



# MARATHON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.**

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

MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT	VICE-CHAIRS	PRESENT
Kurt Gibbs, Chair		Excused	Brent Jacobson	W
Craig McEwen, Vice-Chair	X		Michelle Van Krey	
Matt Bootz		Excused	Sandi Cihlar	W
Tim Buttke	W		Ka Lo	
Randy Fifrick	W			
Sara Guild	W			
Jacob Langenhahn	W			
Alyson Leahy	W			
John Robinson	W			
E J Stark	W			

**Also Present:** Lance Leonhard, Jason Hake, Toshia Ranallo, Mary Palmer, Scott Corbett, others  
**Web/Phone:** John Happli, Others

1. **Call Meeting to Order** - The meeting was called to order by **Vice Chair McEwen at 4:00 p.m.**
2. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)** - None
3. **Approval of the November 6, 2020, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes** – Motion by **J. Langenhahn** seconded by **R.Fifrick** to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.
4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination** - None
5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution** - None
6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**

**A. Update on Broadband Task Force**

**Discussion:** J. Robinson gave the following update: Marathon County is partnering with area internet service providers on two projects to expand high speed internet access in Marathon County. These projects would significantly increase access to high speed internet throughout the County. The first phase is with Wittenberg Telephone for the Town of Reid and a small portion of the Town of Ringle, southwest of the Village of Hatley. This project would provide high speed fiber service to 85 residences and 3 businesses in this area. The County is also partnering with Bug Tussel Wireless, Northwoods Connect and Network Professionals. A State of Wisconsin Public Service Commission grant was submitted on December 1, 2020 to assist in these efforts. The collaborative Marathon County Wireless Broadband Expansion Project includes fixed wireless infrastructure at 19 existing and proposed tower locations. The northern tier of Marathon County is a priority area due to the current lack of high speed internet, cellular, and landline phone service.

**Follow through:** No follow through needed.

**B. Update on County Board Size Task Force**

**Discussion:** J. Robinson indicated it will be the recommendation of the Board Size Task Force committee to remain a 38 member board. This committee reviewed 118 comments from citizens. There were an overwhelming support to continue as a 38 member board due to distress in government, remaining a diverse board, and concerns that resident’s voices would be lessened with a smaller board. In January, Robinson indicated there will be a report presented first to the Executive Committee and then

forwarded onto the County Board. It will be brought before the county board again in February for possible action.

Follow through: No follow through needed.

### **C. Review of WCUTA Resolution**

**Discussion:** J. Robinson explained this resolution was generated to try and get counties and municipalities that have utilities to take a stand and ask for an increase in utility payments. The HR Finance Committee recently discussed and supports this resolution.

Follow through: No follow through needed.

### **D. NCCAP Annual Reporting**

**Discussion:** Administrator Leonhard stated North Central Community Action Program (NCCAP) was one of five identified non-profits in the 2020 budget that administration was directed to work with, to move from what had been an expressed allocation of funding through the county board budget process, to a contract for services model for that same amount of direct funding that had been provided for in the budget. This report is one example of a summary of their efforts. Administrator Leonhard will continue to work with the other 4 non-profits for similar reports.

Follow through: No follow through needed.

### **E. Administrator's 2021 Work Plan**

**Discussion:** The Full board will be asked to approve the work plan in January. Administrator Leonhard requests the committee review the document, identify any tasks that might have been excluded, and prioritize and rank the items. He asked the committee to provide any information to him and Chair Gibbs.

**Follow through:** Administrator Leonhard will email the committee the most updated version of the [2021 Work Plan](#).

## **7. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items**

- Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion and educational presentations for the County Board.
- Next Meeting: **Thursday, January 14, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.** in the Courthouse Assembly Room

**8. Announcements** – McEwen, thanked Mary palmer for her years of service and congratulated her and wished her well during her retirement.

**9. Adjournment** – Motion by J. Robinson seconded by Buttke to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Toshia Ranallo