



# MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

## AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Wednesday, November 4, 2020, at 2:00 pm**

Meeting Location **Employee Resources Conf. Rm, C-149, Courthouse, 500 Forest St., Wausau**

**Committee Members:** Matt Bootz, Chair; Brent Jacobson; Vice-Chair, Jennifer Bizzotto; Bruce Lamont; Jean Maszk; Allen Opall; Arnold Schlei

**Marathon County Mission Statement:** *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)*

**Committee Mission Statement:** *Provide leadership for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to public safety initiatives of Marathon County.*

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages Public Safety Committee members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. Instead of attendance in person, Committee members and the public may attend this meeting by **telephone conference**. If Committee members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the **telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number: 1-408-418-9388. Access Code: 262 543 736**

When you enter the telephone conference, **PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)**
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the September 30, 2020 Public Safety Committee Meeting**
4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for Consideration:**
  - A. Resolution Requesting the State of Wisconsin to Annually Allocate Funds to Public Safety Answering Points – (Billeb)
5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:** None
6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
  - A. Update on Impact of Recent Legislation on Operating While Intoxicated Treatment Court and Next Steps Relative to Treatment Court Operations Planning (Huber and Yarie)
  - B. Wisconsin Changes Policy relative to Medicaid Coverage for Incarcerated Individuals (Leonhard)
    - 1) What does this mean for inmates? <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/101620.htm>
  - C. Update from Sheriff's Office on COVID-19 Mitigation Efforts Within the Jail (Billeb)
  - D. Status of the District Attorney's Office in light of the County's Prioritization and Upcoming Judicial System Changes – (Wetzsteon)
7. **Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:**
  - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
  - B. Next meeting: **Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 2:00 pm**
8. **Adjournment**

*"Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 one business day before the meeting."*

**SIGNED** /s/           Matt Bootz            
Presiding Officer or Designee

FAXED TO:           Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and            
FAXED TO:           Other Media Groups            
FAXED BY:           M. Palmer            
FAXED DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FAXED TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE  
BY:           M. Palmer            
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
TIME: \_\_\_\_\_



## 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

**URGING THE STATE OF WISCONSIN TO ANNUALLY ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADING OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS**

WHEREAS, modernizing Wisconsin’s 911 system has been a priority for local governments, Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), law enforcement, and the telecommunications industry since the early 2000s; and

WHEREAS, the 2017-19 and the 2019-21 state biennial budgets provided funding for creation of a statewide emergency services IP network (ESInet), which is the first step in the transition to a digital Next Generation 911 (NG911) system; and

WHEREAS, a NG911 system utilizes advancements in technology to improve communication with 911 operators and provides greater efficiency in assisting individuals in crisis; and

WHEREAS, local 911 centers (PSAPs) require NG911 capable equipment to connect to the digital system; and

WHEREAS, currently many PSAPs require an upgrade of their equipment to NG911 or will require maintenance and security upgrades to their current NG911 capable equipment; and

WHEREAS, the average cost for the necessary equipment upgrades will likely exceed \$250,000 per county in addition to ongoing maintenance costs based on the number of call stations in the PSAP; and

WHEREAS, while the state has provided grant funding for counties in the past to upgrade local PSAPs, state funding has not existed in over a decade; and

WHEREAS, the state currently has a fund—the Police and Fire Protection Fund—which its original intent was to fund county PSAP upgrades; and

WHEREAS, revenue from the Police and Fire Protection Fund has been diverted to the state general fund and had never been utilized for its intended purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Marathon County does hereby urge the Governor and Wisconsin State Legislature to allocate \$15 million annually for grants to PSAPS through the Police and Fire Protection Fund for the upgrade of their equipment and the ongoing maintenance and upgrades required; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and Wisconsin State Legislature should support the Department of Military Affairs budget request to continue the build of the ESInet and for an annual appropriation for the ongoing maintenance of the system.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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**Fiscal Impact:** None by virtue of this resolution. Should the State allocate funding for this purpose, Marathon County may receive funds for the purposes outlined above, which would positively impact the Marathon County budget.