



MARATHON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

Courthouse Assembly Room, B-105, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair Kurt Gibbs	X	
Vice Chair Craig McEwen	X	
Matt Bootz	X	
Tim Buttke	W	
Sara Guild	X	
Jacob Langenhahn	X	
Alyson Leahy	X	
John Robinson	X	
Jean Maszk		Excused
Randy Fifrick		Excused

Also present/WebEx: Lance Leonhard, Michael Puerner, Kim Trueblood, Noor Ali Hassan, Toshia Ranallo, and members from the public.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Gibbs called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Approval of Minutes:

MOTION BY MCEWEN; SECOND BY LANGENHAHN TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 9, 2022, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Possible Action

A. Discuss input for Onboarding Newly Elected County Board Supervisors

Discussion:

Chair Gibbs explained there will be an onboarding process for newly elected supervisors after the April 5th election. He requested committee members contribute recommendations beyond the standard procedures for consideration. Onboarding new supervisors will take place prior to the April 19th organizational meeting.

Supervisors suggested the topics below for new and current county board members:

- Various committee's roles, responsibilities, and jurisdictions
- Budget process education
- County Board Rules
- Open Meeting Law presentations from Corp. Counsel (including use of personal emails and text messages)
- Conduct a forum: Bring together new and current county board members and discuss what to expect from the position, where do you go for questions, how to interface with staff, etc.
- What do we do about parking: Can an agreement be made with the City of Wausau for County Board Supervisors?
- How to communicate with constituents while using a social media platform: Personal opinion versus an opinion of the board
- The importance of clarifying the county board functions as a policy board, and not an implementation board. What are administrative functions?
- Committee Chairs to conduct committee background and educational presentations at the standing committee's first meeting
- Each standing committee develop their own onboarding training video
- Facilities tour
- Support continuing education on topics relevant to issues that are frequently dealt with for all supervisors not just the committee chairs
- Virtual educational opportunities

B. Approval of Grant Agreement between Marathon County, North Central Community Services Program, and State of Wisconsin Department of Administration

Discussion:

Chair Gibbs reported Marathon County and the North Central Community Services Program Board has been awarded a \$5 million grant from the State of Wisconsin Building Commission to assist with the remodeling the NCHC inpatient mental health hospital. In exchange for the grant, there is a requirement that services need to be offered for 10 years to neighboring counties that are not included in the Tri-County Agreement. There will also be a lien against the NCHC campus for \$5 million for a 20-year term.

The HR Finance and Property Committee discussed this at their meeting yesterday and it was unanimously approved to accept the five million dollars from the state with all commitments.

Administrator Leonhard explained the renovations had been previously approved by the County Board using budgeted funds, but due to increased costs, this would be an opportunity to offset the inflation.

Action:

MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY MCEWEN TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE GRANT FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE NCHC INPATIENT HOSPITAL. MOTION CARRIED. Vote unanimous.

Follow up:

Forward to the county board for consideration.

C. Authorization of County Support for Public Service Commission Broadband Grants

Discussion:

Supervisor Robinson provided an update on the ongoing efforts of the Broadband Task Force. Recently, invitations to submit proposals were sent to all internet service providers in Marathon County. The task force reviewed five proposals and looked at various costs and how to maximize participation.

Action:

MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY GUILD TO RECOMMEND APPROVING THE RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) BROADBAND GRANTS.

Follow up:

Forward to the county board for consideration.

D. Prioritization of Administrator's 2022 Work Plan

Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard provided the committee with a draft 2022 Work Plan identifying project priorities and classifying them into the following three-color coded categories: The plan can be accessed in the packet on the county's [website located here](#).

1. Project could be stopped (not started) with little or no impact on operations (Green)
2. Stopping (not starting) project would have considerable operational impact (Yellow)
3. Stopping (not starting project) would have significant operational impacts (Red)

Leonhard also provided a few updates on the following projects:

- Continuing to work on childcare with NTC, City of Wausau, Wausau School District, D.C Everest School District and Child Caring to identify what steps we can take to improve access to childcare. There will be a State of WI grant application submitted by April 4th to help with technical assistance expenses.
- The Discover Wisconsin ARPA project agreement has been signed
- Anticipating the contract for the Community Partners Campus
- All non-profit organizations that are funded through the county board budget process have submitted 2022 annual performance contracts

Supervisor Langenhahn offered the following priorities ranked by the Environmental Resource Committee:

- ARPA funds
- Class Compensation Study
- Long-term Facilities Plan

Administrator Leonhard provided an update on the Regional Forensic Morgue project and reported the grant application that was submitted for neighborhood investment dollars was unfortunately not awarded to Marathon County.

Action:

MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY LEAHY TO RECOMMEND ADOPTING THE ADMINISTRATOR'S 2022 WORK PLAN SUBJECT TO A MODIFICATION TO THE REGIONAL FORENSIC MORGUE PROJECT FROM A GREEN TO A YELLOW COLOR CODING. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow up:

Forward to County Board

E. Annual Evaluation of County Administrator

1. The Executive Committee may consider a Motion to Go into Closed Session pursuant to §19.85(1) (c) Wis. Stats. to consider performance evaluation data of a public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, namely: the County Administrator. **[Roll Call Vote Suggested]**

MOTION BY LANGENHAHN; SECOND BY ROBINSON TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION, PURSUANT TO §19.85(1) (C) WIS. STATS. TO CONSIDER PERFORMANCE EVALUATION DATA OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OVER WHICH THE GOVERNMENTAL BODY HAS JURISDICTION OR EXERCISES RESPONSIBILITY, NAMELY: THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Roll Call Vote was performed:

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Excused
Chair Kurt Gibbs	Yes	
Vice Chair Craig McEwen	Yes	
Matt Bootz	Yes	
Tim Buttke	WebEx	
Sara Guild	Yes	
Jacob Langenhahn	Yes	
Alyson Leahy	Yes	
John Robinson	Yes	
Jean Maszk		X
Randy Fifrick		X

2. Motion to return to open session for announcements and possible action on matters discussed in closed session.

MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY MCEWEN TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. MOTION CARRIED.

Action:

No action taken.

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

6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:

A. NACO Legislative Conference

Discussion:

Chair Gibbs, and Supervisors Craig McEwen and Matt Bootz attended the conference this year. Bootz encouraged committee members to look through the [County Explorer](#) on the [NACO website](#) for a ton of useful educational information including webinars.

Hot topics covered:

- The opioid drug addiction crisis and behavioral health post COVID-19
- Workforce development challenges and recruiting high school students for apprenticeships
- ARPA funding
- Strengthening anti-hunger resources through the 2023 Farm Bill and the SNAP Program
- Federal funding grants to help with substance abuse and mental health services in schools

McEwen reported on the value of networking with other county officials and getting different perspectives on issues and best practices.

Chair Gibbs reported NACO will be compiling data on how various counties are utilizing ARPA funding.

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

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

B. Next Executive Committee Meeting: **Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.**

8. Adjournment

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MOTION BY LANGENHAHN; SECOND BY GUILD TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:04 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

The recorded meeting can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard>

Respectfully submitted by Toshia Ranallo.