



**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.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – AGENDA WITH MINUTES

THE 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, May 23, 2023, at 7:00 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 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 – 31 supervisors were present as shown:

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

(W) indicates attendance by WebEx

6. Acknowledgment of visitors

B. EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS:

7. Standing Committee Chairpersons or Designees

C. CONSENT AGENDA:

8. Approval of minutes from the April 20 & 25, 2023 County Board 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. Ordinance:
a. Town of McMillan Rezone – Jason Plfieger for Larry Weigel #O-17-23
12. Resolutions:
a. Resolution in Support of the 2023-2025 Budget Requests of the State Public Defender’s Office, District Attorneys Association, Association of State Prosecutors, Department of Justice, and Director of State Courts #R-27-23

Discussion: None.

Action: Motion by Drabek, Second by Covelli. Motion carried on a roll call vote unanimously.

Follow Through: None.

D. APPOINTMENT:

13. ADRC-CW Advisory Committee – Kue Her

Discussion: None.

Action: Motion by Covelli, Second by Leahy. Motion carried on a roll call vote unanimously.

Follow Through: None.

RESOLUTIONS:

E. HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

14. Resolution Establishing 2024 Budget Priorities and Guidelines #R-28-23

Action: Motion by Seefeldt, Second by Leahy to adopt the resolution.

Action: Motion by Baker, Second by Morache to amend the resolution, text of the amendment is noted at the end of the minutes.

Discussion: Discussion was had and questions were asked and answered.

Action: Motion by Langenhahn, Second by Rosenberg to refer the resolution and amendment back to the HRFC.

Discussion: Discussion was had and questions were asked and answered.

Action: Motion by Langenhahn, Second by Venzke to call the question. Motion carried on a roll call vote 22-10 as follows:

Yes – Aarrestad, Bootz, Buch, Bushman, Drabek, Gibbs, Hart, Lamont, Leahy, Lemmer, Marshall, Maszk, McEwen, Oberbeck, Opall, Robinson, Rosenberg, Seefeldt, Van Krey, Venzke, Wilhelm, Xiong - 22

No – Baker, Covelli, Dickinson, Hartinger, Morache, Seubert, Sherfinski, Sondelski, Straub, Ungerer - 10

Action: Motion to refer back to committee carried 23-8 on a roll call vote as follows:

Yes – Aarrestad, Bootz, Buch, Covelli, Dickinson, Drabek, Gibbs, Hart, Lamont, Langenhahn, Leahy, Lemmer, Maszk, McEwen, Morache, Oberbeck, Opall, Robinson, Rosenberg, Seefeldt, Ungerer, Van Krey, Venzke, Xiong - 24

No – Baker, Bushman, Hartinger, Marshall, Seubert, Sondelski, Straub, Wilhelm - 8

Follow Through: Resolution and amendments referred back to HRFC. No votes taken on amendment or original resolution.

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

15. Resolution Extending Encumbrance of ARPA Funds for Regional Forensic Science Center Project, Amending 2023 CIP Budget, and Authorizing Expenditure for Design Services #R-29-23

Discussion: Vice Chair McEwen explained the resolution as presented in the packet and the updates that have been made since it was first brought forward.

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

Follow Through: Resolution will be forwarded to the appropriate parties as stated in the resolution.

G. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

16. Announcements and / or Requests

- Signatures were requested from appropriate committees.
- Supervisor Baker requested a detailed update on the ARPA funds

17. Motion to Adjourn – Motion by Venzke, Second by Covelli to adjourn. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPOINTMENT – ADRC CW Advisory Committee

I, Kurt Gibbs, Chairperson of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors, do hereby upon approval of the Board, appoint the following to the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin (ADRC-CW) Advisory Committee for a three-year term to expire December 31, 2026:

Kue Her, 9848 Siberian Drive, Weston, WI 54476

ORDINANCE

#O-17-23 – Town of McMillan Rezone – Jason Pflieger for Larry Weigel

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 May, 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLUTIONS

#R-27-23 – Resolution in Support of the 2023-2025 Budget Requests of the State Public Defender’s Office, District Attorneys Association, Association of State Prosecutors, Department of Justice, and Director of State Courts

WHEREAS, the criminal justice system is a core constitutional responsibility of the State of Wisconsin with key services provided by the State Public Defender’s Office, District Attorneys, the Department of Justice, and the judiciary; and

WHEREAS, though each of these offices have different fundamental roles and responsibilities, they are interrelated such that if one part of the system is under-resourced or inefficient, it impacts all others; and

WHEREAS, adequate resources for this constitutional service are necessary to protect constitutional rights and to protect public safety; and

WHEREAS, Marathon County is a critical partner with the state, providing resources, staffing, and infrastructure through the county jail, Sheriff’s Department, Health and Human Services, and support staff in the District Attorney’s office; and

WHEREAS, the State Public Defender’s Office, District Attorneys, the Department of Justice, and the judiciary have collaborated to offer a thorough review of investments that are critical to ensure that Wisconsin meets its constitutional obligations to all citizens impacted by the justice system; and

WHEREAS, without these resources, Marathon County will face increased fiscal pressure to continue to provide these critical services using county resources or we will face additional threats to public safety and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Governor and the State Legislature fully support the 2023-25 Biennial Budget requests proposed jointly by the State Public Defender’s Office, District Attorneys, the Department of Justice, and the judiciary to provide critical support to our state’s criminal justice system services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors directs the County Clerk to submit the resolution to the Governor, Marathon County Legislative Delegation, the Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin State Public Defender Kelli Thompson, Wisconsin District Attorney’s Association President Eric Toney, Director of State Courts, and Attorney General Josh Kaul.

Dated this 23rd day of May, 2023

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE and HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

~~#R 28 23 – Resolution Establishing 2024 Budget Priorities and Guidelines~~

~~WHEREAS, Marathon County is an economically diverse county with a growing population and variety of rural, suburban, and urban communities; and~~

~~WHEREAS, County staff provided background information on historical revenues and expenses at the April 20th and 25th meetings of the Board of Supervisors and the May 10th meeting of the Human Resource and Finance Committee meeting; and~~

~~WHEREAS, revenue limitations by the State continue to require tough decision prioritizing which expenses will be covered with limited revenues; and~~

~~WHEREAS, prudent financial management and maintenance of fund balance reserves are essential to the long-term fiscal health of the county and the retention of a strong credit rating; and
WHEREAS, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors is sensitive to the nature of the tax burden on the residents of Marathon County, and prioritizes a stable, sustainable tax levy rate;~~

~~WHEREAS, the Marathon County Board adopted a budget development timeline that calls for the establishment of budget priority guidelines for the County Administrator to consider when putting together a budget recommendation.~~

~~NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors hereby establishes the following categorical priority guidelines for the County Administrator to consider, in conjunction with the direction to maintain the county's long term fiscal health and strong credit rating, when creating the 2024 budget:~~

- ~~1— Capital Reserves (Structural Deficit)—proposed budget should not utilize capital reserves to fund operating costs and debt services, while using remaining ARPA for capital needs.~~
- ~~2— Employee Compensation—proposed budget should be based on a 3% increase in employee compensation.~~
- ~~3— Health Insurance—proposed budget should maintain the quality of health care program currently offered to employees, while also evaluating the delivery vehicle and cost.~~
- ~~4— New Positions—proposed budget should not include any new positions unless they are fully funded through non levy resources.~~
- ~~5— Operating Expenses—proposed budget process should strive to pursue efficiencies in service delivery to reduce costs.~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the seven (7) standing committees of Marathon County are hereby called upon to continue the review of the 2023 mandated services report and the rate and fee documents during the ensuing months to develop additional recommendations for consideration by the Board of Supervisors in the 2024 budget development and approval process.~~

~~—May 23, 2023~~

~~HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE~~

Proposed Amendment

~~WHEREAS, Marathon County is an economically diverse county with a growing population and variety of rural, suburban, and urban communities; and~~

~~WHEREAS, County staff provided background information on historical revenues and expenses at the April 20th and 25th meetings of the Board of Supervisors and the May 10th meeting of the Human Resource and Finance Committee meeting; and~~

~~WHEREAS, revenue limitations by the State continue to require tough decision prioritizing which expenses will be covered with limited revenues; and~~

~~WHEREAS, prudent financial management and maintenance of fund balance reserves are essential to the long-term fiscal health of the county and the retention of a strong credit rating; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors is sensitive to the nature of the tax burden on the residents of Marathon County, and prioritizes a stable, sustainable total tax levy rate; and~~

~~WHEREAS, during the 2023 budget process, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors and the County Administrator indicated a commitment to further review non profit funding; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Marathon County's Debt Management Policy, section 1.51(5), states "Utilizing the County's debt capacity will only be considered after all other financing options have been exhausted";~~

~~WHEREAS, the Marathon County Board adopted a budget development timeline that calls for the establishment of budget priority guidelines for the County Administrator to consider when putting together a budget recommendation.~~

~~NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors hereby establishes the following categorical priority guidelines for the County Administrator to consider, in conjunction with the direction to maintain the county's long term fiscal health and strong credit rating, when creating the 2024 budget:~~

- ~~1— Capital Reserves (Structural Deficit)—proposed budget should not utilize capital reserves to fund operating costs and debt services, while using remaining ARPA for capital needs.~~
- ~~2— Employee Compensation—proposed budget should be based on a maximum 3% increase in employee compensation.~~

- 3 ~~Health Insurance~~—proposed budget should maintain the quality of health care program currently offered to employees, while also evaluating the delivery vehicle and cost.
 - 4 ~~New Positions~~—proposed budget should not include any new positions unless they are fully funded through non-levy resources.
 - 5 ~~Operating Expenses~~—proposed budget process should strive to pursue efficiencies in service delivery to reduce costs and limit the increase in total tax levy to the increase in net new construction.
 - 6 ~~Standing Committees~~—Proposed budget should equally consider all standing committee recommendations on programs and services.
 - 7 ~~Non-Profit Funding~~—Proposed budget should include a plan to convert nonprofit funding to a true “fee for service” basis, utilize requests for proposals for desired services rather than issue sole source contracts, and provide an estimate of cost savings vs. directly providing the services.
 - 8 ~~Debt Use~~—Per County debt management policy and in light of the recent rapid increase in County debt, the proposed budget should consider utilizing \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000 of ARPA funds to extend the life of the current Highway Department facilities on West Street.
- ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the seven (7) standing committees of Marathon County are hereby called upon to continue the review of the 2023 mandated and discretionary services report, the rates and fees document, and the 5-year departmental expense and levy document during the ensuing months to develop additional recommendations for consideration by the Board of Supervisors in the 2024 budget development and approval process.~~

Resolution and Amendment Returned to Committee

#R-29-23 – Resolution Extending Encumbrance of ARPA Funds for Regional Forensic Science Center Project, Amending 2023 CIP Budget, and Authorizing Expenditure for Design Services

WHEREAS, Marathon County is the recipient of funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Marathon County is authorized to expend ARPA funds pursuant to rules promulgated by the United States Department of the Treasury and Section 602(c)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors previously authorized the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 to serve as a portion of the funding plan for a Regional Forensic Science Center. The Board further authorized these funds to be encumbered through July 2023 and returned to the County’s ARPA fund balance for reallocation for other uses if the remaining funding necessary for the Regional Forensic Science Center project are not received by July 31, 2023. The Regional Forensic Science Center has been a project studied by the Marathon County Board through the creation of a Regional Morgue Task Force in 2017; however, the project does not yet exist in the Marathon County 2023 Capital Improvement Program budget; and

WHEREAS, state funding for a Regional Forensic Science Center is being considered by the Wisconsin Legislature as a part of the state’s budget process. Additional funds may be received in 2023 through federal sources. A funding decision relative to a Regional Forensic Science Center may not be made, and funds relative to the Center may not be received, prior to July 31, 2023; however, available funding is likely to be known by September 2023; and

WHEREAS, Marathon County staff have had ongoing discussions with Northcentral Technical College (NTC) regarding a potential location for a Regional Forensic Science Center on or near property currently owned by NTC and near that college’s existing campus in the City of Wausau. NTC is willing to engage Marathon County in a transaction relative to land for the Regional Forensic Science Center and is interested in developing an operational partnership with County staff to provide for significant professional educational experiences at the future Forensic Science Center site; and

WHEREAS, the design phase of a Regional Forensic Science Center project will likely require five to six months for completion; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the \$2,000,000.00 in encumbered ARPA funds could be utilized to engage with a firm for the design of the Regional Forensic Science Center. Allocation of a portion of these encumbered funds would permit work to be started on the design of the Regional Forensic Science Center as soon as procurement for design services is completed. Delays in completion of the design phase of the project would likely lead to higher project costs should the state-funding be allocated and the construction of the facility be approved by the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, On May 9, 2023, and May 10, 2023, respectively, the Public Safety Committee and the Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee voted to support the extension of the encumbrance of ARPA funds

for the Regional Forensic Science Center through December 31, 2023, voted to recommend use of up to \$178,095 of the \$2,000,000.00 in encumbered ARPA funds to procure design services for the Regional Forensic Science Center building and infrastructure, and voted to amend the 2023 Capital Improvement Program budget to add as a project the Regional Forensic Science Center.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors hereby extends its encumbrance of ARPA funds in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 to serve as a portion of the funding plan for Regional Forensic Science Center through December 31, 2023. The Board authorizes these funds to be encumbered through December 31, 2023, and to be returned to the County's ARPA fund balance for reallocation for other uses if the remaining funding necessary for the Regional Forensic Science Center project are not allocated to Marathon County by December 31, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors hereby amends the 2023 Capital Improvement Program budget to create as an additional project in 2023 the Marathon County Regional Forensic Science Center with funding for the project to include the \$2,000,000.00 in encumbered ARPA funds to be supplemented by state or federal grant dollars upon receipt.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors approves the use of up to \$178,095 of the \$2,000,000.00 in encumbered ARPA funds to procure design services for the Regional Forensic Science Center building and infrastructure. The Board finds that this expenditure is consistent with the use of ARPA funds for capital improvements to public facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and as revenue replacement, both allowable uses of ARPA funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board authorizes the amendment of the 2023 budget to reflect the encumbrance and expenditure of the funds identified herein.

FISCAL NOTE:

This Resolution extends the encumbrance of no more than \$2,000,000.00 of Marathon County's APRA allocation for expenditure towards the costs of a Regional Forensic Science Center contingent upon receipt of the remaining required funds from other sources. If the required alternative funds are not allocated to Marathon County by December 31, 2023, these ARPA funds shall be returned to the County's ARPA fund balance for reallocation.

This resolution also authorizes the expenditure of up to \$178,095 of the \$2,000,000.00 in encumbered ARPA funds to procure design services for the Regional Forensic Science Center building and infrastructure.

Finally, this resolution amends the 2023 Capital Improvement Program budget to add the Regional Forensic Science Center as a project with the funding sources identified herein. The total project cost estimate is \$14,841,266.00, of which up to \$2,000,000 would be funded by ARPA funds and the remaining funding sources would be state and/or federal grants or appropriations.

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 2023 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.

May 23, 2023

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE and HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE