



MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, June 12, 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	X	
Jean Maszk	X	
David Nutting	X	
Arnie Schlei	X	
Chris Voll	X	

Others Present: Brad Karger, Randy Westgate, Judge Strasser, Theresa Wetzsteon, Kyle Mayo, Ruth Heinzl

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) - None

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Public Safety Meeting on May 8, 2019

MOTION BY SCHARFER; SECOND BY VOLL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 2019, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES. MOTION CARRIED.

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

A. Volunteer Civil Court Mediation

Discussion:

Randy Westgate on behalf of Wisconsin Judicare requested \$15,000 of County funds for free mediation services in a variety of civil cases. This program responds to the problem of people entering the legal system without representation. They often do this because they simply can't afford representation. Doing so, however, can result in unjust or unsatisfactory outcomes and bogs down the courts as litigants fumble around trying to present evidence and make their point with little knowledge of court procedures and rules of evidence.

The work of the volunteer mediators can save significant amounts of court time and can help the parties to a dispute reach a more satisfactory outcome.

Action:

MOTION BY NUTTING, SECOND BY MASZK TO SUPPORT A \$15,000 ADDITION TO THE 2020 COUNTY BUDGET FOR VOLUNTARY CIVIL COURT MEDIATION PROVIDED A MATCHING \$15,000 CAN BE RAISED ELSEWHERE IN THE COMMUNITY. MOTION CARRIED, UNANIMOUSLY.

Follow through:

Brad Karger was asked to work with the people involved in civil court mediation to see if the savings to the county can be quantified and documented,

B. State Budget as it Relates to Matters of Priority to the County

Discussion:

Much of the news from the Joint Finance Committee on Public Safety Items was good. We are in line to receive 2.5 new Assistant District Attorney Positions, The pay for Public Defenders was raised to \$70 per hour, from \$40. Putting 17 year olds back into the Juvenile Justice System was not acted upon as it was considered a policy item.

Action:

No action taken

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

C. Cost Recovery Policy

Discussion:

Committee members seemed to express agreement that there will be benefit to a cost recovery policy that standardizes the criteria for setting fee amounts and when they are charged. Additionally establishing a regular review period will help keep things more even and consistent.

Action:

No action taken

Follow Through:

It is expected that this discussion will continue at subsequent meetings.

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

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports-None

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

A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion

B. Next meeting: **Wednesday, July 10 2019** at the Courthouse Assembly Room.

8. Adjournment

**MOTION BY VOLL; SECOND BY SCHAEFER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.
(12:55 PM)**

Minutes prepared by Brad Karger
On June 13, 2019