



# MARATHON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 3:00pm**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403**

Committee Members: Kurt Gibbs, Chair; Craig McEwen, Vice-Chair; Matt Bootz, Michelle Van Krey, John Robinson, Rick Seefeldt, Jacob Langenhahn, Chris Dickinson, Member At-Large; Jean Maszk, Member At-Large

**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. (Last updated: 12-20-05)

**Committee Mission Statement:** The Executive Committee of the Marathon County Board exists for the purpose of implementing the County's Strategic Plan by coordinating policy formation among the Committees and providing leadership for all County Board policies through supervision of administrative staff.

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!**

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

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)** (Any person who wishes to address the committee during the "Public Comment" portion of the meetings, must provide his or her name, address, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk, or chair of the committee, no later the five minutes before the start of the meeting. All comments must be germane to the jurisdiction of the committee.)
4. **Approval of the May 11, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**
  - A. Continue Discussion regarding 2024 Annual Budget and policy Recommendations from the Committee
    1. Mandatory vs Non-Mandated Programs
    2. Use of Fees and Rates
    3. Understanding a Department's Use of Levy
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy**
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by EXEC
    1. Discussion of a Letter in Support of Funding for the UniverCity Alliance Program in the 2023-2025 State Budget
    2. Approval of Letter to Governor Evers and the State Legislature Regarding Local Control
    3. Consideration of Requesting Administration to Investigate Strategies to Develop Program Specific Expense and Revenue Data
    4. Discussion on Objective 3.8 of the Comp Plan
  - B. Discussion and Possible Action by EXEC to Forward to County Board for Consideration
    1. Resolution to Approve the Charter for Tax Incremental Finance Task Force
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items**
  - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
  - B. Next meeting: Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 3:00pm
9. **Adjournment**

\*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 261.1500 or email [countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us) one business day before the meeting.

SIGNED       s/s Kurt Gibbs        
Presiding Officer or Designee

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and other Media Groups  
EMAILED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE & TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE & TIME: \_\_\_\_\_



# MARATHON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA WITH MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 3:00pm**

Meeting Location: **Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest St, Wausau**

Kurt Gibbs	Present
Craig McEwen	Present
Matt Bootz	Absent
Chris Dickinson	Present
Jacob Langenhahn	Absent
Jean Maszk	WebEx
John Robinson	Present
Rick Seefeldt	Excused
Michelle Van Krey	Present

Staff Present: Kim Trueblood, Lance Leonhard, Michael Puerner

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment** - None
4. **Approval of the April 13, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes** – Motion by McEwen, Second by Maszk to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously.
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**
  - A. Discussion regarding 2024 Annual Budget and policy recommendations from the committee
    1. Review of Mandatory / Discretionary Program document
    2. Review of Rates and Fees document
    3. Review of 5-Year Departmental Expense/Levy documentSupervisor Robinson gave a brief summary of the presentations that have been given to standing committees up to this point. The budget priority / guideline resolution will be discussed by the full board at tonight's meeting. Budget timeline was briefly outlined. Discussion was had and questions were asked and answered. Chair Gibbs encouraged committee members to provide him or the administrator with any additional questions or topics for discussion regarding the budget.
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy** - None
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion** - None
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items**
  - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
  - B. Next meeting: Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 3:00pm
9. **Adjournment** – Motion by Maszk, Second by McEwen to adjourn. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Kim Trueblood, County Clerk



June 20, 2023

Governor Evers and Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature:

The purpose of this letter is to express Marathon County's concern over the lack of local control of important environmental matters in counties and municipalities in the State of Wisconsin. Over time, through legislative and state agency action and preemption, local governments have become less adept to address challenges in their communities. Marathon County asks that the State of Wisconsin return the tools necessary to exercise local control to the counties and municipalities best situated to address these issues.

While the regulatory framework developed in the State of Wisconsin may create efficiencies in the regulation of certain industries, events in recent years in Marathon County have highlighted the strain between state authority and local control and the effect that limiting local input has on important environmental issues. Citizens in Marathon County have expressed their concern over a proposed metallic exploration operation in Eastern Marathon County, yet our county is bound to the standards in NR 130 and Wis. Stats. 293. Local government is unable to effectively engage mining interests or address citizen concerns. Similarly, our County Board of Supervisors has been made aware of significant citizen concerns over the potential siting of wind projects in Western Marathon County, yet Marathon County is limited in its ability to address these concerns by the standards in PSC 128 and the preemption of local ordinances in Wis. Stat. 196.491(3)(i). Lastly, our County's regulation of runoff from CAFO operations is bound by the standards set forth in NR 243, eliminating tools available for us to address runoff issues.

Ultimately, the result of these strict limitations on local action is a collection of local ordinances that largely mimic the State's standards but fail to address the problems they were designed to solve or adapt to citizen concerns and complaints. County residents continue to be frustrated over their concerns being largely ignored due to the standards promulgated in state statutes and administrative rules. The existing framework is inefficient and burdensome for developers and communities alike.

The proliferation of "one size fits all" regulations, coupled with preemption, creates a policy environment where local input is stifled, and site-specific solutions are disregarded. Marathon County firmly believes that we can create our own systems for success. We ask that the State of Wisconsin consider strengthening, rather than limiting, the role of local government in these matters.

Thank you for your time and consideration relative to the Marathon County residents and communities.

Sincerely,  
The Marathon County Board of Supervisors

INSERT SIGNATURE PAGE FOR ALL SUPERVISORS

**ORDINANCE #O-\_\_-23**

**CREATION OF MARATHON COUNTY TAX INCREMENTAL FINANCING (TIF) TASK FORCE**

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.01(12)(e) of the Marathon County General Code of Ordinances allows the Marathon County Board of Supervisors to create task forces at the request of standing committees. Task forces are defined as workgroups appointed to address specific issues within a specific period of time and are formally constituted subgroups of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin law allows towns, villages, and cities to utilize tax incremental financing through the creation of tax incremental districts (TID) that permit the local municipality to fund infrastructure and other improvements through property tax revenue generated on newly developed property within those TIDs; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of TIDs by local municipalities has an impact on the collection of property taxes both on the initiating local municipality as well as the county where the municipality is located; and

**WHEREAS**, the Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee has established as a part of its committee workplan a review of TID law, procedure, and protocol to identify the benefits and issues related to the use of TIDs within Marathon County. Specifically, the Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee is interested in reviewing the background and purpose behind TID laws, identifying allowable activities related to the use of TIDs, and examining the benefits and issues relative to the use of TIDs. The Committee also is interested in understanding how various taxing entities are treated after a TID is created, identifying the role of the County and the Joint Review Board, and evaluating the status of existing TIDs in Marathon County; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 12, 2023, the Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee forwarded to the Executive Committee for its review a proposed ordinance for creation of a Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Task Force. Pursuant to the proposed ordinance, the TIF Task Force review existing TIF and TID law and policies, evaluate the status of existing TIDs in Marathon County, and make recommendations to the County Board relative to representation of the County on the Joint Review Board, the role of the County in extensions of TID timelines, exceedances of TID valuation limits, and use of donor TIDs, and recommendations for changes to TIF and TID laws; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 8, 2023, the Executive Committee recommended creation of a TIF Task Force and approval of the attached amendment to Section 2.05 of the Marathon County General Code incorporating the duties, purpose, and membership of the task force into the Marathon County Code; and

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

1. To create a Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Task Force as a formally constituted subunit of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors;
2. To amend Section 2.05 of the Marathon County General Code by creating a new subsection (14) as outlined in the attached document.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as required by law.

Dated the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

**HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Fiscal Impact: None. The task force creation and code amendment have no fiscal impact.

Legal Note: Passage of this item by the County Board will require a 2/3 majority vote of members present.

## NEWLY CREATED SECTION 2.05(14) – MARATHON COUNTY GENERAL CODE

### 2.05(14) *Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Task Force.*

- (a) *Reporting Relationship:* Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee.
- (b) *Mission/purpose:* The purpose of this task force is to review existing tax incremental financing (TIF) and tax incremental district (TID) law and analyze Marathon County’s current role in existing and proposed TID development and utilization with the goal of making recommendations to the Marathon County Board of Supervisors as to policies and processes that the County may pursue in relation to existing and proposed TIDs.
- (c) *Statutory Responsibilities:* None.
- (d) *Membership:* 9 members, including 5 county board members, 2 local elected officials, 1 representative from local taxing districts, and 1 business community representative
- (e) *Member terms:* Appointments to this task force shall be for terms concurrent with the term of the County Board of Supervisors during which the appointment occurs.
- (f) *Duties and Responsibilities:* The TIF Task Force shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
  - 1. To review current TIF and TID law and policies, including a review of the background, purpose, allowable activities, changes, benefits, issues, and concerns relative to the use of TIDs in Marathon County.
  - 2. To identify how various taxing entities are treated after a TID is created.
  - 3. To develop an understanding of the role and authority of the Joint Review Board as to TIF and TID usage.
  - 4. To research the role of counties in the formation of TIDs in other jurisdictions.
  - 5. To evaluate the status of TIDs in Marathon County, including the number, valuation, purpose, creation year, number of plan amendments, purpose of amendments, extensions, and overlapping districts of existing TIDs.
  - 6. To identify the impacts of TIDs on Marathon County’s budget and the impact of TIDs on the average Marathon County homeowner.
  - 7. To make policy recommendations to be considered by the County Board of Supervisors relative to representation of the County on the Joint Review Board; the role of the County in extensions of TID timelines, exceedance of valuation limits, and use of donor TIDs; and recommendations to the State Legislature as to changes in TIF and TID laws.
- (g) *Timeline and Expectations:*
  - 1. By December 31, 2023, report to the County Board of Supervisors in the form of an educational presentation regarding current TIF and TID law and policies.
  - 2. By March 31, 2024, present proposed policy changes to the Marathon County Board of Supervisors for consideration.

## Tax Increment Financing Evaluation

Review current TIF Law and policies.

- Background
- Purpose
- Allowable activities
- Changes over time
- What are the benefits of TIDs
- What issues or concerns are there over the use of TIDs
- How are the various taxing entities treated after a TID is created
- What is the role and authority of the Joint Review Board
- What role do county's play in TID formation in other states

Evaluate the status of Tax Increment Districts (TID) in Marathon County:

- Number of TIDs
- Base Valuation
- Increase in valuation
- Purpose of the TID
- Year created
- Number of Plan amendments
- Purpose of amendments
- Number of TIDs extended beyond initial dates
- Number of overlapping TIDs
- Impacts of TIDs on Marathon County's budget
- Number of donor TIDs
- Impact of donor TIDs on county
- How is the "but for" requirement evaluated
- What is the impact of TIDs on the average homeowner

Policy Issues

- Who should represent Marathon County on the Joint Review Board
- What role should the county have in:
  - Extensions of TID timeline
  - Exceedance of valuation limits
  - Use of donor TIDs
- Recommendations for changes to TIF law