



**MARATHON COUNTY
REGIONAL MORGUE TASK FORCE MEETING
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 10:00 am-11:00 pm
In-person and Virtual through WebEx**

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair Craig McEwen	P	
Greg Bean	W	
Dr. Michael Clark		X
Dr. Lisa Grill Dodson	W	
Phil Rentmeester	W	
Scott Rifleman	P	
Kimm Weber	W	
Mark Westen	W	
Greg Zorowski		X

Also Present via Web or Phone: Lance Leonhard Marathon County Administrator, Jessica Blahnik Marathon County ME (in-person), and Christina Wimmer Marathon County CDME (in-person)

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
The meeting was called to order by Chair McEwen at 10:02 am.
2. **Public Comment** – None
3. **MOTION BY RIFLEMAN; SECOND BY BEAN TO APPROVE THE MINTUES OF THE AUGUST 16, 2021, MORGUE TASK FORCE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
 - A. Legislator discussion
 - B. Neighborhood Investment Grant
 1. Updated Somerville plans
 2. Location
 - C. Business plan update

Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard shared that Marathon County personnel met with State Representative Pat Snyder and State Senator Jerry Petrowski on November 1, 2021, to discuss the need for a regionalized morgue in northcentral Wisconsin. Potential state and federal grant options were discussed, along with the Wisconsin Building Commission process. After the meeting, Senator Petrowski encouraged Marathon County to apply for the Neighborhood Investment Grant, as he felt the project met the grant criteria.

Blahnik stated that Marathon County was able to complete the application for the Neighborhood Investment Grant in the short deadline of one week, which took a great team effort. Somerville was able to update the facility plans and financials to include the teaching space for medical students or health care professionals. A tentative location was identified for the facility at 1212 West Street, Wausau. This location was selected because it was the only known county land that met all the facility requirements. Somerville was also able to complete a site layout and verified the location would work. WIPFLI Consulting Firm was able to update sections of the business plan in time for the grant application. A more formal business plan update will occur within the next few months.

Follow Up:

None

- D. Partnership discussion

Discussion:

Blahnik questioned the team for the project next steps regarding partnership discussions with the health care systems. Chair McEwen stated to move forward with scheduling the partnership meetings with Aspirus and Marshfield Clinic. Administrator Leonhard agreed with Chair McEwen to schedule the meetings, especially before the facility location was finalized.

Follow Up:

None

E. Pathologist update

Discussion:

Blahnik reported the University of Wisconsin Madison Pathology Department hired another Forensic Pathologist. The new pathologist was scheduled to start February 2022.

Blahnik also reported a record year for autopsies in Marathon County, with 77 autopsies completed year to date; the previous closest year was 45 autopsies at that time.

Follow Up:

None

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

A. Grant funding

B. Next steps

Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard stated that Marathon County will continue to explore potential grant funding options to help offset the facility construction costs. Before any additional work is done with the project, Marathon County will need to know the status of the Neighborhood Investment Grant application.

Action:

None

Follow Up:

None

6. **Scheduling of Future Meetings and Identifying Agenda Topics**

Chair McEwen stated that the next meeting will be after Marathon County knows the status of the Neighborhood Investment Grant application.

7. **Announcements**

Rifleman shared with the team that he would be retiring January 2022, but wished to continue in his role on the Morgue Task Force.

Weber shared that Vicki Resech had retired and she would be willing to serve on the Morgue Task Force in Vicki's place.

8. **Adjournment**

MOTION BY RIFLEMAN; SECOND BY WESTEN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:42 A.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted by
Jessica Blahnik