

MARATHON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EDUCATIONAL and ANNUAL MEETING and BUDGET HEARING
 Tuesday, November 12, 2019 – 8:00 p.m.
 Marathon County Courthouse

1. **Call to Order**
 The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gibbs at 8:00 p.m., the agenda being duly signed and posted.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
 The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited, followed by a moment of silence/reflection.
3. **Reading of Notice**
 The Meeting Notice was read by the County Clerk.
4. **Request to Silence Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices**
 Chairperson Gibbs gave the request.
5. **Roll Call**
 The Clerk called the roll. 30 Supervisors were present as shown:

Supervisor	District	Supervisor	District
Katie Rosenberg.....	1	Sara Guild (excused).....	20
Romey Wagner	2	Loren White.....	21
David Nutting	3	Alan Christensen	22
John Robinson.....	4	Chris Voll.....	23
Ka Lo	5	Jean Maszk	24
Jeff Johnson (excused).....	6	Sandi Cihlar	25
Mary Ann Crosby	7	John Durham	26
Vacant.....	8	Thomas Seubert	27
Vacant	9	Maynard Tremelling.....	28
Donna Krause	10	Jim Bove.....	29
Alyson Leahy.....	11	Richard Gumz.....	30
Arnold Schlei.....	12	Allen Drabek.....	31
Matthew Bootz (excused).....	13	Kurt Gibbs.....	32
Rick Seefeldt.....	14	Tim Buttke	33
Randy Fifrick (excused).....	15	Gary Beastrom.....	34
Jeffrey Zriny	16	Jacob Langenhahn.....	35
EJ Stark.....	17	Bill Miller (excused).....	36
Craig McEwen	18	Allen Opall	37
Yee Leng Xiong	19	Jim Schaefer (excused).....	38

6. **Acknowledgement of Visitors / Announcements:**
 - Chairperson Gibbs welcomed visitors to the meeting, including all those watching on Public Access.
7. **Public Comment**
 - Rhonda Frank-Loron, 432 Glacier Ridge Trail, Verona, a former employee of the DA's office, spoke regarding the need for additional prosecutors in that office.
8. **Appointments**
 - a) Supervisory District #8 – Kelley Gabor
Discussion: There were a couple questions posed to Ms. Gabor and she answered those.
Action: **MOTION BY CHRISTENSEN, SECOND BY ROBINSON. MOTION CARRIED ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, 30-0.**
Follow Through: The Oath of Office was administered and Supervisor Gabor was seated.

- b) Supervisory District #9 – David Oberbeck

Discussion: There were a couple questions posed to Mr. Oberbeck and he answered those.

Action: **MOTION BY WAGNER, SECOND BY LANGENHAHN. MOTION CARRIED ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, 30-0.**

Follow Through: The Oath of Office was administered and Supervisor Oberbeck was seated.

9. Education Presentations / Reports:

- a) Joan Theurer, Public Health Officer, gave a presentation on the necessity of keeping funding for Start Right.

Discussion: Several supervisors asked questions that were answered.

Action: None.

Follow Through: None.

- b) Theresa Wetzsteon, District Attorney, gave a presentation on the need for additional funding for the DA's office, specifically for more prosecutors.

Discussion: Several supervisors asked questions that were answered.

Action: None.

Follow Through: None.

9. Review and Discussion of Tuesday meeting agenda items:

a) Appointment

1. Environmental Resources Committee

Discussion: Replacing one supervisor with another

Action: None.

Follow Through: Will be placed on Tuesday's Board agenda for action.

b) Ordinances:

1. Town of McMillan Rezone – Tim Vreeland for Kenneth & Karen Seehafer

Discussion: None.

Action: None.

Follow Through: Will be placed on Tuesday's Board agenda for action.

2. Repealing and Recreating Sec. 7.125 Gen. Code of Ord., Addressing the Designation of ATV / UTV Routes and Trails and Regulation of ATV / UTV Operation Within Marathon County

Discussion: Discussion revolved around the reason for this ordinance and the need to have a uniform standard across the whole county.

Action: None.

Follow Through: Will be placed on Tuesday's Board agenda for action.

3. Ordinance Amending General Code of Ordinances for Marathon County Chapter 21 Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Code

Discussion: None.

Action: None.

Follow Through: Will be placed on Tuesday's Board agenda for action.

c) Resolutions:

1. Resolution Sponsored by County Board Supervisors Pursuant to Rule 17:

- A. Adoption a Redistricting Plan that Reduces the Number of Marathon County Supervisory Districts from 38 to 19, Effective as of Spring Election April 2020

Discussion: Chairperson Gibbs explained that this resolution was discussed by the Executive Committee, but it did not come out of that committee, it failed on a 4-3 vote. Under the board rules, two supervisors may bring a resolution that has not come from a committee. Supervisor Johnson and Supervisor Lo have requested to have this resolution brought forward to the board. No further discussion.

Action: None.

Follow Through: Will be placed on Tuesday's Board agenda for action.

2. Public Safety Committee:

- A. Extend the Charter of the Regional Morgue Task Force

Discussion: None.

Action: None.

Follow Through: Will be placed on Tuesday's Board agenda for action.

3. Environmental Resources Committee:
 - A. Approving Northcentral Wisconsin Stormwater Management Coalition Memorandum of Agreement Among Marathon County, the City of Wausau, the Villages of Weston, Kronenwetter, and Rothschild, and the Town of Rib Mountain
Discussion: None.
Action: None.
Follow Through: Will be placed on Tuesday's Board agenda for action.
4. Central Wisconsin Joint Airport Board:
 - A. Central Wisconsin Airport Permanent Utility Easement
Discussion: None.
Action: None.
Follow Through: Will be placed on Tuesday's Board agenda for action.
5. Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee:
 - A. Approve 2019 Budget Transfers for Marathon County Department Appropriations
Discussion: None.
Action: None.
Follow Through: Will be placed on Tuesday's Board agenda for action.
 - B. Resolution in Support of Wisconsin Assembly Bill 301 / Senate Bill 268
Discussion: None.
Action: None.
Follow Through: Will be placed on Tuesday's Board agenda for action.
 - C. Resolution Awarding the Sale of \$9,590,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2019A
Discussion: None.
Action: None.
Follow Through: Will be placed on Tuesday's Board agenda for action.
 - D. Budget and Property Tax Levy Resolution
Discussion: None.
Action: None.
Follow Through: Will be placed on Tuesday's Board agenda for action.

10. Budget Message and Summary:

Administrator Karger reviewed the 2020 budget message and summary. He reviewed the challenges facing the County in the formation of this budget, primarily caused by the increase in employee health insurance costs. He stated the proposed tax rate will be going down to \$4.716. Finance Director Kristi Palmer reviewed the 5-year departmental budget overview.

Board members requested a brief break – meeting recessed from 11:15 p.m. to 11:25 p.m.

11. Public Reading of the Proposed 2020 Budget:

Clerk Trueblood read the budget figures as published. The proposed 2020 tax levy is \$50,711,295; proposed mill rate is \$4.716 per thousand dollars of valuation; and the equalized value of the County is \$10,753.132,800.

12. Public Input Regarding Proposed 2020 Budget:

Chairperson Gibbs declared the public hearing open at 11:30 p.m. The following individuals spoke:

Brett Barker: Dr. Barker is on the board of the Marathon County Historical Society. He spoke regarding the important work the Historical Society does and requested continued funding. He was accompanied by Bill Bertram and DuWayne Zamzow, who are also members of the board of the Historical Society.

Ruth Heinzl: Ms. Heinzl is an employee in the District Attorney's Office. She spoke regarding the need for additional help in the DA's office.

Kyle Mayo: Mr. Mayo is an assistant district attorney. He addressed the impact the understaffing has on him and his co-workers.

Davis Runde: Mr. Runde is an assistant district attorney. He detailed the sexual assault of a teenage girl and the emotional impact that prosecution had on him and his co-workers.

Connie Heidemann: Ms. Heidemann is the Executive Director of Marathon County Literacy (McLit). She spoke about what that agency does and the impact decreased funding would have on the community they serve.

Jane Graham Jennings: Ms. Graham Jennings is the Executive Director of the Women's Community. She reiterated the importance of keeping funding at current levels in order to continue to provide services to the people they serve.

13. Closure of Public Hearing:

Hearing no further requests for comment, Chairperson Gibbs declared the public hearing closed at 12:10 a.m.

14. Discussion by Board Members Regarding Proposed 2020 Budget:

- Supervisor Stark explained the budget resolution he will be proposing, including documentation for why he is proposing moving funding from Start Right.
- Supervisor Robinson stated that he is working on amendments related to the non profit funding and potentially proposing separating out quartile 3 from quartile 4 funding cuts. He will provide an email tomorrow with further details.
- Supervisor Wagner stated that he is the operator and manager of the Entrepreneurial and Education Center. The term "bootcamp" is somewhat misleading; it is one of the educational programs used to create new businesses in Marathon County. The \$40k provided by Marathon County over the years is about 20% of the budget. These funds provide fully for the educational programs of the center. Funding non profits is important, but this specifically relates to economic development in the County and is the only economic development program that the County Board funds. Maintaining funding is very important.
- Supervisor Rosenberg stated that she is specifically in favor of keeping funding for NCCAP (they depend on funding for matching grants / funds and are specifically focused on serving the homeless), the Women's Community (they serve victims of domestic abuse and violence and they save lives), and United Way 211 (they keep the calls from coming to the County). Perhaps it would be beneficial to contract with some of these non profits rather than just giving them money. Share expected outcomes with them and pay for services. She completely disagrees with swapping funding from Start Right for funding the DA's office. If we do that, we pay now and we pay later.
- Supervisor Xiong has a question related to the resolution to cut the County Board in half. He would like to know how much money that would save, does it truly fully fund the non profits? Chairman Gibbs stated that Kristi Palmer, finance director, is looking into that. Gibbs reminded the board that would take place after the election in April, so it's not a full year of funding. Finance Director Palmer stated that the savings would be \$80,845 in 2020 and roughly \$135,000 in 2021.
- Supervisor Lo stated that with this budget, no one really wins. The DA's office doesn't win, and the non profits don't win. The resolution put forward to cut the board size isn't a stunt, but is a good solution to allow continued funding to the non profits, while making the County Board more efficient.
- Supervisor Krause stated that legalizing recreational and medical marijuana would solve all the budget issues, including the issues in the jail. She looks forward to when the legislature acts on Governor Evers' wishes. She suggested that the Marathon Co Historical Society should charge admission as a way out for them.
- Supervisor Gabor agreed with the dire situation in the DA's office and related personal experiences speaking to the lack of staffing in their office. She is wondering if the cost of transporting prisoners would offset getting another DA. Chair Gibbs stated that the out of county placement budget is roughly \$1 million a year. The decrease from out of county use has been used to fund part of the need for new 911 dispatchers.
- Vice Chair McEwen agrees with the DA's office 100% - he knows they are overworked and underfunded. However, the responsibility for that office lies with the state. The County does not have the resources to fund everyone because of levy limits. We shouldn't be questioning the stats provided by the Health Dep't related to Start Right. He will not support the resolution to cut funds, but we do need to come up with a way to find extra funds. Taking services away from the most vulnerable members of our population is not the answer. Until the

public contacts their state legislators to let them know the levy limits have to be lifted, nothing is going to change.

- Supervisor Wagner suggested cutting back on highway repair to an 11-year cycle rather than a 10-year cycle. Potholes are not as critical as peoples' lives. Chair Gibbs stated that is effectively taking dollars out of a program this year and that is one time money. Adding additional staff compounds the problem into next year. This issue is a result of 15 years of levy limits and has gradually been getting worse and worse. Cuts have been made across the board. The state has to step up and take responsibility for their offices.
- Supervisor Zriny is very concerned about the DA's office. Start Right's budget is only being cut by 10% and he supports the proposal to reduce their funding.
- Supervisor Robinson explained why it's not possible budget wise to take funds from the highway department to cover additional costs for the DA. Transportation Aids prevent that from happening.
- Supervisor Seubert questioned the possibility of requiring that spouses of employees who have insurance offered through their employer to take that insurance, thus saving money in the health insurance budget.
- Supervisor Schlei agreed that we can't keep taking from roads. He is also totally against downsizing the County Board. It would be impossible for rural areas to get adequate representation on the board if that were done. Again, no one wins.
- Supervisor Maszk is against the board downsizing as well due to the fact that rural areas will not be represented. Redistricting will be done after the 2020 census; the proposed district combos are not the way to go.

15. Announcements or Requests:

- Chair Gibbs stated that the 2020 County Board meeting schedules were handed out. The clerk also has non candidacy statements for those who are not choosing to run again. Also, let her know if you would like nomination papers pre filled.
- Thank you card received from Nan Kottke, the previous County Clerk, thanking the Board for their gifts and support.

16. Adjournment:

MOTION BY LANGENHAHN, SECOND BY NUTTING TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE. Meeting adjourned at 12:55 a.m.

- Minutes prepared by Kim Trueblood, County Clerk