowalski

I, Lance Leonhard, Marathon County Administrator, do hereby upon approval of the Board of Supervisors, appoint the following to the Local Emergency Planning Committee as the media representative for a two-year term to expire at the 2026 Organizational Meeting: Brian Kowalski, Wausau
DATED: July 23, 2024

ORDINANCES

#O-23-24 – Town of Knowlton Rezone – Tim Vreeland for Keith Ziemba

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 Kieth Ziemba to amend the General Code of Ordinance for Marathon County Chapter 17 Zoning Code to rezone lands from L-D-R Low Density Residential to R-R Rural Estate and G-A General Agriculture shown on CSM 2076, CSM 2139, and part of the Northeast ¼ of the Fractional Northeast ¼ of Section 5, Township 26 North, Range 7 East, Town of Knowlton. The area proposed to be rezoned to R-R Rural Residential is described as Lot 1 and the area proposed to be rezoned to G-A General Agriculture is described as Lot 2 of the preliminary CSM. Parent Parcel #048-2607-051-0998, 048-2607-051-0998, and 048-2607-051-0992.

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 July 2, 2024 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 2nd day of July, 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

#O-24-24 – Text Amendment Updates to Chapter 17 – Tyler Seehafer

Ordinance was sent back to ERC with direction to draft an ordinance consistent with the text amendment changes proposed by Mr. Seehafer. The ordinance text will be included in the August minutes.

RESOLUTIONS

#R-30-24 – Approval of Budget Amendment to Allocate up to \$50,000.00 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Participation in the 2024 Uniquely Wisconsin Program

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, tourism was an area that was adversely affected as fewer people traveled; and

WHEREAS, as a result the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) has initiated a “Uniquely Wisconsin” tourism campaign in partnership with Discover Wisconsin to highlight interesting facts about Wisconsin to begin to attract tourists back to Wisconsin counties; and

WHEREAS, in addition to potential full-length Discover Wisconsin episodes, the campaign included social media, television network commercials, podcasts, WCA publications, and more; and

WHEREAS, interested counties were asked to participate with an investment of \$60,000 each, in anticipation that up to 20 counties would choose to participate, creating a \$1.2 million campaign; and

WHEREAS, prior to the pandemic, in 2019, Marathon County had tourism expenditures of \$258.1 million and Marathon County has historically ranked near the top 10 in total tourism expenditures for counties statewide; and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) includes aid to the tourism industry as an allowable use of funds; and

WHEREAS, Marathon County’s participation in the campaign in 2022-23 was successful, resulting in the creation of considerable content highlighting Marathon County as a tourism destination and resulting in one of the Marathon County episodes being awarded a Midwest Regional Emmy award; and

WHEREAS, participating in the 2024-25 campaign would allow Marathon County to promote tourism at a lower cost than engaging with Discover Wisconsin in its own campaign, particularly given that Visit Wausau, the local Convention & Visitor’s Bureau, has again expressed a willingness to contribute \$10,000 to this campaign, while partnering with other counties to maximize exposure and leverage a unique marketing opportunity while also supporting the overall growth of tourism spending within the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors authorizes participation in the Uniquely Wisconsin tourism campaign at a commitment of no greater than \$50,000 using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator is empowered to further engage the local Convention & Visitors Bureau to partner in the development of the campaign.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the amendment of the 2024 budget to provide the necessary funding for participation in the program.

FISCAL NOTE:

These payments will be funded by no more than \$50,000 from Marathon County’s ARPA allocation.

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01 and 59.51, Wis. Stats. As an amendment to the adopted 2024 County Budget, this Resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the County Board pursuant to § 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

Dated this 23rd day of July, 2024

EXTENSION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE and HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

#R-31-24 – Approval of 2025 Annual Budget Revenue and Expense Assumptions

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statute Section 65.90(1) requires Marathon County to annually, and prior to the determination of the sum to be financed in whole or in part by a general property tax, funds on hand or estimated revenues from any source, formulate a budget and hold public hearings thereon. In 2024, the deadline for Counties to provide tax apportionment forms to the State Department of Revenue is November 15, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 65.90(4) requires that a public hearing be held by the County Board of Supervisors at least 15 days after publication of a proposed budget prior to adoption of the annual budget by the board; and

WHEREAS, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors has sought to implement a timeline for adoption of its annual budget that allows for more engagement with Standing Committees and provides additional opportunity for all supervisors to provide input earlier in the process. On June 18, 2024, the County Board of Supervisors adopted a budget timeline for the 2025 budget process consistent with this approach; and

WHEREAS, on July 10, 2024, consistent with the adopted budget timeline, the Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee approved the attached proposed budget assumptions for the 2025 Budget Process and forwarded the proposed assumptions to the Marathon County Board for consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon does hereby adopt the attached budget assumptions for the 2024 Budget Process to guide the creation, review, and approval of a 2025 Marathon County budget.

Dated the 23rd day of July, 2024.

HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

#R-32-34 – Reauthorization of Self-Insurance for Worker’s Compensation

WHEREAS, the County of Marathon is a qualified political subdivision of the State of Wisconsin; and WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Worker’s Compensation Act (Act) provides that employers covered by the Act must either insure their liability with worker’s compensation insurance carriers authorized to do business in Wisconsin or self-insure and thereby assume the responsibility for their own worker’s compensation risk and payment; and

WHEREAS, the State and its political subdivisions may self-insure worker’s compensation without a special order from the Department of Workforce Development (Department) if they agree to report faithfully all compensable injuries and agree to comply with the Act and rules of the Department; and WHEREAS, in 2002, the State implemented a requirement that political subdivisions pass a resolution every 3 years to continue to self-insure their worker’s compensation program; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors at their February 27, 2018, meeting adopted Resolution #R-17-21 confirming Marathon County’s election of self-insurance for the period of 2021 to 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee, at its June 18, 2024, meeting recommended the continuation of the County’s self-insured worker’s compensation program, in compliance with Wisconsin Administrative Code DWD 80.60(3).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon does ordain as follows:

(1) Marathon County shall provide for the continuation of a self-insured worker’s compensation program for its employees for the period of July 2024 to July 2027.

(2) The Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the County Clerk to forward certified copies of this resolution to the Worker’s Compensation Division, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Department.

Dated this 23rd day of July, 2024

HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE