



MARATHON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, December 10, 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		EX
John Robinson	X	
E J Stark	X	
Jeff Zriny	X	

Also Present: Brad Karger, Lance Leonhard, Scott Corbett, Kim Trueblood, Becky Frisch, Jon Graveen, Keith Rusch, Dave Mack, Ben Bliven, Chad Billeb, Gerard Klein, Theresa Wetzsteon, Pam Steffen-Karls, Audrey Jensen, E. J. Stark, Brian Kowalski

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 November 4, 2019, Minutes

MOTION BY ROBINSON, SECOND BY ZRINY, TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 4, 2019, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

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

A. Appointment of an Interim County Administrator

Discussion:

Chair Gibbs provides an update to the Committee relative to the recruitment for the County Administrator position, including details regarding the posting and timeline. Based on the timeline for recruitment and the statutory responsibilities that are performed by the Administrator, Chair Gibbs requests that the Committee consider recommending that the Board appoint an Interim Administrator until the new Administrator is installed.

Action:

MOTION BY MCEWEN, SECOND BY LANGENHAHN, TO APPOINT DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR LANCE LEONHARD AS THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR BEGINNING ON DECEMBER 31, 2019, TO CONTINUE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A THE COUNTY BOARD APPOINTS A COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

Appointment of Interim Administrator to be forwarded to the Board for consideration.

B. Charter for the Task Force on County Board Size

Discussion:

Chair Gibbs briefly reviews each of the respective aspects of the draft charter included in the meeting packet, providing additional explanation of the nature of the duties of the task force and the makeup of the taskforce. Members discuss the draft charter and offer feedback.

Consensus amongst members is that it is important to seek information from counties that have

gone through the downsizing process and inquire whether the smaller body has resulted in improved governance.

Members express the importance of having balanced representation from rural and urban communities. In the interest of achieving that goal, standing committee chairs are encouraged to reach out to their committee members to inquire whether any members would be interested in serving on the task force.

Based on the committee discussion, Chair Gibbs notes that the reference to September 1, 2020, should be modified to reflect July 30, 2020, prior to the charter being forwarded to the full board.

Action:

MOTION BY BOOTZ, SECOND BY GUILD TO FORWARD THE TASK FORCE CHARTER TO THE COUNTY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

Charter to be moved forward to the Board and members of the Executive Committee are encouraged to discuss the taskforce and inquire whether any members would be interested in serving.

C. Feedback on the 2020 Budget Process

1. Suggestions for Improvement

Discussion:

Administrator Karger begins the conversation by explaining that the intent of the conversation is to improve the 2021 budget generation and discussion process.

Members express a desire to adopt a “system budgeting” approach, whereby we better recognize that the budgets in some departments are significantly impacted by the actions in other departments.

Members express interest in a budgeting system that allows for the sharing of revenues realized in one department that are generated by the efforts of other departments.

Members also express a desire to develop a strategy to increase ownership of the budget by the county board, as the budget is the more important policy document generated by the board. Members specifically reference the fact that the county previously would conduct a special budget meeting, but that the process was ended due to consistently poor meeting attendance.

One member references the need to examine the education of new members on the importance of the budget and the budget process. Consensus emerges that enhanced budget education for the entire board would be beneficial.

Action:

No action taken.

Follow through:

None necessary.

D. Rules Review Update: Discussion of Standing Committee Meeting Scheduling

Discussion:

Rules Review Chair McEwen explains that the Rules Review Committee has been considering a rule providing for a standard schedule of County Board Standing Committees. Specifically, McEwen explains that the proposed rule generally provides for five standing committee (Environmental Resources; Extension, Education & Economic Development; Public Safety; Infrastructure; and Health & Human Services) to be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the first week of the month. Human Resources, Finance and Property and the Executive Committee would meet on Tuesday and Thursday of the following week, while the County Board Educational meeting would generally take place on the third Thursday and the County Board voting meeting would occur on the following Tuesday.

McEwen and Deputy Administrator Leonhard explain that the rule change is offered to address several issues. First, the rule is meant to ensure that county board members have sufficient time

between standing committee action and consideration by the Board. Second, the rule is meant to reduce the need to frequently amend meeting agendas or packets. Finally, the rule should allow newly elected board members to request standing committee appointments that are more conducive to their schedules.

Action:

No action taken.

Follow through:

None at this time.

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

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Public Safety Concerns Related to New Land Records Software

Discussion:

This item is discussed out-of-order, immediately after the approval of the minutes, without objection, based on the members of the public and staff present to speak to it.

District Attorney Theresa Wetzsteon addresses the Committee, explaining the nature of work her office performs to protect the disclosure of information of victims of crime and requests that the Committee consider how those efforts are negatively impacted by the proposed search.

Wausau Police Department Chief Ben Bliven addresses the Committee, echoing the concerns offered by District Attorney Wetzsteon. Bliven also offers concerns that the searchable database may negatively impact law enforcement officers and other public officials.

Committee members ask questions of District Attorney Wetzsteon, Marathon County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Chad Billeb, Marathon County CPZ Director Rebecca Frisch, and CCITC Director Gerard Klein, including the potential routes to create an "individual opt-out" option for individuals to not have their property searchable by name. Members discuss the opposing viewpoints on whether the online database should be searchable by-name and what should be the next steps.

Follow through:

No follow through needed. The ultimate decision of how to proceed is left to the Administrator.

B. Strategic Plan Update

Discussion:

Chair McEwen explains that he has continued to visit with each of the Standing Committees to discuss each committee's work in furtherance of the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan Objectives. McEwen encourages committees to continue to reference the Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan in their ongoing work and explains that the intent is to release a strategic plan update document to the board and public.

Chair Gibbs requests that each of the Standing Committee Chairs consider reporting to the full County Board on the progress made under the Strategic Plan.

Follow through:

No follow through needed.

C. Broadband Report Update

Discussion:

Robinson explains that report from the vendor selected to complete the feasibility study, Design Nine, will be complete this week. Robinson indicates that the report will be disseminated to the full board on December 17; however, the presentation from Design Nine will not occur until January 16.

Robinson explains that the delay is intentional to allow members to have sufficient time to adequately review the document, which is in excess of 140 pages.

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
- Next regular meeting: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room

8. Announcements:

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY LANGENHAHN, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.** Committee adjourned at 5:44p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lance Leonhard, prepared on December 10, 2019.