

**MARATHON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
June 2, 2020

Present: Via Zoom Web Conference: John Robinson, Sandi Cihlar, Dean Danner, Tiffany Lee, Kue Her, Corrie Norrbom, Lori Shepherd, Craig McEwen

MCHD Staff: Dale Grosskurth, Chris Weisgram, Joan Theurer, Jon Schmunk, Eileen Eckardt, Judy Burrows

Others Present: Scott Corbett, Corporation Counsel

**1. Call to Order, Welcome New Board of Health Member**

**John Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:49 a.m. and welcomed new Board of Health member Corrie Norrbom to the meeting.**

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the May 5, 2020 Board of Health Meeting**

**Motion to approve made by Lori Shepherd, and seconded by Tiffany Lee. The motion was approved.**

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

**A. Marathon County Board of Health election of officers**

John Robinson asked for nominations for the position of Chair.

Craig McEwen nominated John Robinson.

**Lori Shepherd moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for John Robinson as Chair. Seconded by Dean Danner. Motion approved.**

John Robinson asked for nominations for the position of vice chair.

Sandi Cihlar nominated Craig McEwen for vice chair.

**Dean Danner motioned to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Craig McEwen as vice chair. Seconded by Lori Shepherd. Motion approved.**

John Robinson asked for nominations for the position of secretary.

Sandi Cihlar nominated Lori shepherd for secretary.

**Kue Her motioned to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Lori Shepherd as secretary. Seconded by Dean Danner. Motion approved.**

**4. Policy Discussion and Possible Action**

- A. Determine the renewal date for the 2020-2021 license year through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

Joan Theurer shared the decision by Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection to delay license fee payments to December, allowing operators more time to make payment in light of closings due to Safer at Home. Joan updated that after talking to the County's Finance Director, there would be enough county funds available to cover staffing costs through the end of the year.

John Robinson shared updates on the County's projected budget deficit and delinquent tax payments. The Finance Committee decided to not take any action at this time to address the collection of fees, and the potential cash flow issue. Board of Health members were asked how they would like to proceed with implementing a delay in collection of license renewal fees.

**Craig McEwen motioned to extend the license renewal date by one month to July 31, 2020. Seconded by Lori Shepherd. Motion approved**

- B. Recommendation to create a Marathon County Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Ordinance based on the findings from the Wisconsin Supreme Court on May 13, 2020 in *Legislature v Palm*, invalidating Emergency Order #28 Safer at Home

Joan Theurer provided background information including the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision invalidating the Safer at Home order. Scott Corbett, Corporation Counsel shared that the State Supreme Court found that the order was developed without going through a rule making process, the order effectively quarantined the entire state regardless of infection status, and enforcement was not possible. Joan shared that the State's Attorney General issued an opinion that outlines authority for local health officers and advised to have a local ordinance in place to support enforcement efforts.

Joan shared the principles followed while developing the proposed ordinance, including stakeholder input. Representatives from the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce participated in a meeting to discuss what an ordinance would look like. It was determined an ordinance specific to COVID-19 would be written, rather than a broad communicable disease ordinance.

Scott Corbett shared that after reading other template ordinances and gathering input from business leaders, the need to be clear and transparent was identified, and having a more specific ordinance would likely be better accepted by the community.

Joan Theurer shared that currently she has enforcement powers for individuals, however not for entities, communities, or at a county level. If approved by the Board of Health, the proposed ordinance would move to Health & Human Services Committee tomorrow, and the full County Board next week.

Scott Corbett shared the basic layout of the proposed ordinance, and the need to recognize the vast majority of individuals and businesses in the community are actively taking measures to protect themselves and customers. Scott walked through the enforcement language including penalties for violation.

Lori Shepherd asked if community members would be able to review the proposed ordinance. Scott Corbett shared that representatives from the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce did receive copies to review and provide feedback.

Discussion was held on language regarding the assumption that the vast majority of the community is taking steps to protect others and themselves, as well as the divide in the community over the pandemic. There is also a need to share information widely, including with different cultural and language groups. Shifting messaging from restriction to protection will resonate better with community members.

Discussion was held on how to message and reach people who do not want to hear the information or recommendations regarding public health.

Joan Theurer outlined the process followed for ensuring individuals diagnosed with positive COVID-19 test results, as well as contacts. Joan shared that the current practice for care facilities is to consider one case as an outbreak, and for businesses two cases.

The Board discussed what neighboring counties are considering, or have considered for their communities.

Discussion was held on the possibility of holding a special meeting to allow more time to consider the proposed ordinance.

**Motion by Lori Shepherd to support concepts contained in the COVID -19 ordinance and move it forward to Health & Human Services Committee. Seconded by Sandi Cihlar. Motion approved.**

At the discretion of the Chair of Board of Health, a special meeting may be held to consider any significant changes made by the Health & Human Services Committee.

Members are to share any thoughts or additional concerns with the proposed ordinance with Joan Theurer or John Robinson to be considered.

C. Update on Marathon County's COVID-19 response efforts and focus for the next 30 days

Joan Theurer shared where the response is going, given Safer at Home is no longer in place. Focus areas are harm reduction (what community members can do to protect themselves and others), surveillance (analyze local data from cases and close contacts, testing, outbreaks, and healthcare system capacity), boxing in the virus (testing, isolating, contact tracing, and quarantine). Marathon County is in the process of gearing up for averaging 1,980 tests per week to meet the state's goal of 85,000 tests per week. Joan shared the purpose for holding the community testing events in the last couple of weeks.

Joan shared the State has provided funding allocations to cover COVID-19 costs. Joan shared that state funds are to 1) offset costs associated with contact tracing, 2) support local testing coordination, and 3) update public health preparedness plans with COVID-19 response in mind.

Joan shared that local health departments do have the option to opt out of contact tracing funding, and allow the state to take over those roles. The decision was made to accept funds and associated work

load, with the thinking that knowledge of local communities and residents was critical to being successful in doing contact tracing.

Discussion was held on work being done with long term care facilities to ensure they have resources available to follow recommendations for care.

- D. Determine the merit to move the Board of Health meeting to align with the timing of the Health and Human Services Committee held on the first Wednesday of the month

John Robinson shared that the County Board structure change has changed when committee meetings happen. Board members were asked if they were comfortable moving the meetings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Meetings will be held 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, with the next meeting taking place on July 14, 2020.

- E. Report from the Health and Human Services Committee May 6, 2020 meeting on policy issues impacting public health

Joan shared that she provided an update on COVID-19 in relationship to what Marathon County Health Department's role and responsibilities. The role of the committee was also reviewed, as well as supporting objectives of the County's strategic plan.

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

- A. None

**6. Announcements**

- None

**7. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items:**

- A. Confirm July's meeting date and determine agenda topics
  - i. Status of the identification of community health priorities with members of Healthy Marathon County
  - ii. Board of Health Self-Assessment Plan of Work

**8. Adjourn**

**John Robinson adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Shepherd, Secretary  
Chris Weisgram, Recorder