



## MARATHON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, June 11, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

Employee Resources Conference Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest St, Wausau WI 54403

Attendance:	Present	Absent	Vice-Chairs	
Kurt Gibbs, Chair	X			
Craig McEwen, Vice-Chair	X			
Matt Bootz	W		Brent Jacobson	X
Tim Buttke	W		Michelle Van Krey	W
Randy Fifrick	W		Sandi Cihlar	W
Sara Guild	X		Ka Lo	W
Jacob Langenhahn	X			
Alyson Leahy	X			
John Robinson	W			
E J Stark	W			

**Also Present:** Lance Leonhard, Scott Corbett; Mary Palmer, Joan Theurer; **Web:** Kim Trueblood, Becky Frisch, Jean Maszk, Yee Leng Xiong, William Harris, Jonathan Fisher, Mike Puerner, Phil Rentmeester, many members of the public in person and via phone

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Kurt Gibbs at 4:05 p.m.

**2. Public Comment:** The Public Comment portion of the agenda has been temporarily suspended, pursuant to Marathon County Resolution # R-18-20, dated March 17, 2020

### 3. Approval of May 13, 2020, Executive Committee Meeting Minute

**MOTION BY MCEWEN; SECOND BY LEAHY, TO APPROVE THE MAY 13, 2020, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination - None**

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

*The committee agreed to take the agenda items out of order and begin with 5-C.*

A. Resolution to Create a Nonpartisan Procedure for the Preparation of State Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Plans

#### **Discussion:**

Supervisor Harris is asking for a resolution to create a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of State Legislative and Congressional redistricting plans. Many of his constituents are concerned their voice is not heard and would like the maps drawn for fairness and equality. There would be no games, no strategic advantage, and would put people first.

#### **Action:**

**MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY LEAHY TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL WITH THE MODIFICATION TO STRIKE *MUNICIPAL, COUNTY, AND FROM THE NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED. MOTION IS DEFEATED 6 TO 4.***

Comments from Committee/Board members:

- We have a process in place and there is no reason why we should change. Any change should come from the State Supreme Court.
- Supports reminding our governor to have this done by population.
- Supports the resolution for true democracy.

- This is not a topic we should be addressing at the county level. The County Board is and should remain non-partisan.
- We are a policy board. What part of the strategic plan does this fall into?

**Follow through:**

None needed at this time.

**B. Continuing Suspension of the County Board Rules**

**Discussion:**

Chair Gibbs is looking for input from the Committee to start the conversation on whether the County Board rules should continue being suspended. Most members feel that Public Comment should be reinstated, but needs further development. Continue both in person and via phone or webex most likely. The same goes for Board and Committee meetings – keep both options. No one is sure how 38 Board members could attend in person, but again, looking for ideas. Looking for best practices.

Some thoughts on public comment were:

- Put in place that constituents submit their comments by e-mail and put those into a packet,
- Start meetings earlier to rename participants in webex who wish to register for public comment.

Committee members were asked to come with options to the July Executive Committee meeting. We need to find a practical way to do this. Constituents want to be engaged.

**Action:**

None needed.

**Follow through:**

Committee members will bring options to the July Executive Committee meeting.

**C. Extension of the Resolution to Proclaim the Existence of a County Emergency Related to COVID-19**

**Discussion:**

Our current Resolution proclaiming the existence of a County Emergency related to COVID-19 will expire on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Two of the top reasons for the extension are some funding is tied to an emergency declaration and procurement. We follow procurement rules as close as possible, but the nature of some procurements is such that we need to operate outside of our standard rules. With respect to our COVID response, these procurements are most likely within our Health Department and Facilities & Capital Management. With respect to funding eligibility, an emergency declaration may be beneficial to ensure Marathon County remains eligible. Recently, Marathon County was allocated up to \$2.2 million of CARES Act dollar, but due to the restrictions on the use of the funds, we may not actually receive that much. An emergency declaration may also be beneficial for FEMA funding.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is working to secure funding from the federal government that could be used for lost revenue. The Senate is working for funding for all local units of government. One funding sources funnels through the State and some proposals are directed to each unit of government.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY FIFRICK TO EXTEND THE RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM THE EXISTENCE OF A COUNTY EMERGENCY RELATED TO COVID-19 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

Education on this topic was requested for the June County Board Educational meeting.

**D. COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus 2019) /Communicable Disease Ordinance Development**

Committee agrees to go out of order and take Item 5-D first. No objection.

**Discussion:**

Chair Gibbs provided background that the Ordinance went through the Health and Human Services

Committee to the Executive Committee Gibbs attended a Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) meeting on Monday for all counties. They recommend that WCA will create a work group to include members from multiple businesses, administrators, city & village representatives, restaurant association, economic development, Corporation Counsels, membership from Health Officers Association, WCA Staff and legal representation. That group will provide some clarity and best practices when counties choose to develop an ordinance to address some of the issues due to the Supreme Court decision relating to the COVID-19 pandemic we are currently in.

Any county in the process of developing an ordinance was asked to put them on hold and wait until the work group provides best practices and forwards them to all counties. They plan to start meeting within the next week and anticipate four to six meetings over the same amount of weeks.

He also attended a meeting at the Dudley Building with members of the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce, the County Administrator, Corporation Counsel, Health Officer and the Sheriff. There was great discussion and feedback about the proposed ordinance and suggestions were brought back for further consideration. At that time it was explained that it would be the Chair's recommendation by and to this committee to put on hold the development of this ordinance and move it back to Health & Human Services giving them specific direction to wait until WCA has their work complete and we receive their guidance.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY ROBINSON, SECOND BY BOOTZ TO REFER THE COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONA VIRUS 2019) /COMMUNICABLE DISEASE ORDINANCE BACK TO THE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION, WITH DIRECTION THAT THE DRAFT ORDINANCE AND LETTER FROM COUNSEL TO THE GREATER WAUSAU AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BE FORWARDED TO WISCONSIN COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION (WCA) FOR REVIEW AND AWAIT RECOMMENDATION FROM A WCA WORKGROUP REGARDING BEST PRACTICES CONCERNING A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE ORDINANCE. THE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE IS ALSO TO CONSIDER PUBLIC INPUT AND/OR TESTIMONY ON ANY PROPOSED ORDINANCE GOING FORWARD. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

Health & Human Services Committee to follow the directions in the Motion above.

E. Consider Extending County Board Announcements to 60 Seconds

**Discussion:**

Current rules say announcements are kept to 30 seconds. Should we consider expanding this to 60 seconds? Announcements cannot result in discussion or it may violate the open meeting laws. If it stays at 30 seconds, it will be enforced.

**Action:**

No action was taken.

**Follow through:**

None needed at this time.

**6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**

A. Review of Draft Annual Strategic Plan Update

**Discussion:**

We are starting the third year of the Strategic Plan. Provide feedback after you receive the e-mail with the Plan attached. The updated Strategic Plan mirrors the original Strategic Plan in design and is more interactive as you click on the various icons. Administrator Leonhard showed how to navigate the Updated Plan and addressed the issues in Objective 7.2 as an example.

Vice-Chair McEwen acknowledges the good work done by the committee.

**Follow through:**

Send the Strategic Plan Update to the Board members.

B. Determine Executive Committee Dates and Times for August, September and November

**Discussion:**

The following dates were agreed upon for the Executive Committee meetings: Wednesday, August 12 at 4:00 p.m.; Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.; and Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

**Follow through:**

No follow through needed.

**7. Next Meeting Time, Location, Agenda Items and Reports to the County Board**

- Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion and educational presentations for the County Board – email agenda items to Chair Gibbs
- Next regular meeting: Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Assembly Room and Webex/Phone

**8. Announcements:** None

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY MCEWEN; SECOND BY LANGENHAHN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.** Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mary Palmer