



MARATHON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 4:00 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	X	
Allen Opall	X	
John Robinson	X	
E J Stark	X	
Jeff Zriny		EX

Also Present: Brad Karger, Lance Leonhard, Scott Corbett, Mary Palmer

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Public Comment: None

3. Approval of the February 14, 2019, Minutes

MOTION BY MCEWEN; SECOND BY STARK TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 14, 2019, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

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

A. Marathon County Priorities in the 2019-21 State Budget

Discussion:

Chair Gibbs went through a handout on the budget process for Wisconsin as it travels from the departments through legislative veto.

The State does not have a shutdown like the federal government. If a budget is not passed by a certain time, Wisconsin continues on the current budget that is in place.

Here are some of the highlights from the summary of the Governor's budget by WCA:

- \$15 million for 2020 additional child welfare
- Juvenile Corrections – send 17 year old back to juvenile corrections rather than adult corrections – WCA never opposed this but wants to guarantee that if it happens it won't cost counties additional money.
- Increases general transportation aids by 10% and other transportation
- Shared revenue – proposed to be increased by 2%
- Change to levy limits – not net new constructions and an additional change greater of net new construction or 2%.
- County conservation additional staffing and cost sharing grants 10.4 million
- Broadband expansion – proposed \$39 million each year in the biennium.
- Prioritizes quality water
- Increases in state park funding
- Fire protection grants increase
- Redistricting – creating a non-partisan committee to draw redistricting grants
- Expansion in UW Extension increase of 1.5 million
- Minimum wage increase 1/1/2020 – \$1.00 and additional 75 cents starting 2021 for the next 3

years.

- Remove drug screening test requirements on W2 workers/employees
- Increase in child welfare cases – If it goes through it could eliminate the County's ability to collect birthing costs from fathers. It would cost in the 2nd year about \$80,000 in those collection costs and 1 full time employee. Not necessarily positive.

Consensus emerged that County Administration will look at the Governor's Budget from WCA and recommend to the County Board Chair priority budget items a standing committee should work on; and with which department to align the budget with the County's Strategic Plan and the Administration Work Plan.

Action:

No action was taken.

Follow through:

Brad Karger and Lance Leonhard will go through the budget list and prioritize them by committee and send to the County Board Chair for review before going to Committee Chairs.

Each committee will take the two items assigned to them from the WCA document, review those as they relate to their committee, and bring back suggestions in April.

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

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Report on NACo Legislative Conference

Discussion:

Kurt Gibbs, Craig McEwen and Matt Bootz shared some of the highlights of the breakout sessions they went to at the NACo Legislative Conference.

Committee members and the public were encouraged to download an app called "TestIt" which shows internet and download speeds wherever you are at. When you run the application the speed goes to NACo and then the information is shared with the FCC. You can also see where your speed compares with the national average on a graph.

Other areas of interest are

- Rural Action Caucus – this was on the upcoming 2020 Census. Where you sleep on April 1, 2020 is where you will be counted.
- Broadband is a topic of discussion everywhere.
- Second Chance Act to reduce recidivism will have increased funding
- NACo County Explorer is a tool with over 800 data sets you can use to compare Marathon County to other member counties – cic.naco.org

Some of the questions asked were: How do we influence federal legislators? When is there a right time? How does that budget work? How do we influence in a real way? It was suggested that before you contact any legislator know what you want, have solid credible ideas that can be done and then refer to local legislative teams. Start at the State level and then move on to Federal government.

Counties Matter is an excellent publication. NACo represents 37,000 elected officials.

Follow through:

No follow through.

- B. Motion to Go Into Closed Session Pursuant to s.19.85(1)(c) Wis. Stats. to consider Performance Evaluation of a Public Employee Over Which the Governmental Body has Jurisdiction or Exercises Responsibility, Namely the County Administrator. [Roll call vote suggested].

Discussion:

The committee decided not to go into closed session.

The County Administrator's evaluation was done by consensus of the Executive Committee on the performance of the 2018 Administration Work Plan.

Consensus emerged that the County Administrator has done a really great job with the 2018 Work Plan. Some comments were "when a project becomes more complicated than originally thought,

Brad keeps calm and works through what's needed to be successful", "Brad has the ability to manage different projects and multiple groups and move in a positive direction", "Brad is a good leader and that is reflected in his Department Heads and immediate staff.

A couple comments were made that the County is not on the front page of any of the newspapers putting out a fire every other day – we are proactive; not reactive due to Brad's visionary leadership.

Brad is looking for suggestions on how to fund the capital projects moving forward. Borrowing is an option but not necessarily the best solution.

C. Motion to Return to Open Session – Did not go into closed session

D. Possible Announcements or Action Resulting from Closed Session – Did not go into closed session

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
- Marathon County Priorities in the 2019-21 State Budget
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room
- **Announcements:** Rep. John Spiros will be in Weston on Thursday

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY OPALL; SECOND BY STARK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.** Committee adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Palmer