



MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 12:00 p.m.
Courthouse Assembly Room – B-105, 500 Forest St, Wausau

Attendance:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Craig McEwen, Chair	X	
Jim Schaefer, Vice-Chair	X	
Karen Kellbach		EX
David Nutting	X	
Arnie Schlei	X	
Chris Voll		EX

Others Present: Brad Karger, Jean Maszk, Chad Billeb, Jerry Fitzgerald, Preston Vande Voort, Scott Parks, Jason Plaza, Theresa Wetzsteon, Ruth Heinzl, Jeff Johnson, Kelly Schremp, Phil Rentmeester, Mary Palmer

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Craig McEwen at 12:00 p.m.

2. **Public Comment (15 minute limit)** Jerry Fitzgerald, Town of Emmet, regarding \$75 fee for signs and taking down the old signs.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Public Safety Meeting on March 13, 2019

MOTION BY NUTTING; SECOND BY SCHLEI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2019, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for its Consideration

A. Are Public Defender pay and returning 17 year old offenders to the Juvenile Justice system the legislative priorities of the committee?

Discussion:

The committee agrees that Public Defender Pay increase and returning 17 year old offenders to the Juvenile Justice System are the top two legislative priorities for this committee.

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) is working for youth aid for 17 year olds. The state would have to provide the funding for this change. It would be unfair to put it on the counties. Other considerations are Social Services staffing and the fact that juvenile records are confidential. Currently we have six 17 year olds in the jail. If a crime is serious enough, a Judge can waive a juvenile into adult jail. Low level offenders can be referred to a diversion program to keep them out of the system.

Public Defender's pay is \$40 and County appointed attorney's rate is \$70. This committee supports raising private public defender rates to \$100 as of January 1, 2020, which would be the same rate the County rate is increasing to as of January 1, 2020.

Action:

No action taken

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

B. Court Security Staffing

Discussion:

Currently there are 13 part time court security positions. The request is to reduce the 13 part time positions and create 5 full time positions. Then hire 2 full time deputies assigned to court security. This would result in a savings of about \$30,000 per year. This move would provide consistency and less turnover and staff working less hours per year. Efficiencies have been found to help with this. Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee has already approved these changes.

Action:

MOTION BY SCHAEFER; SECOND BY NUTTING TO APPROVE SUPPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL OF THESE POSITION REQUESTS. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

C. Alarm Permit Fees

Discussion:

The request is to raise alarm permit fees for private homes from \$25 to \$50 and business permits from \$50 to \$100. Alarm fees haven't been raised in over 25 years. The Sheriff's department responds to any alarm system in Marathon County except in a town or city that has an alarm permit ordinance. The process will be streamlined and payments will be able to be made online. Right now the County has only worked with townships but may take over Wausau Police and Everest Metro permits. Revenues will go back to the 9-1-1 center. Sheriff's Department will work with the Chamber and other agencies to get addresses for notification.

Action:

MOTION BY SCHAEFER; SECOND BY NUTTING TO APPROVE THE INCREASE OF ALARM PERMIT FEES FROM \$25 TO \$50 FOR PRIVATE HOMES AND \$50 TO \$500 FOR BUSINESS PERMITS. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

D. Replacing Address Signs – Referred by County Board

Discussion:

This agenda item came from County Board and in the packet was the information on fees. This is for address signs only. Street sign replacement will be put up by the municipality.

Action:

MOTION BY SCHAEFER; SECOND BY SCHLEI TO APPROVE FUNDING REPLACEMENT ADDRESS SIGN COSTS. MOTION CARRIED

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

E. Update on the Impact of 17 year old Offenders Returning to the Juvenile System

Discussion:

Our census has been up to 15 or 16 youth. The capacity is 20. If the change occurs there will be a demand for these facilities for short and long term stays. Our rates are considerably lower than the state rate. The Deputy Jail Administrator will present on raising our fees to be more consistent within the state. One of the negative aspects is go retroactive and as of 1/1/21 pull the juveniles out. There are only about a dozen level 2 facilities similar to ours in the state.

Action:

No action taken.

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution: None

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Strategic Plan Review and Priorities for 2019

Discussion:

Objective 7.1: Provide cost efficient and high quality public safety services. Additional communications dispatchers are needed and is being worked on. Reducing response times is critical. Other ideas to possibly explore included looking at a regional fire/ambulance service and EMS.

Regionalization may be difficult because some municipalities like it the way that it is. However, a lack of volunteers for rural departments is a problem.

Follow through:

Look at the last feasibility study. Phil Rentmeester, Emergency Management Director, will check with

other fire and EMS to see if a consolidation would be appropriate.

7. Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:

- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
 - Fire study from Phil
- B. Next meeting: **Wednesday, May 8, 2019** at the Courthouse Assembly Room.

8. Adjournment

MOTION BY SCHLEI; SECOND BY SCHAEFER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED. (1:17 pm)

Respectfully submitted
Mary Palmer