



MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 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	X	
Kelley Gabor	X	
Jean Maszk	X	
David Nutting		X
Arnie Schlei	X	
Chris Voll		EX

Others Present: Lance Leonhard, Jon Graveen, E.J. Stark, Becky Frisch, Preston Vande Voort, Jessica Blahnik, Scott Parks, Sean McCarthy, Theresa Wetzsteon, Molly Lawrence, Nancy Solberg, Ruth Heinzl, Scott Corbett, 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, 1615 Naugart Drive, Supports the District Attorney’s need for more Assistant District Attorneys and wants the County to keep the pressure on the State.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Public Safety Meeting on January 8, 2020**
MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY SCHAEFER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2020, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES. 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:

A. Uniform Addressing Ordinance Revisions Section 25.04 Marathon County Municipal Code

Discussion:

When Conservation, Planning and Zoning was working on final reports they found a couple discrepancies between the administrative policy guidelines and the ordinance. There should be an enforcement provision that wasn’t integrated into the code. The words “and Uniform Addressing” should be added under Section 25.04 (4)(a)(2) at the end of the sentence. The issuing of citations could always be done through the Sheriff’s Department, but not by a County official or employee. This will correct that.

Addresses are not normally put on a vacant lot. If no driveway permit is issued in the township, normally there is no address associated with it.

Action:

MOTION BY SCHAEFER; SECOND BY SCHLEI TO APPROVE THE UNIFORM ADDRESSING REVISIONS TO SECTION 25.04(4)(a)(2) OF THE MARATHON COUNTY MUNICIPAL CODE. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

Send to County Board for approval.

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Update on the Forensic Science Center (Morgue)

Discussion:

Jess Blahnik, Medical Examiner, gave an update on two recent meetings regarding the Forensic Science Center. One was with Marshfield Clinic who will have a hospital in the Wausau area. It would

be beneficial to partner with a health care system so pathologists could connect with other specialists. They could possibly help with some of the lab work. Marshfield clinic is looking at outsourcing their autopsies, which would benefit us. The location could be at St Claire's or behind the Wausau clinic location. Tying this to a medical service provider would be better for recruitment.

The other meeting was with Portage County and their administration. Their Medical Examiner is a big supporter of our project and would like to do a joint facility similar to what we have with the airport. They would contribute financially and would consider bonding for the project, if we didn't want to do that. If we can get them involved long term, it would be beneficial.

There are ongoing operations which needs cash flow and up front construction cost to build the facility. Operations we should be successful to keep it going, but we can't service the debt to build or remodel without a partnership.

One organization has money to contribute to the project for consulting fees, business plan cost, up to \$59,000. A pamphlet to raise funds will be designed to get the information out there. We need to stay open to options.

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

B. Sheriff's Department Addressing Additional Law Enforcement Officer in Rib Mountain

Discussion:

Marathon County currently has a partnership with Rib Mountain for a deputy to work sixteen hours a week for crossing guard duty and additional patrol. Captain Sean McCarthy updated the committee on Rib Mountain's request to contract for a deputy for forty hours a week plus they will pay the squad car. This person will back up the patrol on duty in Rib Mountain so that person can assist in other areas. He will be a Marathon County deputy working in Rib Mountain.

There is no mutual aid agreement with Rib Mountain because they are a town and the Sheriff's Department is responsible to the Town whether there is an agreement or not. Cost will be approximately \$105,000 per year to begin in August or September of 2020.

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

C. Update from the District Attorney on Evaluation of Programs

Discussion:

Theresa Wetzsteon, gave an update on reviews of programs the DA's office participates. Stakeholders from the various programs have been contacted to find out how the program or group is designed and is it doing what it's supposed to be doing. This has been a good process for everyone involved. Programs are being reviewed to see if they can be modified to have less input from the DA's office. Right now they are making the best decisions possible with the information they have and are focusing on the main duties for the office.

The information is being collected and in March she will share the information. Theresa also gave the committee a heads up that she will be requesting new positions for a legal secretary and a county attorney or state attorney to be reimbursed by the county.

Supervisor Stark asked the committee to support the request for additional positions.

Follow through:

The District Attorney will present at the March 5th meeting at 212 River Drive.

D. Joint Meeting with Infrastructure on March 5, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at 212 River Drive:

1. Events Occurring on County Roads

Discussion:

Corporation Counsel will be involved in drafting a policy that will be objective for all requests.

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

2. Presentation by Frontier on Phone Service

- a. Come up with questions to ask Frontier.

Discussion:

This is a tough issue. We need to ask: What is the county's role? What can we do? What should we do? Think about and prepare questions for the March meeting. Marathon County has no regulatory services or contracts with Frontier nor authority for 911 issues. We don't believe we have any liability, but the customer may with the contract they signed with Frontier to get service. The Regulatory Commission may be the route to go. Data is needed. We may not have any authority, but we need to try.

Follow through:

No follow through requested.

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

A. Next meeting: **Thursday, March 5, 2020, 9:00 a.m. at 212 River Drive** and a regular meeting may follow the joint meeting.

B. Announcement: Each member received a copy of the Executive Summary of the Life Report

8. Adjournment

**MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY SCHLEI TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.
(12:53 pm)**

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Palmer