



## MARATHON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, February 14, 2019, 3:00 p.m.  
Courthouse Assembly Room B-105, 500 Forest St, Wausau WI 54403

Attendance:	Present	Absent
Kurt Gibbs, Chair	X	
Craig McEwen, Vice-Chair	X	
Matt Bootz	X	
Sara Guild	X	
Jacob Langenhahn		EX
Allen Opall		EX
John Robinson	X	
E J Stark	X	
Jeff Zriny	X	

**Also Present:** Brad Karger, Nan Kottke, Mike Puerner, John Graveen, Michael Loy, Mary Palmer

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Kurt Gibbs at 3:00 p.m.

2. **Public Comment:** John Graveen, Village of Maine Trustee, asking the County to consider allowing ATV's and UTV's to use County Roads in the Village of Maine..

### 3. Approval of the January 8, 2019, Minutes

**MOTION BY STARK; SECOND BY MCEWEN TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 8, 2019, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**

### 4. Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for its Consideration

#### A. Criteria and Process for Evaluating Funding Requests from Non-Profit Agencies

##### **Discussion:**

We can utilize the same process as Priority Based Budgeting. Some ideas are:

- Consistency with work in relation to our Strategic Plan
- Ability to raise funds elsewhere
- If we didn't have this service, would the community look to us to provide it?
- Accountability of results – how will it be reported and what impacts data?
- How do you measure results?

Look at joint venture rules to see if something in there gives us a starting point and also look at CIP scoring criteria

##### **Action:**

No action was taken.

##### **Follow through:**

No follow through.

#### B. Administration Work Plan for 2019

Moved to later in the meeting.

##### **Discussion:**

Administrator Karger went through his proposed Work Plan for 2019. The Committee made the following recommendations:

Extension, Education & Economic Development – add Work with the UW Officials to increase the student population at the Wausau Campus

Environmental Resources – remove item 4 – Develop a policy and cost share plan to prohibit winter spreading of manure on fields by medium sized producers. Policies are set by the Board.

Health and Human Services – item 7 – Construct a new aquatic therapy pool - timeline to be changed to 12/31/2019.

Jail population and corrections are one of the biggest subjects we need to address now. It's not just a facilities question. We are arresting fewer than we did years ago, but more people are in jail. How do we address this?

Staff wants the plan by strategic priorities. It will get done both ways.

In the future add something with the chamber – make it a living document.

Evaluate pool and fieldhouse or is it evaluate facilities at UWSP? Immediate need is to understand funding requests for the 2 CIP requests – pool and bleacher issues. Bigger issue is how do we assist UWSP successful long term?

**Action:**

**MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY STARK TO APPROVE THE 2019 ADMINISTRATION WORK PLAN SUBJECT TO MODIFICATIONS LISTED ABOVE AND SEND TO THE FULL COUNTY BOARD FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

No follow through.

- C. Real Estate located at 1212 West St., Wausau WI 54401: Recommendation to County Board whether to approve Marathon County's Offer to Purchase Commercial Property, which has been Accepted by Property Owner

**Discussion:**

1212 West Street is the property adjacent to the County's property on West Street. Previously used as cold storage. Funding will come from interest accrued from CIP and a little bit out of other areas.

Next will be a proposal to take the building down. It's very likely that the Highway Department may take this on.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY ZRINY TO APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF THE PROPERTY AT 1212 WEST STREET CONSISTENT WITH THE OFFER TO PURCHASE AND THE WEST SIDE MASTER PLAN. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

No follow through.

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

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

- A. Report from John Robinson and Sara Guild on Wisconsin Counties Association CAP Team meeting held in January 2019, in Madison

**Discussion:**

Supervisors Robinson and Guild represented the County at the County Ambassadors Program (CAP) meeting. Four main areas were discussed:

- Children and Family aid allocation increase – 9.89% County match which has been exceeded for years. Need to align our case load with best practices and stabilize out of home costs
- Secure residential care centers for youth a/k/a/ Lincoln Hills – what happens after 1/1/2021 and Lincoln Hills closes. There are still lots of unanswered questions. Governor is seeking up to a two year delay.
- Court appointed attorney compensation rate. Public defender pay for private attorneys is currently \$40 per hour and wants increase to \$100 per hour. County appointed attorneys fees will increase to \$70 July 1 this year and \$100 January 1, 2020.
- Grants to Increase 911 abilities across the state.

Attorney's fees seems to be likely to happen. Full support from attorneys, courts, district attorneys, etc.

Child services is the largest ask ever made. It's not a reactive but more as preventative measure. If we

don't have enough staff, we can only help those currently in the system and we will perpetuate future children and keep them in the system.

Senator Tiffany asked if Marathon County would be interested in having a facility. Currently no counties are interested and if something isn't done to make it more feasible to open a facility, we could end up sending our juveniles to the southern part of the state.

Next CAP meeting is April 2<sup>nd</sup> focus on health care and possibly revisit Social Services funding requests.

**Follow through:**

No follow through.

**B. Report on Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Legislative Conference held February 5 & 6**

**Discussion:**

Chair Gibbs attended the WCA Legislative Conference in Madison. It was a great day and a half of meetings. Governor Evers attended the meetings. Topics centered around Legislative priorities and a more in depth of what the requests are and what the budget might look like. February 28<sup>th</sup> the Governor will release his budget. 1.1 billion dollars increase in asks than we have which include:

- K-12 funding
- Medicaid expansion
- Preexisting medical conditions
- Clean water – wants water quality in the eastern part of the state – Kewaunee and south western part of the state
- Dark stores – it's a shifting of tax dollars from large stores to the home owners. It's not a lost revenue for the county. It's a shift in where the dollars are coming from. If the trend continues we could see a 5% tax increase. Within a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – It is a delay in collecting and closing TIFs which costs the County money.

GOP Legislators priorities include:

- K-12 funding
- Middle class tax cut – different than the Governors
- Clean water
- Maintaining Walker era policy programs

It is unclear on what will happen and what joint finance will do.

Some of WCA's positions:

- Levy limits and levy caps – do not keep up with inflation. It was presented that 60 counties had an increase of health care costs
- Conservation staffing and the State's promise to provide funding for conservation staffing – they have not kept up with this.
- Transportation – Where will the funding come from to improve the transportation system and the infrastructure system we have? Legislators are leaning toward tolling. A new committee has been developed with lots of interested parties. Potential increase in gas tax.
- Work Zone safety – A priority
- Court appointed attorneys and raise the rate of compensation for counties. Supreme Court sets one rate and the legislature sets the other.
- Protective status for jailers (25 year old policy) - If Counties are required to do that and correction officers can retire at 55, additional Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) contributions etc. will need to be made. Hold Harmless – so employees can enroll in protective status but there will be no cost to the county. Employee would pay the additional WRS contributions and any additional costs related to that status. WCA supports this as long as there is no additional cost to counties.
- Strain on foster care system – Marathon County has been recruiting and our numbers aren't as dire as other areas of the state.
- WCA supports putting 17 year old back into juvenile status, only if fully funded by the state.

**Follow through:**

No follow through.

C. Participant Evaluation Summary – 2019 MLK “Day On”

**Discussion:**

Administrator Karger gave a brief update on the 2019 Martin Luther King Jr. Day On including some of the highlights:

- Steve Bench was amazing on Generational Differences and will be back in 2020
- Reverend Enos Martin was also being invited for another presentation next week on Plain Clothes People.
- Brett Barker another star on civil rights
- Implicit Bias
- Other highlights of the day were shared

It was a very successful event.

**Follow through:**

No follow through.

**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
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room

**8. Announcements:** None

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY LANGENHAHN; SECOND BY STARK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.** Committee adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mary Palmer