



MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 1:30 pm

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

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

Also Present: Lance Leonhard, Craig McEwen, Michael Puerner, James Russell, Eric Jensen, Kelly Girmscheid, Erin Crawford, David Baker, and Toshia Ranallo.

VIA Web or Phone: Sandi Cihlar, Thomas Seubert, Kelly Schremp, Cory Tomczyk, and six other callers.

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bootz at 1:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment

The following citizens spoke in favor for a “Marathon County Constitutional Sanctuary County Resolution.”

Citizens	Address
James Russel	5907 Tricia Ave., Weston, WI 54476
Eric Jensen	178808 Pine View Dr. Birnamwood, WI 54414
Kelly Grimsscheid	200925 Wonderland Dr.
David Baker	690 Happy Hollow, Kronenwetter, WI 54455
Erin Crawford	234905 Clay Rd., Aniwa, WI 54408
Colin Kobishop	202271 Dubay Dr., Mosinee, WI 54455
Cory Tomczak	146 223 Beaver Rd., Mosinee, WI
Richard Pixley	226129 Gavitt St., Schofield, WI

Supervisor Donna Krause expressed concerns regarding bus transportation and the safety of the disabled, elderly, and children. She implied there have been injuries from bus drivers.

3. MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY SCHLEI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 30, 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 for consideration by the County Board to abolish 1.0 FTE Administrative Specialist (Window Clerk) (B21) position and create 1.0 FTE Criminal Justice Specialist (Court Clerk) (B22) in Clerk of Courts Office to take effect in 2021.

Action:

- B. **MOTION BY JACOBSON; SECOND BY MASZK TO MOVE TO ABOLISH A 1.0 FTE ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST (WINDOW CLERK) (B21) POSITION; AND CREATE A 1.0 FTE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SPECIALIST (COURT CLERK) (B22) POSITION IN THE CLERK OF COURTS OFFICE, TO TAKE EFFECT IN 2021. MOTION CARRIED.**

Follow Up:

Forward to the HR Finance Committee for consideration.

C. 2022 Budget Position Requests:

- 1) Create 1.0 FTE Administrative Coordinator (Legal Secretary) B23 in the District Attorney’s Office
- 2) Create 1.0 FTE Communications Specialist (911 Dispatcher) B23 in the Sheriff’s Office

Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard explained new position requests must be approved first by the administrator, then by the associated standing committee, next forwarded to the HR Finance & Property Committee, and lastly approved by the full county Board. These requests are two priorities identified during the system budgeting process. The Administrator approves the requests and asked the committee to also approve and move them forward.

He further explained the District Attorney's office will receive another prosecutor which was included in the state's budget. The new administrative coordinator position will be an asset to this office that is already overburdened with a challenging workload.

The communication specialist is needed to support the additional dispatch channel. Administrator Leonhard will work to find funding sources for these positions.

Action:

MOTION BY LAMONT; SECOND BY JACOBSON TO RECOMMEND TO THE HR FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE, TO CREATE AN ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR (LEGAL SECRETARY) B23 IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE; AND A 1.0 FTE COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST (911 DISPATCHER) B23 IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE. THESE POSITIONS ARE REQUESTED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2022 BUDGET. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow Up:

Forward to the HR Finance & Property Committee for consideration.

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Update on Regional Morgue Taskforce

Discussion:

Medical examiner Jessica Blahnik informed the committee she is working with a firm on an analysis for space needs. This will assist in a better understanding for design and construction expenses. The proposed Regional Forensic Science Center is estimated be over 13,000 sq.ft. Costs have increased from \$4.5 million to an estimated \$6.8 million due to the pandemic and inflation. Renovations to the existing facility would cost a bit less but location is to be discussed and determined at the next meeting scheduled for August 16th at 10:30 a.m.

Administrator Leonhard provided additional context on the needs for a forensic pathologist in our area. Neighboring counties and counties in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan are supportive and interested in partnering with Marathon County as well as area health care systems.

Blahnik further reported on delays with getting autopsies scheduled at facilities in Madison, Milwaukee, and Fond du Lac due to overflow and shortage of pathologists. An Eau Claire hospital has ceased to conduct autopsies for coroners and medical examiners resulting in another provider Marathon County is unable to rely upon. Our area is in great need for this resource and Wausau is a prime location being the center of the state and surrounded by large health care systems who are supportive of the project.

B. Update on Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard explained next steps for the CJCC. They will need to schedule a meeting to elect a chair and create bylaws.

C. Review of the System Budgeting process from 2021 and future budgets

Discussion:

Chair Boots and Supervisor Jacobson provided the committee with a presentation illustrating outcomes from criminal justice system budgeting meetings. The group included representation from Administration, the Clerk of Courts, DA and Sheriff Offices, Judges and the Justice System Coordinator. They identified short and long term needs, and explored opportunities to increase revenue, share positions, create efficiencies, and reduce expenditures. The presentation can be viewed in the packet on our [website here](#).

D. Continued discussion of Public Safety Committee Strategic Plan objectives

- 1) What have we done?
- 2) What do we need to discuss?

Discussion:

Chair Bootz recapped on the committee's strategic plan objectives identified below and provided a [document outlining priorities](#) discussed at prior Public Safety meetings.

- 3.3 – Ensure that every child makes it to adulthood with health, stability, and growth opportunities.
- 3.7 – Ensure that every person has local access to effective mental health treatment.
- 7.1 – Provide cost-effective and high-quality public safety services.
- 7.2 – Mitigate the impacts of heroin and methamphetamine epidemics in Marathon County through evidence-based practices.

He asked committee members to review the document and advise him of any other items to be added to future agendas for discussion.

Supervisor McEwen reminded the committee the end of the five-year strategic plan will be in 2022. He suggested the information provided today be documented in a template previously provided for tracking purposes and to be consistent with formats of other standing committee's goals and objectives.

Other topics discussed:

- OWI legislative change
- Access to effective mental health treatment
- Medicaid coverage policy changes for incarcerated individuals
- Funding for drug task force facility; approve new dispatchers and police communication channels
- Reconstruction of courthouse security staff
- Emergency repairs to the jail
- Infrastructure 9-1-1 issues are being addressed by the Broadband Taskforce
- New crisis beds open at NCHC?
- Youth psychiatric hospital is in operation.

Follow Up:

Continue to discuss the Strategic Plan objectives at the next regular committee meeting.

E. Marathon County Constitutional Sanctuary County

Discussion:

Chair Bootz explained he was urged by citizens to put this resolution on the agenda for educational purposes and encouraged input from the committee.

Supervisor's comments:

- This is not policy. These issues should be addressed in a community forum not a statutory body.
- Should not be coming to the Public Safety Committee. More time we spend on resolutions the less time is being spent on critical issues.
- Support the concept, consider adjusting the language
- We have already taken on oath but certain commission and committee members do not take the oath and resolutions coming from these committees raise constitutional concerns.
- In support of this resolution.
- Suggest forwarding this resolution on to the Rules of Review Committee

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

A. Next meeting: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 1:30 pm

8. Adjournment

MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY JACOBSON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:09 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted by,
Toshia Ranallo