



MARATHON COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 3:00pm**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403**

Committee Members: John Robinson, Chair; Alyson Leahy, Vice-Chair; Kurt Gibbs, Gayle Marshall, Kody Hart, Ann Lemmer, Yee Leng Xiong

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 County Strategic Plan, monitor outcomes, review, and recommend to the County Board policies related to human resources initiatives, finance and property of the County.

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:**

Phone#: 1-408-418-9388 Access Code: 146 235 4571

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

The meeting will also be broadcasted on Public Access or at <https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard>

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)** (Any person who wishes to address the committee during the "Public Comment" portion of the meetings, must provide his or her name, address, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk, or chair of the committee, no later the five minutes before the start of the meeting. All comments must be germane to the jurisdiction of the committee.)
4. **Approval of the January 11, 2023, Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee Meeting Minutes**
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy**
 - A. **Discussion and Possible Action by HRFC**
 - B. **Discussion and Possible Action by HRFC to Forward to County Board for Consideration**
 1. Resolution Requesting the State to Revise the Current Real Estate Transfer Fees Revenue Sharing Formula
 2. ARPA Allocation Process
 3. Energy Task Force Charter
 4. 2023 Budget Process
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
 - A. Update on Tax Deed Process
 - B. Update on Potential Change to State Funding for Municipalities
 - C. ERP Implementation Update
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items**
 - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
 - B. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 3:00pm
9. **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 261.1500 or email countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

SIGNED s/s John Robinson
Presiding Officer or Designee

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and other Media Groups
EMAILED BY: _____
DATE & TIME: _____

NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE
BY: _____
DATE & TIME: _____



HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, & PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA WITH MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: **Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 3:00 P.M.**

John Robinson, Chair	Present
Alyson Leahy, Vice-Chair	Present
Kurt Gibbs	Present
Gayle Marshall	Present
Kody Hart	Present
Ann Lemmer	Present
Yee Leng Xiong	Present

Staff Present – Lance Leonhard, Mike Puerner, Kim Trueblood, Jamie Polley (WebEx), Laurie Miskimins, Kirstie Heidenrich, Chris Holman

Others Present –Representatives of the various entities requesting ARPA funding.

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **Approval of the December 13, 2022, January 3, & January 6, 2023 Human Resources, Finance, & Property Committee meeting minutes** – Motion by Xiong, Second by Lemmer to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote, unanimously.
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:** None
6. **Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:**
 - A. **Discussion and Possible Action by HRFC:**
 1. Approval of December 2022 Claims and Questioned Costs – Motion by Leahy, Second by Gibbs to approve the claims and questioned costs. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously.
 2. Committee Recommendations on Updates to the Strategic Plan – Supervisor Xiong talked through his suggestions for adoption from the Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership. Discussion was had and questions were asked and answered. Supervisor Xiong is requesting that the items he has brought forward to be addressed individually and have outcome measures added to those the committee would like to bring forward.
Motion by Xiong, Second by Leahy to add strategies 1.22, 1.24, and 1.32 to be forwarded to the Executive Committee for inclusion in the County Strategic Plan, with changes to 1.24 to read, “Target remote workers as a segment of the workforce for relocation to the Wausau region” and 1.32 to read, “Encourage Marathon County to provide non-traditional benefits.” Administrator Leonhard stated that there is a request from the Public Safety Committee to add a similar strategy. That document is located in the Executive Committee packet for the January 12 meeting. Discussion followed.
Motion by Xiong, Second by Leahy to amend the motion to remove 1.32 from the original motion. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously.
Motion as amended carried on a voice vote but was not unanimous.
 - B. **Discussion and Possible Action by HRFC to Forward to County Board for Consideration:**
 1. 2022 Intergovernmental Budget Transfers – Motion by Xiong, Second by Hart to approve the budget transfers. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously.
 2. Resolution for Use of Environmental Impact Funds to Fund Groundwater Plan Efforts – Laurie Miskimins and Kirstie Heidenrich from the CPZ Department presented the background for this resolution. Discussion was had and questions were asked and answered. Motion by Gibbs, Second by Xiong to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously.
 3. Discussion and potential approval of ARPA funding requests – Administrator Leonhard and Chair

Robinson stated the requests up for discussion today include all requests received to date, including those from Round 1. Additional discussion regarding the intent and purpose of the ARPA funds.

Discussion was had and questions were asked. Corporation Counsel addressed some of the questions related to the ability of the County to fund specific project requests.

Motion by Gibbs, Second by Xiong to deny funding for the Homme Homes project, Mosinee firetruck and PPE request, Keeping Area Teens Safe, Stratford Streets, and Mosinee Library requests, as they do not conform to state statute. Additional discussion was had and questions were asked and answered. It is felt that the committee has been consistent in applying decisions thus far, but there does need to be additional clarification as to the basic requirements to qualify for ARPA funds. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously.

It was suggested to send the Sunnyvale RC Park request through the CIP process and potentially fund the project in the 2024 budget. Additionally, it may be appropriate to request the RC Club to contribute an additional level of funding. Another option would be to amend the 2023 CIP and budget to allocate the funding to the Parks Department. An RFP would be required. Chair Robinson requested administration to have a discussion with the Parks Department to get some more detailed information. Supervisor Xiong also suggested that the process go to additional funding sources as well. Regarding the Wausau Convention and Visitors Bureau request, there was discussion related to the value of a physical location and lack of due diligence related to the condition of the proposed building. Discussion remains to be had on the future role of the County when it comes to economic development and the need to put together a cohesive and strategic plan relative to the same. Motion by Gibbs, second by Marshall that since we do not have an economic development or policy, the request not be funded. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously, with one abstention. Chair Robinson noted that requests may be brought back at a later time. Administrator Leonhard asked if the current info on the website should be removed due to the discussion surrounding the need to review the policies relative to distribution of ARPA funds. Without objection, Chair Robinson agreed that the info should be removed from the website. Funding totals will be updated for the next meeting.

- 7. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion – None.**
- 8. Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:**
 - A.** Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
 - B.** Next Scheduled Meeting January 24, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
- 9. Adjournment –** Motion by Hart, Second by Gibbs to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Kim Trueblood, Marathon County Clerk

RESOLUTION #R - - 23

**REQUESTING THE STATE TO REVISE THE CURRENT REAL ESTATE TRANSFER FEES
REVENUE SHARING FORMULA**

WHEREAS, the collection of a real estate transfer fee by counties was mandated by the State of Wisconsin in 1969, and included a requirement that counties remit 50% of all transfer fees collected to the State; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, the State changed the transfer fee formula to require counties to remit 80% of all transfer fees collected to the State; and

WHEREAS, the County, through the Register of Deeds Office, assumes the annual operating costs of recording all real estate transfers occurring in each county, including the collection of real estate transfer fees; and

WHEREAS, Marathon County real estate transfer fee collections over the past five years totaled \$4,693,255.80 of which the County retained \$900,499.44 and \$3,792,756.36 was remitted to the State; and

WHEREAS, using a 50/50 split, the County's share of fees collected on local real estate transfers during that same five-year period would have provided an additional \$2,346,627.90 in support of local government; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the State of Wisconsin has built up a budget surplus of approximately 2.5 billion dollars, while many Wisconsin counties continue to struggle financially due to the ever-increasing costs of providing county government services to an inflationary economy and providing services for increasing unfunded State mandated programs along with financial restrictions caused by State imposed levy limits; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors, that in an effort to assist all Wisconsin counties, the State of Wisconsin revise the real estate transfer fee share formula to again allow Wisconsin counties to retain 50% of all real estate transfer fees collected, with 50% to be remitted to the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Tony Evers, all members of the State Legislature representing Marathon County, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and all other Wisconsin counties.

Done this 21st day of February, 2023

HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Fiscal Impact: This would provide approximately an additional \$469,325.58 in annual revenue.



CAP TEAM

WCA County Ambassador Program

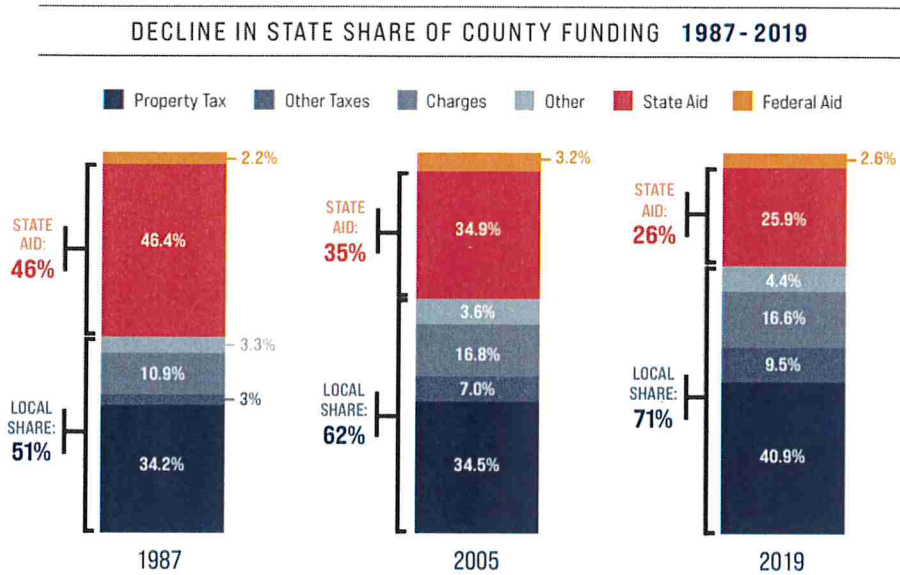
LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING REFORM

For decades, a cornerstone of the state-local relationship in Wisconsin has been the interaction between state government and Wisconsin's 72 counties. In short, counties serve as the service delivery arm for the State of Wisconsin. While counties in many states throughout the country provide local services on behalf of their state partners, the extent to which it occurs in Wisconsin is largely unmatched. As such, counties here are more reliant on state funding than their counterparts in other states.

Currently, counties find themselves in a challenging position. Rising inflation, increasing demand for social, mental health and child protective services, aging infrastructure, the ongoing opioid epidemic, and an outdated funding model have resulted in counties reaching a tipping point. Absent a new approach to the state-county partnership and its service delivery model, counties will face difficult decisions regarding service reductions and, unfortunately, eliminations.

Counties did not arrive at this position over the last year or even the last decade. In fact, in recent years, the state has invested heavily in county programs including child welfare, roads and bridges, and 911 operations. Yet, even with these funding increases, counties are forced to confront the financial realities caused by a three-plus decade shift in state funding priorities.

In the 1980s, state funding accounted for almost 50% of county resources. Today, it accounts for about 25% of county resources. This funding shift along with the state's revenue controls on counties, which are the most strict in the nation, means something must give.



CURRENT STATUS: Wisconsin counties are faced with growing costs due primarily to inflation and increased service demands from local taxpayers. Faced with the nation’s most strict property tax controls and a lack of sustained growth in revenues, service reductions and elimination are inevitable absent a new approach to county funding.

REQUESTED ACTION: Dedicate annually an amount equal to one penny of the state’s five penny sales tax to local governments (counties, cities, villages, and towns). Devote a portion of these funds to direct county payments and a portion to an innovation fund that financially incentivizes county cooperation with other units of local government.

TALKING POINTS:

- Wisconsin is in a unique position given its fiscal health to make generational investments in local government, while also incentivizing local governments to approach service delivery in more efficient and consolidated ways.
- Directly tying local government funding to growth in the state sales tax ensures inflationary increases to local governments necessary to maintain current service levels.
- A new funding approach to local governments will take pressure off the local property tax at a time when demographic changes make it increasingly difficult for taxpayers to afford rising tax bills.

- The relationship between counties and the state has been successful for decades. To continue that success, we must recognize and reinvest in the state-county partnership.

Contact: Kyle Christianson, Partner, Wimmer & Company
608.219.3574

Marathon County Energy Task Force Charter

Possible mission/purpose:

Recommend county wide energy policies focused on a reliable, resilient, and affordable energy use to maximize energy efficiency and capitalize on current state and federal energy incentives.

Possible Membership:

- HRFP
- Environmental Resources
- Infrastructure
- Extension, Education, & Economic Development
- Solid Waste
- 2 at-large members

Duties/Responsibilities:

To research, coordinate, and provide recommendations/options for policy change

- Obtain baseline data regarding the county's current energy use
- Identify areas of opportunity for the mitigation of increasing utility costs, usage, and greenhouse gas emissions (conservation; alternative/renewable energy development; management/resiliency)
- Identify the costs of implementation and benefits of making suggested changes with best ROI/shortest payback period
- Identify partners of support: grid/utility providers, large users, renewable equipment providers (FUNDING SOURCE–ARPA, BIL, IRA,????)

Possible Outcomes:

- Recommend the adoption of energy alternatives and options in county-wide policies, operations, and facilities/equipment/vehicles to
 - mitigate increasing energy costs
 - create a more reliable, resilient, and independent energy system
 - capitalize on state and federal incentives

Timeline:

- January 2023 - Jan 2024 research
- January 2024 - report to HRFP
- March 2024 - report to full board

St Croix County

2023 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Budget Process

Action	Complete By
Capital Project Request for 2025 and Requested changes to Years 2021-2024 due to Finance Director	May 2
CIP Team Reviews and Recommends to County Administrator	May 27
Departments Report to Committees/Boards CIP Request	June
County Administrator Reviews with CIP Team and Makes Final Recommendation	July
Resolution Approving CIP Projects	August / September

2023 Operating Budget Process

Action	Complete By
Committee of the Whole (COTW) - Department Presentations on Future Budget Impacts	March 16
Administration Committee Recommends Budget Priorities	April
County Board Adopts Budget Priorities	May 3
New Position Request due to HR Director	June 15
Department Draft Budgets Distribution to Department Heads	June 30
Department Heads Initial Budget Request entered in system	July 31
County Administrator/Finance Director Reviews Department Budgets with Department Heads	August / September
Committees/Boards Review Draft Department Budgets	September
County Administrator Presents Preliminary Budget to Admin Committee Final Review and Recommendation Publication Notice to Newspapers	October
COTW Budget Presentation	
County Board Public Hearing and Adoption of Budget	November 1