



MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, September 30, 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	W	
Brent Jacobson, Vice-Chair	X	
Kelley Gabor	W	
Bruce Lamont	W	
Jean Maszk	W	
Allen Opall	W	
Arnie Schlei	W	

Others Present: Lance Leonhard, Laura Yarie, Mary Palmer

Via Web or Phone: Paul Mergendahl, Theresa Wetzsteon, Travis Jensen, Shawn Yeager, Phil Rentmeester, Ruth Heinzl, Pam Steffen-Karls, Nancy Solberg, Molly Lawrence, others

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 September 2, 2020 MOTION BY JACOBSON; SECOND BY MASZK TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

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

- A. Should Marathon County Increase the Daily Rate Charged to Youth Placed at the Shelter Home from \$130 per day to \$160 per day?

Discussion:

Paul Mergendahl explained the proposed increase of the daily rate at the Youth Shelter Home from \$130 to \$160. The increase will bring us in line with other counties.

Action:

MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY GABOR TO APPROVE THE INCREASE IN THE DAILY RATE FOR THE SHELTER HOME TO \$160 PER DAY. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

No follow through needed.

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

- A. Update on Emergency Management Department

1. Discussions with City of Wausau Relative to Hazardous Material Response and Upgrading of Administrative Position to Emergency Management Technician

Discussion:

Marathon County's Emergency Management Department Hazardous Material (HazMat) Response is looking to transfer HazMat services to the City of Wausau Fire Department through a contract. The contracted services will be approximately \$20,000. A higher level of service will be provided to municipalities in the County. Training volunteers, as the County does, is a challenge. Wausau has regular training and upgrade of equipment. Most of the County's equipment was purchased or donated

in the '90's. It's common practice for counties to reach out to larger cities in their geographical area to handle this. It will be a wash for the county and free up the Emergency Management Director's time.

Upgrading the Administrative Support staff to a Technician position will enhance Emergency Management services, will open up more essential work and provide a higher level of service to municipalities in the county. Additional costs to the position will be covered by a contract with the City.

Action:

MOTION BY SCHLEI; SECOND BY LAMONT TO PROCEED WITH THE 2021 BUDGET TO UPGRADE THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN AND FINISH THE DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF WAUSAU REGARDING HAZMAT RESPONSE. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

The Administrator will put the Technician Position in the 2021 budget.

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. District Attorney's (DA's) Office update (Theresa Wetzsteon)

Discussion:

District Attorney (DA) Theresa Wetzsteon gave a [presentation](#) on the District Attorney's office. The prosecutors' core responsibilities are to determine whether to issue criminal charges and to review all evidence on all cases.

Evidence Review – The IT Analyst's full time job is to locate, duplicate and send out recordings. He doesn't review them. The attorneys are responsible for that. We could use 3 more Analysts.

Prosecutors are state employees. In the past Marathon County has paid for additional staff, but that went away last year when the State provided 2.5 more prosecutors. We are still 5.7 prosecutors short. Position changes in 2020 were explained.

Core Responsibilities to Victims of Crime: With the passing of Marsy's Law it has put additional work/stress on the DA's office and what they need to provide to the victim. Victims have a right to be heard at any proceeding that their rights are affected.

Restitution orders are over \$1 million per year.

Evaluation of Discretionary Programming need to be done to determine

- Time resources
- Budgetary consideration
- Measurable outcome examples – reduce recidivism and increase public safety

It was difficult when Start Right was pitted against the DA's office during the 2020 budget process.

When we evaluate discretionary programs they may be worth keeping and maybe we can do better. Need metrics knowing what programs are doing. Where can we slim it down and get more funds. The SSTOP program has been around since 1998.

Even though there is also a shortage of legal assistants there is no way to compare the need for more prosecutors or legal assistants. They are both in great need.

The county could hire a special prosecutor for the DA's office or the state could hire one and the County could reimburse the state. These are a couple of options available.

1. Marsy's Law – Impact it has on District Attorney's Office and Court Operations

Discussion:

See above.

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

2. Ongoing DA's Office Programmatic Review, including SSTOP (Safe Streets Treatment Options Program)

Discussion:

See above.

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

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

A. Next meeting: November 4, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

- ATTIC Corrections and the programs they provide including the DA.

B. Announcements: None

8. Adjournment

MOTION BY LAMONT; SECOND BY JACOBSON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED. (3:11 pm)

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Palmer