



# MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

## AGENDA

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

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

**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.*

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 Executive 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: 1-650-215-5226. Access Code: 144 193 731** **If you are prompted to provide an "Attendee Identification Number," enter the "#"** sign. No other number is required to participate in the telephone conference

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

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

### ~~2. Public Comment (15 minute limit)~~

The Public Comment portion of the agenda has been temporarily suspended, pursuant to Marathon County Resolution # R-18-20, dated March 17, 2020, because the technology necessary to afford the public the opportunity to address the County Board, or its subgroups, during public Comment is difficult to guarantee, if a large number of individuals have elected to call in.

### 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Public Safety Meeting on February 12, 2020 and the Joint Meeting with the Infrastructure Committee on March 5, 2020.

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

- A. County's Role in Ensuring Access to 911 Service

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

### 6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

- A. Update on Operational Changes at Courthouse in light of COVID-19 prevention efforts and Safer at Home Order.
- B. Update on Policy Development - County Support of Sport/Large Events Proposed to Occur on County Highways and Other Property or Request County Staff Resources
- C. Update from Committee Chair on NACo Legislative Conference

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

- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
- B. Next meeting: **Wednesday, May13, 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](mailto: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, 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 (Morque)

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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



# MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE and INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, March 5, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.  
212 River Drive, Room 5, Wausau

Attendance: **Public Safety:**

| <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               |                | X             |

**Infrastructure:**

| <u>Members</u>           | <u>Present</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| John Robinson, Chair     | X              |               |
| Richard Gumz, Vice-Chair |                | EX            |
| Alan Christensen         | X              |               |
| Sandi Cihlar             | X              |               |
| Jeff Johnson             | X              |               |
| Allen Opall              | X              |               |
| Thomas Seubert           | X              |               |

**Others Present:** Lance Leonhard, James Griesbach, Gerry Klein, Mary Palmer, Alan Drabek, Chad Billeb, Senator Jerry Petrowski, Marcia Stencil, Gregg Wavrunek, Melinda Osterberg, Mark Voss, Heather Hoyt, Scott Bohler, Dona Schwichtenberg, Jon Graveen, Angela Hansen, Erin Wells, Dave Mack, Rebecca Frisch, Brian Kowalski, Naomi Kowles, Peter Weinschenk, Beth Nemec,

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meetings were called to order by Chairs Craig McEwen and John Robinson at 9:00 a.m.

**2. Public Comment (15 minute limit) – Held until later.**

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Public Safety Meeting of February 12, 2020 and the Infrastructure meeting on February 6, 2020**

**MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY SCHAEFER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2020, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY CHRISTENSEN; SECOND BY SEEFELDT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2020, INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**A. Telecommunications issues affecting the public health and safety**

- 1.) Background, defining the problem
- 2.) What is the current regulatory framework?
- 3.) How are complaints handled?
- 4.) How have past complaints been handled?
- 5.) What options are available?
- 6.) What is the County's role?

**2. Discussion:**

John Robinson gave the guidelines for this meeting. Public comment will be held until later and others may be invited to speak.

A video from Channel 7 WSAW was played about the problem and complaints from county residents. It laid out the problems very well.

Some concerns were expressed:

Heather Hoyt lives in a rural area in northern Marathon County (Hamburg area) and gave a testimonial and presentation on what she sees happening or rather isn't happening. Plus some of the problems such as rain and rodents on the lines makes the landlines go in and out. Wifi is sketchy in certain areas and non-existent in others.

Al Christensen, lives in the Ringle area has Frontier and when it rains, they can't use Frontier services sometimes for at least a week.

John Robinson said it also includes the City of Wausau – It's not just a rural issue. He has heard then when lines are down, it can take up to 3 weeks to get repairs.

Craig McEwen from Rothschild has received calls that they are not able to make calls from landlines. Spoke on what Public Safety has done regarding rural addressing and additional dispatchers to enhance services, but if residents can't make calls, how are these enhancements helping.

Scott Bohler, Manager, Government and External Affairs, Frontier Communications. Somethings that brought about this crisis is the 2011 regulations change – Act 22 deregulation of phone service. Providers are no longer required to provide service in all areas. With so many people having cell phones it changed reality. Frontier is not taking the position to abandon customers, but there could be delays in repair. Federal money is being used to deploy (Connect America) broadband, expand services and provide quality voice service. Five additional technicians have been reassigned to this area to enhance repair availability.

The current system is old which creates many of the weather related events. The new Operations Director in Wisconsin has a program to look at the infrastructure to see what needs to be done. There is no timeline on this. Right now there is no policy to look at repairs. Each issue is addressed individually.

Where have the CAF2 services been provided? 8900 houses needed to be upgraded. The FCC has a website with mapping. Bohler will send Klein a map with locations of households.

Senator Jerry Petrowski. - A lot of people throughout the State don't understand the issue, mostly because it doesn't affect them. Everyone throughout the State has to put money in to fix the problem. We need to make an investment. We need to find the dollars to invest. In Minnesota there is a real effort to form cooperatives to do the broadband. Smaller towers for wireless and then bury the cables. That will yield benefits.

Customers who have medic alert/lifeline can have their accounts flagged. Frontier and the Town of Weston have a partnership which includes the State for enhanced broadband.

Marathon County's concerns have been shared. He will share again the concerns he heard today.

If your service is out or you have issues, please call contact Frontier to make sure they are made aware. When a switch goes down an alarm goes off so they know, but when an individual has problems there is nothing.

Marsha Stencil lives on the Hamburg/Rib Falls town line since 2005. They have had problems since they moved there no matter who the provider is and they have tried multiple sources to have service. Spent over \$10,000 to try to get service and still don't have it. Her address is – 129019 Skye Falls Drive Athens. It's even more frustrating because Broadband maps show that she has coverage because she occasionally has it.

A local internet provider stated that replacing the old lines would fix the spotty coverage when it goes in and out, but the cost is really the issue. Finding the resources is difficult. Most of the problems are in rural areas.

Gregg Wavrunek from Senator Tammy Baldwin's office said that Mondovi in Buffalo County had the same issues last fall. She worked with Senator Ron Kind's office and after communication with Frontier and FCC the FCC said Broad band deployment and 911 were not an issue. This is mostly based on the number of formal complaints sent in. He strongly urges people to do formal complaints. He will also provide resources for grants through DATCP and also FCC.

Electrification was a right. This is no different – it's a right for all people. State and National level discussions need to happen and policy needs to be set. Treat it like a utility. We get platitudes but no action. Any help is greatly appreciated in this urgent matter.

Melinda Osterberg, explained where to find the Design 9 study on the Marathon County website. Appropriate mapping is needed. LRB 4874 addresses the mapping issue. Contact state legislators about this.

The plan looked at fixed wireless and fiber hybrid improvements. It determined what the county needs to improve access. 25 MBPS per second. See the map on page 69 of the full report or 4 of the Executive Summary. The County cannot provide the service. We would need to find a third party willing to lease our infrastructure and get the service to the homes. We cannot even apply for a grant without a third party. Legislatively this issue could be addressed by our policy makers.

Mark Voss is with a company that provides a service and puts a directional amplifier in the house. It's to provide gap coverage. The average cost of installation is between \$1,300 and \$2,200 installed and upwards to thousands for businesses. If there is no cell service or they can't detect any cell service, this is not an option. Need at least a half a bar.

Chair Robinson gave this summary:

- Frontier – corporate willingness to reevaluate plan in our area
- Flagging at risk homes
- Continued involvement of DATCP and federal and state legislators
- Longer term plan developed by Design 9, but it begs for us to look at this more and how to partner with other providers.
- Looking at dig once policy to lay conduit. What role can we have?
- Find funding sources (Gregg) – emergency response perspective?
- Role of Emergency Management Department – Do a good inventory of how many department staff have a role in this.
- Marathon County has towers and windmills. Do we have a map of where they are, who owns them and why can't we use those? Part of our problem is that counties are creatures of state government. If we don't have permission, we can't do things. We need more tools and power to provide services. Need to educate legislators and public.
- Should have a county-wide grid of what lines/wires are above and below ground and who they belong to. Even if private, let's find out what we have – tower or underground lines. How can we be prepared if we don't know. Powerful piece of public safety.
- Robinson and McEwen will get together and set agendas.

**Action:**

No action taken.

**Follow through:**

Residents are asked to file formal complaints.

Infrastructure and Public Safety will continue working on this.

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

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

- A. Resolution for Policy on County Support of Sports Events Proposed to Occur on County Highways

**Discussion:**

We had a resolution that came to public safety. It passed and then County Board had more questions and it was sent back to committee. Plus it's more than just sports events. Do we even have the authority to dictate who can use the roads/highways? We need to redevelop the policy and resolution or do we really need one?

Lance – staff did meet with various department heads and City of Wausau department heads - some events start in one municipality and cross into others. The City of Wausau has an events application.



Some other counties that have large events have policies. We have a large assembly policy (12.04) which provides a good frame work to work off from. Cost recovery is absent in our current ordinance. Emergency plans are in place, EMS, and security. We are still in the gathering information stage. Many other counties have applications going through law enforcement, but is that the right place for applications? Consideration should be given to where events are going to go. We have good direction now. Between our current and new policies, the City of Wausau's and other counties we should be able to develop a good policy.

If a town has county zoning the existing ordinance exempts certain events in unincorporated areas.

These events are a quality of living and full cost recovery isn't necessary. We recoup costs through spending for hotel, meals, etc. We are open for business and we can do that here.

The County's 100% cost recovery and the City of Wausau are different and it's something that will need to be worked through. Some events are supported by Parks, Recreation and Forestry. Cost is a central piece of the policy. When can we direct full cost and when is it not the directive.

We send deputies to large events such as the balloon rally, Wisconsin Valley Fair, Lake Dubay, etc. Currently we don't charge. A private organization can hire private security or they can contract with the Sheriff's Department for \$65 per deputy per hour. There is also mutual aid with fire. Black Friday, Walmart wants security from Sheriff's Department and they have to pay.

**Follow through:**

Leonhard will send both committees members' the link to the current policy.

B. Highway Commissioner's Report

**Discussion:**

The written report from the Highway Commissioner was handed out. He has been officially notified from the State that Marathon County will receive MLS money of \$1 million for the intersections of K and WW, Town of Johnson, City of Schofield and Village of Rothschild.

**Follow through:**

No follow through requested.

C. Update on Current IT Projects, Klein

**Discussion:**

They are planning on cutting over to a new 9-1-1 system on Tuesday, but it's possible the time will change. Currently all 911 calls come into Frontier and then back to dispatch officers.

**Follow through:**

No follow through requested.

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

- A. Next meeting: Infrastructure will be April 2, 2020, 9:00 a.m. Highway Department  
Public Safety will be April 8, 2020, 12:00 p.m. Courthouse Assembly room

- B. Announcement: None

**8. Adjournment**

**MOTION BY NUTTING; SECOND BY MASZK TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED. (11:17 am)**

**MOTION BY OPALL; SECOND BY CHRISTENSEN TO ADJOURN THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED. (11:17 am)**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mary Palmer

### Telecommunication/Access to emergency response services:

Based on the March 5, 2020 informational meeting conducted by the Public Safety and Infrastructure Committees the following items were identified for additional study and follow-up:

- Educate the public about contacting Frontier to alert them that someone at the location has a medical condition so that it can be flagged
  - ARDC, Social Services, Health, County Newsletter
- Encourage individuals who have phone service issues to file a complaint with the FCC or DATCP or both to monitor the number of complaints
- Evaluate FCC regulations/requirements for providers to address emergency services specifically access to 911.
- Contact Frontier to offer county assistance in their corporate planning efforts to address infrastructure investments in the phone lines serving the county
- Create an inventory of existing phone lines, towers and service areas as well as other utility transmission lines
  - CPZ GIS staff, Emergency Management
- Evaluate Design 9 plan and phases to try to prioritize county investment in projects that will address areas where land-line issues are prevalent and where cell service is limited
- Work with ISPs and Frontier to address areas where service issue pose a public safety concern. Consider prioritizing access to county funding to phases that address the greatest need
- Work with industry to develop and publicize an inventory of service options/enhancements to ensure access to 911 services (i.e. boosters)
- Work with state and federal legislators to identify potential funding sources and or regulatory changes needed to develop a comprehensive response
- Evaluate whether the county should create a program under which phones are made available to residents in the event of an emergency and or service failure
  - Emergency Management, ADRC
- Define county's role and Develop a plan and timeline for implementing concepts outlined in Design 9 report
  - Infrastructure Committee/Task Force