



**MARATHON COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, December 1, 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 Brent Jacobson	W	
Jennifer Bizzotto		X
Bruce Lamont	Phone	
Jean Maszk	W	
Allen Opall		X
Vacant		

Also Present: Craig McEwen, Lance Leonhard, Judge Huber, Chad Billeb, Kelly Schremp, Tami Couston, Gerald Klein, Michael Puerner, Theresa Wetzsteon, Ruth Heinzl and Toshia Ranallo.

WebEx/Phone:

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bootz at 1:30 p.m. Chair Bootz initiated a moment of silence for the recent passing of County Board Supervisor Arnold Schlei.

2. Public Comment - None

3. MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY LAMONT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2021, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination

- A. Amendment of 2021 CIP for Courtroom and Jail Audio/Video Enhancements (Chad Billeb)

Discussion:

Deputy Chief Chad Billeb presented an amendment to the CIP to install standardized audio/video equipment in 6 courtrooms and 2 hearing rooms in the courthouse. These enhancements will help address case backlogs caused by the COVID- 19 pandemic. The current system is inadequate and if video conferencing is to be used in the courts, the equipment must comply with the technical and operational standards in Subchapter III of Chapter 885 of the Wisconsin Statutes. This project would be eligible for American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding.

Action:

MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY JACOBSON TO RECOMMEND APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2021 CIP FOR COURTROOMS AND JAIL AUDIO/VIDEO ENHANCEMENTS. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow Up:

Forward to HR Property & Finance Committee.

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

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

- A. Marathon County Shelter Home – Update on Continued Evaluation of Service Delivery Options

Discussion:

Chad Billeb provided an update and explained different options for the future of the shelter home:

- Option 1: Continue to staff and run the shelter home.
- Option 2: Search for vendors in the private sector to operate the shelter home as a business.
- Option 3: Marathon County contract with other counties or another private entity for services.
(However, this option presents a great deal of challenges.)

The current cost for Marathon County to run the shelter is \$550,000 a year.

The Sheriff’s Department and Social Services will continue to evaluate community and state needs and what would be financially sensible for all involved.

Follow Up:

Another update may be presented to this committee in February.

B. Regional Forensic Science Center – Neighborhood Investment Fund Grant Application

Discussion:

Supervisor Craig McEwen gave an informational update on a grant application previously submitted to construct a Regional Forensic Science Center. The task force worked diligently to develop an operational and business plan. They anticipate hearing the outcome of the grant before the end of the year.

C. Marathon County Jail Pandemic Response Update

Discussion:

Chad Billeb provided an update on the steps taken to minimize the spread of covid throughout the jail facility.

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

A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion

- Chair Bootz requested feedback relative to resighting the Pledge of Allegiance before committee meetings. It was the consensus to consider discussing the topic at a future meeting.
- Administrator Leonhard suggested inviting Emergency Management Director Phil Rentmeester and UniverCity students to give a presentation on EMS Retention and Recruitment for Marathon County.

B. Next meeting: **Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at 1:30 pm; A Joint Public Safety and Health & Human Services Committee meeting will begin at 2pm.**

8. Adjournment

MOTION BY MASZK; SECOND BY LAMONT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:07 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted by,
Toshia Ranallo

[Click here to view the recording of the meeting.](#)