



MARATHON COUNTY RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, September 18, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Employee Resources Conference Room (C-149), Courthouse

Attendance:	Present	Absent
Craig McEwen, Chair	X	
Tim Buttke	X	
Randy Fifrick	X	
Jacob Langenhahn	X	
John Robinson		EX
Romey Wagner	X	
Jeff Zriny	X	

Also Present: Kurt Gibbs, Scott Corbett, Lance Leonhard

Agenda Items:

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair McEwen called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the September 16, 2019, Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by Wagner, second by Buttke, to approve the September 16, 2019, meeting minutes.
Motion carried.

3. Policy Discussion and Possible Action

A. Review and Recommend Marathon County Board Rules Suggested Changes

Discussion:

Chair McEwen facilitates discussion of the following rules and topics during the course of the meeting:

Rule 2.01(1) – Hour of meetings

Members note that the composition of the county board is significantly different than when the meeting time was scheduled for 2:00 pm. Specifically, members note that there has been a significant increase in the number of younger members that remain actively employed during traditional work hours. Members also note the conflicts that frequently arise between other municipality (city, village, and town) meetings and the potential opportunities to work with said municipalities to find workable compromises. Board Chair Gibbs describes the efforts that he has made to do so and provides his assessment of the relative success of those efforts, particularly with the City of Wausau. Members discuss the impact of the current meeting time on the attendance of board members. Consensus emerges that attendance from Board members has not been significantly impacted by the change in meeting time. Ultimately, the consensus amongst the committee is that the rule relative to the time of the voting meeting should not be changed and the Chair of the Board elected next term should continue to seek out opportunities to work cooperatively with other municipalities to minimize scheduling conflicts.

Rule 2.01(15) - Committee meeting time and location standardization

Staff members and members review the existing rule and practice, which allows Chairs of the respective committees to set the time and location of meetings, with a general preference for standing committees to meet within the Courthouse Assembly Room. Members discuss rationales for standard meeting location and times; however, ultimately, consensus emerges that the Chair of the respective committee is best

situated to schedule the time and location of the meeting. The recommendation is therefore to leave the rule as it currently exists.

Rule 2.01(10) – County Board meeting agenda modification to reduce necessary staff presence

Members discuss the advantages and disadvantages of moving the consent agenda, resolutions, and ordinance modifications, to take place before the educational presentations. Consensus emerges that the rule should be modified to have the educational presentations take place after the consent agenda, resolutions, and ordinance modifications, as it will reduce unnecessary staff presence and be more respectful of the community members, as the public is frequently interested in items of this type.

Rule 2.01(20) – County Board member reimbursement

Members review the existing rule relative to the roles and responsibilities of standing committee chairs and supervisor reimbursement for meeting and conference attendance expenses. Members express that the existing rule is not in consistent with current practice and therefore should be amended. Chair Gibbs provides some explanation of some of the issues underlying the current reimbursement process and the committee then proceeds to discuss the broad goals it would like to see accomplished through a revised rule. Consensus emerges that the mileage reimbursement for committee meetings and county board meetings should be handled consistently and that the responsibility for proper documentation should rest with individual board supervisors, as opposed to staff within the County Clerk’s office. Ultimately, committee members express that they would like the rule to provide:

- Consistent application across all board committees and subcommittees, with notable exceptions for the library board and multi-county entities, such as ADRC and North Central Health Care.
- A single, county travel budget.
- A Pre-authorization requirement for supervisor reimbursement by the County Board Chair.
- An expectation that any authorized expense have a corresponding requirement that the supervisor provide an educational presentation to the appropriate standing committee or the full board.

Committee members request that Leonhard and Corbett develop a draft replacement rule and provide same to the committee for review and consideration.

Rule 2.05 – Task Forces

Committee members request that Leonhard and Corbett review the existing rule to remove task forces that have had their term expire.

4. Future Meeting Dates and Times

A. Next meet is Wednesday, October 9, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

At the next meeting, the committee will receive information from Diversity Affairs Committee Chair Xiong and discuss issues relative to the committee’s membership, reporting relationship, and other topics of concern to Chair Xiong, as well as other potential rule changes.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY BUTTKE, SECOND BY FIFRICK, TO ADJOURN THE RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED, MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:34 p.m.**

Minutes Prepared
By Lance Leonhard
on September 26, 2019