



MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Wednesday, January 8, 2020, at Noon**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room B-105 – 500 Forest St., Wausau**

Committee Members: Craig McEwen, Chair, Jim Schaefer, Vice-Chair, Kelly Gabor, Jean Maszk, David Nutting, Arnold Schlei, Chris Voll

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.*

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Public Comment (15 minute limit)**
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Public Safety Meeting on December 11, 2019**
4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for its Consideration**
 - A. Reconsider Changes for Support of Sports Events Occurring on County Roads Resolution
5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution**
 - A. Resolution asking the State to Provide Funding for Assistant District Attorneys Consistent with their own Analysis of Need.
6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
 - A. Update on the Roles of the State Prosecutors in the County Initiatives
7. **Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:**
 - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
 - B. Next meeting: **Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at Noon**
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 or e-mail infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

SIGNED /s/ Craig McEwen
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, December 11, 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 |
| Kelley Gabor | X | |
| Jean Maszk | X | |
| David Nutting | X | |
| Arnie Schlei | X | |
| Chris Voll | | EX |

Others Present: Brad Karger, Lance Leonhard, Gina Cornell, Ruth Heinzl, Jon Graveen, Jim Griesbach, Sean McCarthy, Jamie Polley, Scott Parks, Chad Billeb, Dave Mack, Preston Vande Voort, Scott Parks, Sandra LaDu, Theresa Wetzsteon, Media, 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)** – Jon Graveen, 1650 Naugart Drive, Jon stated that he sounded off and apologized for his attitude relating to the District Attorneys budget when he didn't have the facts..

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Public Safety Meeting on November 11, 2019**
MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY SCHLEI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 11, 2019, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES. MOTION CARRIED.

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

A. County Support of Sports Events Occurring on County Highways

Discussion:

Administrator Karger met with a team from Highway, Parks, Recreation and Forestry, and the Sheriff's Department about events in and especially outside the metro area. Safety is an issue. This policy should bring all four departments together and the committee. Highlights of the policy are:

- Organizers must have a plan in place
- The event has to be during a time that other events are not taking place.
- No event will interfere with the most important work of the County departments
- Full recovery of costs, except for a portion that Marathon County may be part of and then that cost may be reduced.
- An application must be completed and the County will help fill it out.
- The event must have insurance and Marathon County must be named in the policy
- Criteria will be established and updated annually (how much money brought into County)
- The policy and events will be reviewed at year end and report to County Board
- There will be up to five sporting events to start.

The Team is in agreement.

Action:

MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY GABOR TO ACCEPT THE POLICY FOR COUNTY SUPPORT OF SPORTS EVENTS OCCURRING ON COUNTY HIGHWAYS AND FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

Send to County Board.

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:

A. Change in Ordinance 5.01 Eliminating Residency Requirement for Deputy Applicants

Discussion:

Although the Ordinance is listed on the agenda as 5.01 it is actually 5.04; however the rest of the agenda item is accurate.

The request is to eliminate the residency requirement (under 5.04(5), for deputy sheriffs as long as they reside within a 15 minute response time to the Marathon County border. Several resent applicants have 12 to 17 years' experience, but live outside Marathon County. Eastern County Supervisors are in favor if a deputy lives in Langlade County because response time could be better than it is now.

A concern came up about having a take home vehicle. However, that could be an opportunity at the beginning or ending of a shift to transport inmates to and from jails.

Action:

MOTION BY SCHLEI, SECOND BY MASZK TO SUPPORT THE CHANGE IN ORDINANCE 5.04 TO ELIMINATE THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR DEPUTY APPLICANTS WHO LIVE WITHIN A 15 MINUTE RESPONSE TIME TO MARATHON COUNTY'S BORDER. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

No follow through needed.

B. Uniform Addressing System Policy and Administrative Guidance

Discussion:

Dave Mack, Manager, Conservation, Planning & Zoning (CPZ) is confident that all of the signs are installed in the County. They are now moving into the maintenance phase of the program.

Highlights of the policy and administrative guidance are:

- The County will pay for new address signs and posts, but towns will install them. Once installed on the property, it is the resident's responsibility to contact CPZ to get a replacement sign.
- Business may affix signs to front and back of buildings.
- Towns are responsible for street signs and posts moving forward. They can work with CPZ or another vendor for replacement street signs.
- The Enforcement section was deleted.
- CPZ will be coming back to County Board to administer an ordinance to allow the program to be administered through CPZ and law enforcement so both can issue citations. A patrol car would be available for standby, if a threat was perceived.

Action:

MOTION BY SCHLEI; SECOND BY GABOR TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE MARATHON COUNTY UNIFORM ADDRESSING SYSTEM POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE ORDINANCE. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

None needed.

C. Resolution asking the State to Provide Funding for Assistant District Attorneys Consistent with their own Analysis of Need.

Discussion:

The committee agrees that the District Attorney's (DA) office is understaffed. A resolution should be prepared and taken to the board showing the additional work taken on by the District Attorney's office such as Drug Court and point out that the State did the analysis of need and ask them to fill the gap. The community is surprised the DA is a State employee and not being funded.

Action:

No action taken.

Follow through:

Karger will work with Chad Billeb and Theresa Wetzsteon to come up with a resolution for January's meeting.

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Update on Strategic Plan

Discussion:

County Board Vice-Chair Craig McEwen has met with all Standing Committees that are taking the leads on the 12 Strategic objectives. He is looking for any ideas or suggestions for discussion on 7.1 or other healthiest and safest areas of the strategic plan. Continue moving forward. He suggests committee members review the comprehensive plan and LIFE report.

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
 - 1. Resolution asking the State to Provide Funding for Assistant District Attorneys Consistent with their own Analysis of Need.(bring back in January)

- B. Next meeting: **Wednesday, January 8, 2020** at the Courthouse Assembly Room.
Rules Review is suggesting all standing committee meetings meet the first week of the month on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday except HR/Finance and Executive Committee.

- C. Announcement: The State Department of Transportation is having a Public Hearing in the Town of Knowlton regarding 5-6 dangerous intersections on U.S. Highway 34 and old Highway 51.

8. Adjournment

**MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY SCHLEI TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.
(1:50 pm)**

Tour of the jail was taken by some committee members.

RESOLUTION # R-_____-20
SUPPORT FOR STATE FUNDING TO HIRE MORE PROSECUTORS
FOR COUNTY-BASED DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICES
(3rd Draft)

WHEREAS, the criminal justice system is made up of multiple entities, each of which depends upon the other to function efficiently; and when one part of the system is neglected, the entire system is impaired; and

WHEREAS, the 2015-17 workload analysis conducted on behalf of the State identified the need for 9.2 additional prosecutors in Marathon County; and

WHEREAS, 978.13 (2) of the Wisconsin Statutes identifies the State is the responsible unit of government for funding prosecutor positions; and

WHEREAS, the impact of inadequate funding of prosecutor positions results in overwhelming caseloads; and

WHEREAS, one important impact of overwhelming caseloads is difficulty in attracting candidates to fill positions and poor ability to retain experienced prosecutors; since 2002 Marathon County has had 40 prosecutors end their employment, 22 prosecutors since 2010; and

WHEREAS, overwhelming caseloads and excessive turnover can result in insufficient prosecutor resources to establish and maintain contact with crime victims; and

WHEREAS, overwhelming caseloads and excessive turnover can result in inadequate case preparation and substandard quality of work; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming caseloads and excessive turnover in our local District Attorney's Office is forcing our District Attorney to have to reconsider prosecutor participation in Marathon County's various treatment programs—such as drug treatment court, OWI treatment court, domestic violence offender compliance reviews, and restorative justice community conferencing—and participation in other important justice system initiatives aimed at improving efficiency, reducing recidivism, and improving outcomes—such as Evidence-Based Decision Making, Judicial Engagement Training and prosecutor support for a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement drug trafficking taskforce—to ensure adequate resources are allocated to core responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the 2019-2020 State budget resulted in Marathon County receiving funding for 3.5 additional prosecutors in 2019, far below the need assessed in the workload analysis; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of State-imposed levy caps and increasing costs relative to County mandated services, did not allow Marathon County to continue to fill the void caused by inadequate State funding, resulting in Marathon County withdrawing county funding, beginning in 2020, for 2.5 prosecutors that were previously funded using county tax levy;

WHEREAS, the net impact of the increase in prosecutor funding by the State and the elimination of prosecutor funding by the County is that Marathon County will net one additional prosecutor in 2020, again, far below the documented need; and

WHEREAS, victims of crime and the residents of Marathon County are not well served when the need for 8 additional prosecutors is ignored by the responsible unit of government; from a financial perspective, when the criminal justice system bogs down, it can result in jail holds being longer than they need to be and needless expense resulting from incarcerations lasting longer than they should; from a public safety perspective, people are less safe because treatment programs are jeopardized and decisions to prosecute or settle a criminal case can be driven as much by resource scarcity, as a careful assessment of the individual merits of the case and community safety.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors calls upon the State of Wisconsin to address the shortage of prosecutors by funding new positions consistent with its own workload analysis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Board urges immediate action with regard to this matter as our criminal justice system is in crisis and the County does not have the resources to address a State responsibility.

Dated this ___ day of January, 2020 in Wausau, Wisconsin.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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Fiscal Impact to the County: None