



MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, May 6, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.
Courthouse Assembly Room – B-105, 500 Forest St, Wausau

Attendance:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Matt Bootz, Chair	X	
Brent Jacobson, Vice-Chair	W	
Kelley Gabor	W	
Bruce Lamont		EX
Jean Maszk	W	
Allen Opall	W	
Arnie Schlei	W	

Others Present: Lance Leonhard, Sandra LaDu, Chad Billeb, Craig McEwen (W), Kurt Gibbs (W), Mary Palmer, others appeared via Web.

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Matt Bootz at 2:00 p.m.

2. **Public Comment (15 minute limit)** – The Public Comment portion of the agenda has been temporarily suspended, pursuant to Marathon County Resolution # R-18-20, dated March 17, 2020.

Chair Bootz asked each committee member to introduce themselves, briefly explain their background and why they ran for public office.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Public Safety Meeting on April 8, 2020

MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY SCHLEI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE April 8, 2020 COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for its Consideration - None**

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

- A. Expanded Position Request from Sherriff's Office for Jail Custodian

Discussion:

Sandra LaDu explained about the request for an expanded position for the Jail custodian. Additional areas were added to the cleaning position and there isn't enough time to get everything completed. The position is going from .50 to 72.5 hours.

Action:

MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY GABOR TO APPROVE THE EXPANSION OF THE JAIL CUSTODIAN POSITION FROM 50% TO 72.5% AND SEND TO HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO SENDING TO COUNTY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

Forward to Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee.

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

- A. Committee Role and Responsibilities – Bootz / Leonhard

- Operational decision-making – areas where this committee frequently approves operational functions
- Reporting Relationships – which Departments and subcommittees report to this Committee (see [Rule 2.04\(8\) of Marathon County Code of Ordinances](#))

Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard went through the Public Safety Committee duties and responsibilities from the County Board rules.

Position requests and reclassifications are operational. Receipt of the Byrne Grant from the Sheriff's Department is one example. Uniform Addressing, fee changes, resolutions relating to state funding on prosecutor positions, regional forensic science center are some of the issues addressed over the past term.

Chair Bootz explained how the Standing Committees work and how committees work together. We are a policy board – not an implementation Board.

County Board Chair Gibbs – if a supervisor has an issue they want to bring forward, they should take it to the County Board Chair. The Chair has 60 days to send the issue to the appropriate standing committee to decide what action is appropriate. No standing committee may block any issue. If a committee doesn't satisfy the request at the committee level, two county board members may request that the issue be put on the full County Board agenda to be discussed.

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

- B. Department Heads – Provide a brief overview of the primary work of your department and what issues, if any, do you see bringing to the Committee in the next two years?

Discussion:

The following Departments provided information on their priorities coming up in the next two years:

- Chad Billeb, Chief Deputy Sheriff, The Sheriff's Department is one of the largest departments in the County. The Jail is the largest division. Committee members were invited to come for a tour of the jail and dispatch areas after Covid-19 opens areas back up. The five divisions are the Jail, Communications (911 Center), Patrol, Administration, and Investigations. A big project coming up is body cameras for the deputies. A grant was submitted to help fund that program. They also need two additional dispatchers, as approved in the last session.
- Theresa Wetzsteon, District Attorney (DA), We have twelve assistant district attorneys, ten assistants (secretaries, para legal, office manager, technical support, victim witness staff, etc) and one deputy district attorney. She shared what types of cases they handle in Marathon County which add up to approximately 6,000 cases a year. The Diversion Program has been very successful over the last decade. Immediate issues are court operations limited due to Covid19; staff shortage; programs are being reviewed; budget shortage; Marcy's Law is going into effect which redefines victim's rights, how they are notified, as everything has to be on the record now. The DA is working with the judges to get this implemented correctly.
- Phil Rentmeester, Emergency Management Director, Phil coordinates and assists various municipalities with their local emergency management plans. We are currently in a public health emergency and he supports the Health Department which takes the lead in this situation. He manages multiple teams on what is needed to assist with emergencies within Marathon County and beyond. Immediate issues are: severe weather will be coming. He will be creating a severe weather siren outreach (education) program to standardize siren use, more Instant Command training, working on the Emergency Operations Center to have trained personnel, which is a challenge.
- Clerk of Courts (Shirley Lang) – We will get a sixth judge next year which will bring staffing issues and facilities plan challenge.
- Medical Examiner's Office (Jessica Blahnik) – This department has grown substantially. A Business Plan from the Morgue Task Force will be available in the near future and what it looks like with partnership with other counties for a Regional Forensic Science Center (Morgue).

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

- C. What are the Committee's priorities for the next two years in light of the [Strategic Plan](#) and [Comprehensive Plan \(Executive Summary\)](#) – discussion

Discussion:

County Board Vice-Chair Craig McEwen – He will meet with each standing committee at least four times per year on the Strategic Plan. Public Safety is the lead committee on Objective 7.1. This is our primary objective and you should keep this in mind as we move forward. Some of the accomplishments of the Public Safety Committee in the past two years are:

- Support the sixth Judge position in Marathon County
- Support Public Defender's pay increase
- Support Assistant District Attorneys (ADA) positions and resolution on fund the gap
- Consider and pass a new alarm system fee policy consistent throughout the County
- Support civil court mediation programs
- Review and increase secure detention daily rates for juveniles
- Support and eliminate residency requirements for quality deputy candidates
- Support deputy hires without going through the Civil Service Commission
- Funding new dispatch positions to get the new police communications channel up and running
- Drug task location remodeling

Uniform addressing and the Morgue Task Force (Forensic Science Center) are two big accomplishments. Uniform addressing is complete the Task Force is moving forward.

Vice-Chair McEwen believes the top priorities for the next year are:

- Hiring the additional 2 dispatcher positions to get the 6th channel up and running
- Dealing with the State Legislators to fund the ADA positions.
- Opioid and Mental Health Concerns and establish policies to deal with that.
- Jail issue – there may be additional costs to make sure it's fully functioning.

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

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

A. Next meeting: June 3, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

B. Announcements: None

8. Adjournment

**MOTION BY SCHLEI; SECOND BY GABOR TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.
(3:26 pm)**

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Palmer