



## MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, September 2, 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	W	
Jean Maszk	X	
Allen Opall	W	
Arnie Schlei	X	

**Others Present:** Lance Leonhard, Craig McEwen, Mary Palmer, members of the public  
**Via Web or Phone:** Bill Millhausen, Chad Billeb, Pete Weinschenk, Dennis Gonnering

### 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) – None

### 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Public Safety Meeting on August 5, 2020

**MOTION BY SCHLEI; SECOND BY MASZK TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 5, 2020 COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

#### A. New Position Requests:

#### 1. Emergency Management Department – Emergency Management Technician

#### Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard explained the process for new positions and why they come to the standing committees.

The Emergency Management Department has two positions, the director and an administrative coordinator. The finance portion of the Admin Coordinator position is being pulled to be handled by the Finance Department. This new position will work with municipalities to update their Emergency Management Plans. Changing this to a technical position creates a gap in increased cost (approx. \$5 to \$6 thousand) that needs to be funded by the municipalities. Discussions are taking place on Hazmat being taken over by the City of Wausau which will free up some of Phil's time.

#### Action:

**MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY SCHLEI TO GIVE CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF THE POSITION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET WITH NO NET LEVY INCREASE. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### Follow through:

Send to HR/Finance/Property Committee.

#### 2. Sheriff's Department - Contracted Deputy with Town of Rib Mountain

#### Discussion:

Chief Deputy Billeb explained that Rib Mountain will pay for a full time Deputy and all equipment except

for about \$4,000 in tax levy for additional equipment that we will retain and is already in the Sheriff's budget. Certain equipment would need to be taken back by the County, if this agreement ended. There could be equipment costs down the road. \$139,000 included wages and fringe, first year costs of a patrol vehicle and other equipment. This is a great opportunity for Rib Mountain and the County. This also follows our Strategic Plan for safety and intergovernmental cooperation.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY SCHLEI; SECOND BY LAMONT TO ENTER INTO THE PARTNERSHIP WITH RIB MOUNTAIN FOR A CONTRACTED DEPUTY. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

Send to HR/Finance/Property Committee.

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

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

**A. Update on the Jail and our COVID Preparedness and Reimbursement Response**

**Discussion:**

The Sheriff's Department has curbed who comes into the jail and how long they stay. We have 38 inmates housed out of county in Langlade, Lincoln, and Taylor counties resulting in a savings of about \$500,000. We have had only three COVID cases. One active case and two asymptomatic. There is an area in the jail for those with active COVID cases. They have three different tools to use along with regular cleanings. They are also tracking their time for reimbursement.

**Follow through:**

No follow through requested.

**B. Update on the Strategic Plan**

**Discussion:**

Vice-Chair McEwen recapped what the Public Safety Committee is responsible for in the Strategic Plan. We have the lead on objective 7.1 (Provide cost-effective and high-quality public safety services) and support for objective 3.3 (Ensure that every child makes it to adulthood with health, stability, and growth opportunities.) Some of the priorities to be acted on by this committee include 911 access, support large events in the county, intergovernmental agreement with Rib Mountain; by December 31, 2022 response time for law enforcement, etc. will decrease but it is a challenge, dispatch center upgrade, body cameras were discussed at the August meeting, etc. Keep up the good work on working on the Strategic Plan.

**Follow through:**

No follow through requested.

**C. Update on UniverCity Application – specific criminal justice related topics**

**Discussion:**

This application is a collaborative effort between a municipality (county) and the UW Madison system to try to solve problems within the municipality. They look to see if they have or are willing to build curriculum to help solve the problems outlined in the application such as:

- What can we do to keep children out of the adult criminal justice system?
- Help on developing options for alternative housing
- Racial disparity in the criminal justice system and how to use diversion programs
- Data analytics
- Emergency Medical Services - how do we study, what do we look at and how do we improve in the rural areas?

These are the areas that directly relate to the public safety system.

**Follow through:**

No follow through requested.

- D. Discussion regarding County Board Educational Presentation on Implicit/Explicit Bias and Institutional/Structural Discrimination and their Impact on Marathon County's Ability to Achieve Its Goals (presentation available here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6lxZlSeZJI>)
1. What opportunities do you see to improve our policies and practices to enhance diversity and inclusion and help us meet Objective 3.8 of the Comprehensive Plan?

**Discussion:**

After the special county board educational presentation on implicit/explicit bias and institutional/structural discrimination, each standing committee was asked to have a discussion on the topic. Then each standing committee chair will take their committee's responses to the Executive Committee.

Administrator Leonhard answered questions from committee members, explaining that:

- The presentation was the third presentation to the County Board as directed in the 2019 Pride Resolution adopted by the County Board
- The program cost was \$500; however, the City of Wausau has agreed to split the cost of the presentation

Committee members offered their perspectives relative to the presentation and proceeded to discuss the efforts that the county has made. Consensus emerged amongst members that Marathon County is doing better than many others. Committee members felt that all Department Heads should view the presentation and see if there are areas of improvement in their departments and provide positive examples that are going on.

**Follow through:**

Administrator Leonhard and Chair Bootz will meet to finalize the public safety discussion topics for the September Executive Committee meeting.

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

- A. Next meeting: September 30, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
- B. Announcements: None

**8. Adjournment**

**MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY SCHLEI TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.  
(3:22 pm)**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mary Palmer