



## MARATHON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, November 4, 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		EX
Sara Guild		EX
Jacob Langenhahn	X	
Allen Opall	X	
John Robinson	X	
E J Stark	X	
Jeff Zriny	X	

**Also Present:** Brad Karger, Lance Leonhard, Jean Maszk, Jeff Johnson, Scott Corbett, Kim Trueblood, Becky Frisch, Media, Mary Palmer

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Kurt Gibbs at 4:00 p.m.

### 2. Public Comment: None

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

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

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

#### A. Development of a Cost Recovery Policy

1. Starting with an inventory of fees currently assessed and collected and last time updated.

#### **Discussion:**

The County Administrator explained that unless a program is governed by statute, a fee structure has not been followed in most instances. It is time to be consistent with the many programs that we have where fees have not changed. Administration will put together a spreadsheet to establish a list of programs that have fees, if the fees are governed by statute, does the department know when the last time a fee was updated, how was the fee calculated, and how was the fee decided – by a committee or staff, etc.? A system will be created and we will move forward with what we have now.

#### **Action:**

No action taken.

#### **Follow through:**

Departments will send information to Administration to create a spreadsheet.

#### B. Broadband Report (Expected in November)

1. Who or what leadership groups are charged with responsibility for moving recommendations forward?

#### **Discussion:**

Supervisor Robinson – Design 9 submitted a draft report but it is very technical and we are looking for more substance. We should receive the updated report next Tuesday (11/12). This will be delayed a month and bring back in December.

#### **Action:**

No action taken.

**Follow through:**

Bring back in December.

C. 2020 Budget

1. What suggestions for improvement to the process do you have at this point for the 2021 budget?
2. Role of a Standing Committee Chair during a budget discussion that involves a committee decision/recommendation

**Discussion:**

Should the budget process change? The full presentation to the Board was not well attended. Is there value there? Should we create an expectation that county board members read it a month in advance? They wouldn't have to do anything with it, but read it.

When the County Administrator creates the budget he goes with the will of the board. When it's presented not all standing committees stand up and own what their portion of the budget like Public Safety did for dispatchers versus District Attorney staff. The reduction to non-profits came from Executive and HR/Finance.

The District Attorney's requests have not been ignored. The last three years their budget has increased over \$180,000.

**Action:**

No action taken.

**Follow through:**

The improvement process discussion will need to continue.

D. Creation of a Task Force to Study the Possible Down Sizing of the County Board

**Discussion:**

Chair Gibbs read the draft of the Marathon County Task Force to Study Board Size charter which was based on the information he received from the Executive Committee. Under item 4 Supervisor Robinson would like to add Chippewa and Polk counties.

The Task Force would come up with optimal efficiency along with representation and community interest. The Task Force will do the study, work and justification to downsize, if any, and will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee and then the County Board.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY MCEWEN TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE POSSIBLE DOWNSIZING OF THE COUNTY BOARD WITH RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND REPORT BACK TO THE FULL BOARD WITH A POTENTIAL SUNSET DATE OF JULY 2020. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow through:**

No follow through needed.

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

A. Resolution on Adopting a Redistricting Plan that Reduces the Number of Marathon County Supervisory Districts from 38 to 19

The committee agrees to take agenda items out of order and start with 5A prior to 4D.

**Discussion:**

This item was placed on the agenda at the request of Supervisor Jeff Johnson. He went through why he thought the board should be downsized now before the budget process was voted on.

Some of his reasons were:

- According to his figures downsizing to 19 would save approximate \$75,000 in salary and \$15,000 in travel which could fully restore the funding for nonprofits.
- Each committee member would have to serve on two committees and they would have a better understanding of what's happening at the committee level.

- Would like more information from experts in the field at the committee level.
- Statistical data was provided on the how many supervisors had competition in the 38 districts last election.

The committee does not dispute that downsizing the County Board should be looked at, as this is the third month it is being discussed at this committee. It was decided in October that Executive Committee members would send Chair Gibbs ideas on what a Task Force to study the possibility of downsizing the Board would look like and he would compile the information.

Some reasons committee members choose to study the size:

- Most committee members are against pushing this through without time to study it first. The plan presented had some supervisory district spread almost all the way across the county. It was asked how can supervisors serve each of the communities, if they have 48 district miles to cover?
- There was concern about transparency to the public. This is another initiative that is trying to be pushed through without the board having time to prepare.
- Statistical data shows that people are happy with their supervisors and that's why there is no competition in most areas.
- Will money really be saved in the long run when Supervisors are attending more meetings and with larger districts may want a pay increase?

Lots of pros and cons were discussed.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY LANGENHAHN; SECOND BY ROBINSON TO MOVE SUPPORT ADOPTION OF A REDISTRICTING PLAN AND MOVE THE RESOLUTION TO COUNTY BOARD FOR ADOPTION. MOTION FAILED 4 TO 3.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN:**

Kurt Gibbs, Chair	N
Craig McEwen, Vice-Chair	N
Matt Bootz	EX
Sara Guild	EX
Jacob Langenhahn	Y
Allen Opall	N
John Robinson	Y
E J Stark	N
Jeff Zriny	y

Discussion continued after the motion was made until Question was called by Supervisor Opall with no objection from the committee members.

**Follow through:**

No follow through needed.

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

A. Potential Land Purchase to Relocate Highway and Parks Departments

1. Consistent with West Side Master Plan (25 Year Plan, now 12 years old)

**Discussion:**

Administrator Karger gave a brief recap of the West Side Master Plan developed 12 years ago. Part of the plan is to move the Highway Department and Parks Department and have a joint vehicle maintenance under one director. This has been expanded to include the Sheriff's department vehicles also. A study was done for the best location and after looking at several locations the best location chosen was County Road U and Highway 29. This property is owned by a family trust. The offer is for \$500,000 per year for the next four years. They can stay and farm the land until we need it. An environmental and property assessment will be done. This will reassure the public that the funds are being invested wisely and we are not over paying for the property. This also goes along

with the Joint Motor Pool Task Force's final report and recommendation.

***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
- Broadband Report
  1. Who or what leadership groups are charged with responsibility for moving recommendations forward
- Next regular meeting: Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room

**8. Announcements:**

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY OPALL; SECOND BY LANGENHAHN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.** Committee adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mary Palmer