



MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 2:00 pm

WebEx/Courthouse Assembly Room, (B105), Courthouse, 500 Forest St., Wausau

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair Matt Bootz	X	
Vice Chair Jennifer Bizzotto	Phone	
Brent Jacobson	W	
Bruce Lamont	W	
Jean Maszk	W	
Allen Opall		Absent
Vacant		

Also Present: Kurt Gibbs, Lance Leonhard, Jason Hake, Theresa Wetzsteon, Chad Billeb, William Millhausen, Laura Yarie, Judge Huber, Molly Lawrence and Toshia Ranallo.

VIA Web or Phone: Craig McEwen, John Robinson, Ruth Heinzl, Kelly Schremp, Pam Steffen and 2 unidentified callers.

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bootz at 2:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment (15 Minutes) – None.

3. MOTION BY BIZZOTTO; SECOND BY MASZK TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 31, 2021 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination

A. Review of Past Discussions of County Event Policy and Discussion of Next Steps

Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard gave a brief background on previous discussions initiated in 2019 resulting in policy drafts. Work on the policy continued into early 2020 but attention to this matter was quickly diverted to COVID-19 priorities. More work to the policy is still needed to encompass smaller events, emergency planning, garbage control, etc. Staff capacity and roles of individuals in leadership will need to be defined if this committee and the Executive Committee feel it should be prioritized over other Workplan projects.

Follow-Up:

Chair Bootz suggested he, Administrator Leonhard, and Vice Chair McEwen create something more formal to be presented to this committee in the future.

B. DOJ Requests a Letter of Support be sent to Legislators for Treatment Alternative Diversion (TAD) Program Funding

Discussion:

Justice Alternatives Coordinator Laura Yarie explained TAD funding. It is intended to support county efforts to provide treatment and diversion programs to non-violent adult offenders with substance abuse being a contributing factor to their criminal activity. Currently, \$7.2 million is dispersed by competitive grants. Marathon County is in its fourth year to receive \$150,000 in grant funds. The letter of support request is to advocate for additional positions specifically a grant specialist and research analyst. Currently, the DOJ receives 54 grant applications and have only five staff positions. Due to limited staffing resources, the county receives less analyzed data. In addition to adding positions, the DOJ is considering to eliminate some of the local match requirements and to revise the restrictive language so that other types of diversions and mental health programs can be included. They also expect to give additional funding to help sustain or enhance existing programs.

Action:

MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY LAMONT TO SEND THIS DISCUSSION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow-Up:

Forward to Executive Committee.

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

A. CIP Request for Replacement of the Jail Radio Infrastructure (William Millhausen)

Discussion:

William Millhausen explained the jail radio infrastructure is long overdue and in need of replacements and upgrades. The cost estimate is \$437,000.

Action:

MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY TO BIZZOTTO TO FORWARD THE REQUEST TO REPLACE THE JAIL RADIO INFRASTRUCTURE TO THE CAPTIAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP) COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow Up:

Forward to CIP Committee.

B. CIP Request for Replacement of Jail Flooring

Discussion:

Chief Deputy Chad Billeb reported the jail flooring is over 30 years old and in need of replacement. There is a potential trip hazard due to many cracks and separations but they would only replace high traffic areas. The estimated cost is \$150,000.

Action:

MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY LAMONT TO FORWARD THE CIP REQUEST FOR REPLACEMENT OF JAIL FLOORING TO THE CIP COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow Up:

Forward to CIP Committee.

C. CIP Request for Court Hearing Room B

Discussion:

Judge Huber explained the need for a replacement hearing courtroom. Judge elect Scott Corbett will be taking over the existing hearing room in August. This room has been used by court commissioners, Register in Probate, and visiting judges. Court commissioners have been using the existing hearing room for preliminary hearings in order to help judges focus on the backlog due to the pandemic. If the hearing room isn't replaced, the court commissioners' work would be placed back on judge's calendars. The construction would encompass a remodel of the Register of Deeds office which would not negatively impact their operations. The estimated cost is \$186,538.

Administrator Leonhard reported they are waiting to identify if the American Rescue Plan dollars would be a viable funding source for this project.

Action:

MOTION BY BIZZOTTO; SECOND BY MASZK TO FORWARD THE CIP REQUEST TO CREATE A NEW COURT HEARING ROOM B TO THE CIP COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow up:

Forward to CIP Committee.

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Update from Justice Alternatives Coordinator (Laura Yarie) on effort to Develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Justice Alternatives Programs

Discussion:

Justice Alternatives Coordinator Laura Yarie explained she receives data and statistics each month for justice programs. Prior to participating in Evidence Based Decision Making meetings, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) met on a regular basis where she would provide them with cumulative and comparison reports that tracked program usage and value. Currently, a lot of data is being collected but the CJCC needs to meet to discuss what is being measured, what matters, and if the data is being used effectively. Yarie is working on a handout to present to the CJCC that will be a helpful resource to stakeholders explaining the following below:

- Description of Programs.
- Programs using tax levy dollars and grant funds.
- How much was done and how well the program is working.
- Is there anyone better off from the program?
- What would it look like if the program ceased?

Follow-Up:

Discuss with the CJCC

B. Update on Pretrial Case Management

Discussion:

Justice Alternatives Coordinator Laura Yarie gave a brief Pretrial Case Management update. She has been collecting data on people in the community who are failing to make their initial court appearance. Three full-time case managers may be needed to manage this population. Full grant funding is being received for an assessor position. Some of the justice program services and budgets are being rearranged to make the existing pre-trial position into full-time status, as well as bringing in another full time case manager.

Follow-Up:

There will be a Q & A stakeholder meeting on June 15th to review the process and program goals.

C. Marathon County Shelter Home update

1. What is it, current financial operations, and long-term does Marathon County address this need in some other manner?

Discussion:

Chief Deputy Chad Billeb explained our shelter home is mandated and overseen by the Division of Children and Families but managed by the Sheriff's Department. The children are referred by Marathon County Social Services Dept. and by other contracted counties. The typical daily census is 2-3 kids and an average stay is 15 days. Annual operation costs for the shelter is \$550,000. Marathon County receives \$80,000 in revenue from other entities we serve, and the rest derives from tax levy dollars. In order to keep the facility in operation, it is estimated to cost Marathon County \$748 a day. We charge \$50 a day to other counties who use our facility. This is an annually agreed upon amount because not all shelters are managed by government agencies but private entities as well. During Priority Based Budgeting meetings, this program was reviewed and discussion arose to consider placing kids in another county or private entity shelter which would result in a substantial cost savings. Billeb indicated he has engaged with the District Attorney and law enforcement on the issue but have not contacted stakeholders, partners, or social services.

The Sheriff's office needs to make a decision by January of 2022 on whether or not it desires to renew its license with the Division of Children and Families.

Follow-Up:

Begin to engage stakeholders in discussion on options.

D. Update on Criminal Justice System Budgeting

Discussion:

Chair Bootz gave a brief update and indicated he and Supervisor Jacobson will prepare information to be presented to the County Board in June.

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

- A. Supervisor Lamont mentioned the Marathon County Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony will be held at Marathon County Shooting Range Park on May 14th at 11:00 a.m.
- B. Next meeting: **Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 1:30 pm**

8. Adjournment

MOTION BY JACOBSON; SECOND BY LAMONT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 3:05 P.M. MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by
Toshia Ranallo