



MARATHON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, October 8, 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	X	

Also Present: Brad Karger, Lance Leonhard, Scott Corbett, Kim Trueblood, Ka Lo, Gerry Klein, Russ Wilson, Kelly Zegrzebski, Pat Gosz, Thomas Brown, Arnie Schlei, Katie Rosenberg, Becky Frisch, Media, Mary Palmer

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Kurt Gibbs at 4:03 p.m.

2. Public Comment:

- A. Thomas Brown, 715 N 5th Avenue, re: Supervisory District Vacancies
- B. Russ Wilson Kelly Zegrzebski and Pat Gosz on Marathon County Historical Society and reduction of County contribution

3. Approval of the August 26 and September 3, 2019, Minutes

MOTION BY MCEWEN; SECOND BY ROBINSON TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 26, and SEPTEMBER 3, 2019, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

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

- A. Additional Discussion and Possible Action Recommendation to Downsize the County Board for 2022 after the 2020 Census and Redistricting

Discussion:

A decision should be made by February 2021, the Board needs to provide a plan to municipalities and the State. Official action must be taken by 2021. If this Board passes a board reduction, the next board in 2020 could reverse the action. As a general rule Wisconsin has had large boards. Marathon County's target population was 3,800 that each supervisor would represent plus or minus 5% when district lines are drawn. Marathon County is the largest county of the 3,069 counties that exist in the U.S.

This topic was discussed in length looking at both sides and consensus emerged that more information was needed and that each committee member should e-mail Chair Gibbs with their ideas as to the optimum size of the Board and what a Charter for a task force would look like to study this further.

Action:

MOTION BY MCEWEN; SECOND BY BOOTZ TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE PROS AND CONS AND BRING FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO DOWNSIZE THE BOARD OR LEAVE IT THE SAME SIZE TO THIS COMMITTEE.

Suggestions:

- Members would be appointed by the Board Chair and staff would support the Task Force.
- We should be looking at size or efficiencies.
- Should the Task Force include WCA, NCWRPC,

Everyone agreed that Executive Committee members would give their input on the charter for next month.

MCEWEN WITHDREW HIS MOTION AND BOOTZ WITHDREW HIS SECOND.

Follow through:

Committee members were charged with putting together their ideas of what a charter will look like, what the charge would be, the makeup, when will it sunset, what should be taken into consideration and when to report back to this committee as far as its recommendation. Get your ideas to Chair Gibbs no later than October 25th. It will be published in the next packet.

B. Recommendation to the Board on the Two Supervisor District Vacancies

Discussion:

The County Clerk checked with the elections commission if a special election is possible and it is not possible. We can appoint per our rules procedures through recruitment by letter of interest, interview (chair, vice-chair, clerk and administrator) and bring recommendation to the board for ratification or leave those districts open. Then nomination papers will have to be taken out in December and due back in early January 2020. If there is only one interested person in a district, that person could be appointed and no primary needed. If there are multiple candidates for either district, then it would go to the primary and regular elections by citizens.

One concern of appointing is they become the incumbent and may have an advantage if multiples run.

Consistency is important on how we deal with vacancies. We do have a rule on this, but our rules can be suspended for a special election. However due to timelines a special election cannot happen. So we really only have one option – appointments.

We will solicit letters of interest in districts 8 and 9. We will advertise in the same outlets as we have in the past.

Action:

MOTION BY BOOTZ TO SEND OUT POSTCARDS TO CITIZENS IN DISTRICTS 8 AND 9 TO LET THEM KNOW OF THE VACANCIES AND USE AS RECRUITMENT FOR THE SUPERVISORS. NO SECOND.

Follow through:

Advertisement of the two vacancies.

C. Searching Land Records by Property Owner

Discussion:

This discussion centered on whether to provide free and easy exchange of public information by property owner name verses making it more difficult because there are those who may use it for harm. We are now putting in a new system that we can put in either way. Do you want to make it easier for someone to search for property owners or not.

Robinson believes it should be made available in the spirit of transparency

Action:

MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY STARK TO ENCOURAGE THE ADMINISTRATOR TO MAKE A SEARCHABLE FIELD THROUGH LAND RECORDS BY PROPERTY OWNER NAME AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. MOTION CARRIES 7 TO 1.

One member doesn't feel it's necessary to make it easier for anyone to find someone.

Another member uses this service significantly in his private business. All of our neighboring counties allow us to search on the names. From a business standpoint there is clearly reasons for this, but

understands the argument about privacy.

Follow through:

The searchable field by name will be added to the program.

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

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Update on Progress of Strategic Plan

Discussion:

Craig McEwen has been meeting with standing committees and asking them to review all agendas and look at any policies, procedures or resolutions that support the strategic plan assigned to their committee. The same is being done at departments. Craig appreciates the assistance from the Chairs and asks them to keep the strategic plan objectives in the fore front. Leonhard recapped the direction that was given to departments on the 12 objectives.

Many new initiatives have been identified and are moving forward. The Strategic Plan will be updated and delivered electronically as it currently exists. Around the time the new Board is seated interactive components will give the best experience with each objective.

In each strategic goal we have measurables, how do we know we are meeting those measures?

B. Update on Repair of Jail Structure

Discussion:

Chair Gibbs spoke with Michael Lotter, Facilities and Capital Management Director about where we were in relation to the jail and they are still finding issues. Completion is targeted for the end of November. Construction went over budget. The shoring is under budget, but multiple new concerns have been identified including more today.

C. Update on the 2020 Budget

Discussion:

Administrator Karger went through some of the highlights of the 2020 Budget:

- Non-profits funding reduced 25% and 5 ½ new positions approved but not funded by HR/finance because there is no new money. Employee health care has risen
- Out of home placements up ½ million
- Transportation aids up a little, but CHIPS funding went down considerably
- We will borrow for ranked projects
- \$40,000 for the Broadband study.
- There will be disappointed advocates for various agencies and departments.
- It is complex.

Will release the budget message to County Board members on Friday and then posted online after approved.

Monday, Finance will accept the budget. Then there will be a public hearing on November 12th at 8:00 p.m. but before HR/finance turns the budget over to the county board.

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 regular meeting: Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room

8. Announcements:

9. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Palmer