MARATHON COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

Wednesday, June 2, 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		Excused
Bruce Lamont	W	
Jean Maszk	W	
Allen Opall	W	
Vacant		

Also Present: Lance Leonhard, Michael Puerner, Theresa Wetzsteon, and Toshia Ranallo. Two members of the public.

VIA Web or Phone: Craig McEwen, Jessica Blahnik, and Kelly Schremp.

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
   The meeting was called to order by Chair Bootz at 2:00 p.m.

2. **Public Comment** – None

3. **MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY BIZZOTTO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2021 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination –** None

5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
   A. Recommendation to Amend the 2021 Capital Improvement Program to add Regional Forensic Science Center Project – Facility Acquisition and Design (Jessica Blahnik), to be forwarded to the Capital Improvement Committee for consideration.
   B. 2022 Capital Improvement Program request for Regional Forensic Science Center Project – Construction

6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
   A. Forensic Science Center Project Update, including Autopsy Service Constraints (Jessica Blahnik)

Discussion:
   Agenda items 5a, 5b, and 6a were grouped into one discussion. The Regional Morgue Task Force was created in 2017 to study the needs in order to make recommendations to develop a regional forensic morgue to serve Marathon County and other counties in North Central Wisconsin. Medical Examiner Jessica Blahnik gave an extensive presentation on these efforts and explained there are only a few locations in the state that have forensic pathologists. They are located in Dane, Fond du Lac, and Milwaukee and Waukesha counties.

   Marathon County is an ideal location due to easy access to Highways 29 and 51, hospitals, medical colleges, and having the largest medical examiner's office and staff to support this type of facility. It would reduce commute time to reach forensic pathologists for all surrounding counties. Upper Michigan counties have expressed interest in coming to this facility and utilizing these potential services. With a crime lab located in Wausau, their technicians also see this as a benefit to be able to see through the outcome of their cases.

   Mass fatality management is one of the major needs for this facility. This has always been a concern but the recent pandemic highlighted this issue.

   The full presentation can be viewed on the Marathon County YouTube Channel and packet materials can be accessed on our website here.

Action:
   MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY LAMONT TO AMEND THE 2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) TO ADD A REGIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER PROJECT AND TO ALSO INCLUDE IT IN THE 2022 CIP, TO BE FORWARDED TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow Up:

Forward on to the CIP Committee.

    B.   System Budgeting Update – (Bootz and Jacobson)

Discussion

The committee reviewed system budgeting memos submitted in the packet by the Sheriff's Dept., the Justice Coordinator, Administration on behalf of Social Services, and the Clerk of Courts. Items included:

- Digital Evidence Management System
- Expand Electronic Monitoring
- Securus Technology
- Remote Courtroom Access
- Electronic Calendaring
- Pretrial Case Management
- Social Services Information Sharing Review

Administrator Leonhard identified a need for two positions, a dispatcher and legal assistant, which he will incorporate in the Administrators 2022 budget.

Chair Bootz explained he will be extending the June deadline for a report to be presented at the July County Board meeting.

7. **Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:**
   A.   Next meeting: **Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.**
8. **Adjournment**

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