



REGIONAL MORGUE TASK FORCE MINUTES

Friday, March 13, 2020 at 8:00-9:00 am
Courthouse Assembly Room (B-105) 500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI

Call-in number provided: 715-261-6507.

Attendance:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Craig McEwen, Chair	X	
Greg Bean		X
Dr. Michael Clark	X	
Dr. Lisa Grill Dodson	X	
Phil Rentmeester	X	
Scott Rifleman		X
Vicki Resech		X
Sheriff Mark Westen		X
Greg Zoromski		X

Others Present: Lance Leonhard, Jessica Blahnik, Matt Bootz

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Craig McEwen at 8:05 am.

2. Public Comment -- None

3. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Project Progress

Jessica Blahnik, Medical Examiner, provided a brief update on the project. The partnership meetings with Marshfield Clinic and Portage County went well. After the business plan is complete, Marathon County representatives will plan to meet with Aspirus, Marshfield Clinic, and Portage County to further discuss a potential partnership.

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

A. Accepting grant funds from the Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC)

Discussion:

Jessica Blahnik explained the background history of how the HERC Board of Directors have voted to allocate a total of \$59,484 of their Ebola and opioid grant funding towards the Regional Forensic Science Center Project. Since the project is not to a point where Marathon County is able to utilize the funding towards equipment costs (refrigeration unit and/or generator back-up) for the facility, Marathon County was authorized to use the funds to repay the consultant fees from WIPFLI Consulting Firm that have been previously generated. The remaining funding could be utilized on future consultant fees for the development of a business plan. Marathon County has paid WIPFLI \$39,560 to date in consultant fees; leaving \$19,924 available for additional services.

In order to obtain the funding from HERC, the HERC Board of Directors required Marathon County personnel would guarantee that the Marathon County Board would approve at least a portion of the Regional Forensic Science Center Project, which would entail at the minimum a large capacity cold storage for decedents that would be made available for the region. Marathon County personnel did not feel comfortable agreeing to these terms, so another option was presented. This option entailed Marathon County repaying the portion of grant funds provided by HERC that was used towards the WIPFLI consulting fees if the Marathon County Board declined the morgue project and did not purchase a cooler for decedent storage.

Action:

MOTION BY DODSON; SECOND BY RIFLEMAN TO ACCEPT THE GRANT FUNDS UNDER THE TERMS THAT IF NO ASPECT OF THE FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER PROJECT IS APPROVED, MARATHON COUNTY WILL REPAY THE FUNDS USED ON CONSULTANT FEES TO THE NCW-HERC. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

Send to Human Resource, Finance & Property Committee (HRFC) for approval.

B. Business Plan

Discussion:

Jessica Blahnik explained that Lance Leonhard, Interim County Administrator, had authorized WIPFLI Consulting Firm to complete the business plan. The business plan will be completed with the assistance of the Medical Examiner staff, in an attempt to keep the business plan as cost effective as possible. The plan should be completed within 6-8 weeks.

Action:

No action taken.

Follow through:

No follow through needed.

C. Next Steps

Discussion:

Lance Leonhard explained that the next steps are to complete the business plan and schedule meetings with Aspirus and Marshfield Clinic Health Systems, in addition to Portage County. The meetings should take place as soon as the business plan is completed.

Dr. Dodson requested that Marathon County consider looking into lease options for the facility. Lance Leonhard agreed to have WIPFLI look into options after the business plan is completed.

Action:

No action taken.

Follow through:

No follow through needed.

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

Next meeting will be scheduled after the completion of the business plan.

6. **Announcements -- None**

7. **Adjournment**

**MOTION BY DODSON; SECOND BY RIFLEMAN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
MOTION CARRIED. (8:39 am)**

Respectfully submitted by,
Jessica Blahnik