



# MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, October 9, 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		EX
Jean Maszk	X	
David Nutting	X	
Arnie Schlei	X	
Chris Voll		EX

**Others Present:** Brad Karger, Lance Leonhard, Laura Yarie, Chad Billeb, Scott Parks, Paul Mergendahl, Becky Bogen, Phil Rentmeester, Jess Blahnik, Theresa Wetzsteon and members of the DA's office, Jim Griesbach, Ted Knoeck, 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 September 11, 2019**

**MOTION BY SCHLEI; SECOND BY MASZK TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2019, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

A. Discussion regarding use of County Resources for Special Events, Like 5K Runs, etc.

**Discussion:**

Jim Griesbach, Highway Commissioner and Lt. Ted Knoeck, from the Sheriff's office who works with Highway Safety, started a conversation on what policy is needed for special events such as Iron Man, Iron Bull events, various types of races, etc. Today the conversation is started to ensure the safety of the participants and how to address staffing issues. If we don't have staffing, how can we approve a race? Various upcoming events were described both in the City of Wausau and throughout the County. Each area has specific needs. For the proposed 160 mile race it would cost approximate \$10,000 to \$12,000 and we would need to rent signs and get more staff.

Some questions and comments that came up were that we could bring events in but have restrictions. Do we charge groups the real cost of putting on these events? Who would do a safety plan? Design an application process. Organizations would need a million dollar liability umbrella policy. What is the estimated economic impact for each event?

A good starting point is for the Public Safety and Infrastructure committees to meet and define what a policy would look like and ways to resolve the issue.

**Action:**

No action taken

**Follow through:**

Jim Griesbach, Ted Knoeck, Jamie Polley, Tim Buchholz (head of Iron Bull) and Brad Karger will start talking about this issue.

B. Extending the Charter of the Task Force Overseeing the Development of a Forensic Science Center (Morgue)

**Discussion:**

The Forensic Science Task Force sunset in August of 2018. The charter needs to be extended to continue having meetings.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY SCHLEI TO EXTEND THE FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER (MORGUE) TASK FORCE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

No follow through requested.

- C. New Position Request from the District Attorney
  - a. Paralegal

**Discussion:**

See D below.

**Action:**

No action taken

**Follow through:**

No follow through requested.

- D. Request of the District Attorney for the County to fund One Assistant District Attorney Position in 2020

**Discussion:**

Theresa Wetzsteon, District Attorney (DA) gave background information on positions that the County has funded over the years and other positions requested. An additional 2.5 Assistant DA positions are being funded by the State. With the additional funding from the State for these positions that the County was paying for, the County took those funds and put them back into the general budget.

The DA is requesting a paralegal position for their office. They currently do not have any paralegals. She is also requesting funds for an additional Assistant DA. Statistics were shared on types of crime and how many of each that the department is working on.

Chair McEwen stated that no one disagrees there's a need. In early 2019, Public Safety directed the administrator to find funding for six dispatchers. To change the budget now you are asking the committee to choose. He is grateful the state has stepped up to pay for the additional positions.

County Board Chair Gibbs explained that when you develop a budget, you have to look at the resources you have. Look holistically and there are needs throughout the county in all departments. You need to look at resources available, all the needs and then prioritize. He then explained the budget process and where income comes from through various sources.

We have taken 25% out of the non-profits. There is still not enough money to fund all 6 positions for the dispatcher. We will need to borrow \$9 million dollars to cover our CIP projects. He doesn't feel there is a way to find \$163,000.

The DA stated she may have to pull back staffing from some of the diversion programs because they don't have enough attorneys to staff them.

Brad suggests that the committee read the budget when it's published on Friday and if someone wants to make an amendment, he will help draft it to take to county board.

Consensus emerged that they believe they have learned a lot and will take it into account after reading the 2020 budget.

**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. Evidence Based Decision Making

**Discussion:**

Will be discussed at the November meeting - no quorum

**Follow through:**

No follow through requested.

B. Educational Update on Changes to Youth Corrections with the Closure of Lincoln Hills

This agenda items was moved to the beginning due to staff availability.

**Discussion:**

Becky Bogen, Social Services, The kinks are being worked out on the upcoming changes to youth corrections when Lincoln Hills closes. Milwaukee, Dane, Racine and Brown Counties have applied to have these facilities in their counties. The state building commission and building committee will decide who will move forward. It would cost approximately \$110 million for the four facilities and only \$80 million has been allocated.

Brown County requested a letter of support from Marathon County for a 24 bed long term care Residential Care Facility and 32 Secure Detention beds at a cost of \$550 to \$650 per day. We have our own 20 bed secure detention facility and let them know our use would be low. Our past history is about 1 per year, but could be more. Closure date for Lincoln Hill has been pushed back to 7/1/2021. Today we have 10 – 11 kids in our facility and 80% are Marathon County kids.

**Follow through:**

No follow through requested.

C. Progress in Funding the Operational and Capital Costs of a Forensic Science Center

**Discussion:**

Will be discussed at the November meeting – no quorum.

**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
  - Items 6 A and C will be on the November meeting agenda.
- B. Next meeting: **Wednesday, November 13, 2019** at the Courthouse Assembly Room.

**8. Adjournment**

**MOTION BY NUTTING; SECOND BY MASZK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.  
(1:24 pm)**