



# MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, August 14, 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, Jason Plaza, Chad Billeb, Scott Parks, Sean McCarthy, Ruth Heinzl, Theresa Wetzsteon, Jamie Polley, Kathy Maszk, Kyle Mayo, Travis Jensen, 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) - None**

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Public Safety Meeting on June 12, 2019**

**MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY KELLBACH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2019, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

A. FY2019 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

**Discussion:**

Every year the Sheriff's Department applies for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. The Grant is for \$11,027 and is earmarked for software used in the forensic unit in conjunction with the Wausau Police Department and other law enforcement departments. The Public Safety Committee needs to be notified according to the grant.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY SCHAEFER TO APPROVE THE FY2019 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

No follow through requested.

**5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution. Policy Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Following:**

A. Sheriff's Office New Position Request – Recreation Enforcement Deputy

**Discussion:**

The Sheriff's Department and Parks, Recreation and Forestry (PRF) are collaborating for two deputy positions. One deputy position will be fully reimbursed by the PRF and receive direction from the PRF Director and the other will be approximately 80% reimbursed by the DNR. The unfunded portion of approximately \$26,000 would be new levy for the Sheriff's Department. The two deputy positions will do all enforcement work in county parks, monitor boats, snowmobiles, ATV/UTV's, tree stands in county forests, trespassing issues, etc. They will issue warning fees for some enforcement issues rather than a citation. This is a win/win for both departments.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY SCHAEFER; SECOND BY NUTTING TO SUPPORT BOTH DEPUTY SHERIFF POSITIONS ASSIGNED TO THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR COUNTY PARKS AND DNR SERVICES. IF ANY PORTION OF THE \$26,000 IN TAX LEVY IS REDUCED OR ELIMINATED IT WILL BE BROUGHT BACK TO PUBLIC SAFETY FOR RECONSIDERATION. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

No follow through requested.

- B. Review Sheriff's Office Previous Request for Six Additional Dispatchers and the New Radio Channel

**Discussion:**

These six positions had been asked for previously. Two of the positions are in the 2019 budget if funding could be found. With the increase in fees, jail numbers being down this year and some money set aside two dispatchers will be hired this year, two in January and two in July. Once four dispatchers are hired and trained the new channel can be brought on.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY NUTTING SECOND BY MASZK TO ALLOW THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT TO MOVE FORWARD TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF TWO DISPATCHERS NOW, TWO IN JANUARY 2020 AND TWO MORE IN JULY 2020. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

No follow through requested.

- C. Request from Sheriff's Department to change County Ordinance 12 – Licenses and Permits  
i. Section 12.03(2)(a) – Change permit effective date to calendar year  
ii. Section 12.03(4) – Change false alarm charges and continued violations

**Discussion:**

Consensus emerged that the change to the permit effective date to a calendar year and increase in false alarm charges and continued violations should be approved.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY KELLBACH SECOND BY SCHLEI TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE PERMIT EFFECTIVE DATE TO CALENDAR YEAR AND CHANGES TO FALSE ALARM CHARGES AND CONTINUED VIOLATIONS. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

No follow through requested.

**6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**

- A. District Attorney's Office Update  
i. Impact of IT Specialist  
ii. Additional Assistant District Attorney positions in the State Biennial Budget

**Discussion:**

District Attorney Theresa Wetzsteon gave an update on some of the changes happening in the DA's office. With the hire of an IT Specialist some of the enhancements in the office are:

- Audio and visuals are sent through multiple media and a digital evidence storage system was developed.
- Developed with CCITC a secure portal for use with outlying agencies and the State and County computers.
- Digital discovery has been centrally located for efficiency.
- Has set up Skype
- Records webinars for CE's for DA's when available.

They are no looking at what the legal secretaries can absorb now that they don't have to do the digital discovery such as redacting, numbering pages, etc.

The District Attorney also spoke of the additional Assistant District Attorneys (ADA) that are in the budget and Marathon County should be getting an additional 2 ADA's. The Governor is reviewing the distribution of positions and we may get one more. She is also hopeful that the funds the County pays for additional ADA's can be diverted to fund support staff and a special prosecutor rather than a court appointed attorney.

**Follow through:**

Bring presentation to County Board on the impact of the DA's IT Specialist.

- B. Strategic Plan Update  
i. Supported Public Defender Pay Increase to Reduce Unnecessary Jail Holds

- ii. Re-organized Court Security Staffing to attract Candidates and Save Money
- iii. Considering an "Alarm Fee" as new revenue to support dispatch enhancements.
- iv. Supported "Volunteer Civil Court Mediation Program" to make the Courts more Efficient and to Facilitate Timely Release of Jail Inmates.
- v. Increased Secure Detention Daily Rates from \$150 to \$200 per day.

**Discussion:**

Chair McEwen went through the Public Safety portion of the Strategic Plan and the action that Public Safety has taken in the past quarter, as described above.

**Follow through:**

No follow through requested.

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

- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
- B. Next meeting: **Wednesday, September 11, 2019** at Noon in the Courthouse Assembly Room.

**8. Adjournment**

**MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY SCHAEFER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED. (1:22 pm)**