



AGENDA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 16, 2014

1:00 p.m.

Jury Assembly Room

Lower Level, Marinette County Courthouse

1. Call to order
2. Approve agenda
3. Public Comment – Speaker will be limited to 5 minutes
4. Approve minutes of August 29, 2013 – Please review website posting/County Board packet
5. Discuss/consider Coroner vs. Medical Examiner positions, action if any – attachment
6. Discuss/consider 2015 cost saving measures, action if any
7. Discuss/consider 5-year Capital Improvements Project Plan, action if any
8. Discuss/consider establishing line item in 2015 budget for position transition funding, action if any
9. Discuss/consider authorizing County Administrator to approve position transition funding commencing in 2015, action if any
10. Discuss/consider the need for Committee/County Board approval for budget approved purchases, action if any
11. Discuss/consider approval of out-of-state travel for County Administrator to attend US War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to discuss national security, action if any
12. Discuss/consider contracting with Elderly Services related to funding provided by Marinette County, action if any
13. Set next meeting date
14. Adjournment

A majority of the members of the County Board of Supervisors, or of any of its committees, may be present at this meeting to listen and observe. If a majority of any such body is present, those present who are not members of the Executive Committee will not discuss or act on any County business.

R. Bauer
A. Baumgarten
M. Behnke
R. Bousley

K. Casper
M. Christiansen
K. Just
K. Keller

T. Sauve
V. Schroeder
C. Seefeldt
W. Walker

NOTE: AGENDA ITEMS MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED AND ACTED UPON IN THE ORDER LISTED

If you are an individual who needs a special accommodation while attending the meeting as required by the "Americans With Disabilities Act", please notify County Clerk Kathy Brandt, Marinette County Courthouse (715-732-7406) at least 24 hours prior to the meeting in order to make suitable arrangements. Thank you. (TDD 715-732-7760)

Coroner vs. Medical Examiner Models

Upon request of Marinette County Board Supervisors to look at the possibility of creating a medical examiner system in lieu of the current county coroner system, following is a summary of similarities, differences, advantages and disadvantages of each.

In the state of Wisconsin, each county individually chooses between one of two death investigation systems, either a Coroner system or a Medical Examiner system. In general, a Medical Examiner system is one in which the office is supervised by a Medical Examiner who is an appointed county official and a Coroner system is one in which the office is supervised by a Coroner who is an elected official. Neither a Medical Examiner or Coroner is required to be a forensic pathologist or physician in Wisconsin. Both systems have the same authority under Wisconsin statutes.

The cost to Marinette County currently remains relatively the same under each system. There are potential financial advantages of a Medical Examiner system which are currently undeterminable. Two main advantages are the ability to enter into an arrangement with other counties to develop a regional Medical Examiner system and the ability to control/mitigate liability to Marinette County.

For example, in the event Marinette County entered into an agreement with Brown, Oconto and Door Counties to establish a regional Medical Examiner system, the medical examiner would most likely be housed in Brown County with death investigators trained and accredited to do on-scene investigations. Autopsies would be performed in Green Bay. Marinette County may or may not require the Medical Examiner be a licensed physician who is a board certified forensic pathologist. Costs for services would be determined by the counties entering into the agreement. It is advantageous to Marinette County to be a partner in design rather than purchasing services after the fact. In a joint venture, each county has the ability to designate a lead death investigator. Additionally, each county has the ability to enlist the appropriate number of on-call death investigators. Calls could/may be covered by death investigators throughout the region. Because of standardization of training, response and investigation creates continuity of service.

Coroner pros and cons:

- a. Pros : It is how it has always been
- b. Cons: Lack of county standards with regard to policy and procedures
 - Financial
 - Personnel
 - Operational, i.e. standardized training

Medical Examiner pros and cons:

- a. Pros:
 - Ability to enter into an arrangement with other counties to develop a regional Medical Examiner system
 - Professionalize the operation
 - Standardize expectations
 - Train and certify death investigators
 - Mitigate liability for Marinette County

Coroner/Medical Examiner neutral:

- Transition from a traditional elected position to a supervised position

Additional information for consideration:

Types of deaths investigated include:

- a. All deaths in which there are unexplained, unusual or suspicious circumstances.
- b. All homicides.
- c. All suicides.
- d. All deaths following an abortion.
- e. All deaths due to poisoning/toxicity whether homicidal, suicidal or accidental in nature.
- f. All deaths following accidents, whether the injury is or is not the primary cause of death.
- g. Certain religious denomination reliance upon prayer or spiritual means for healing.
- h. In the event a physician refuses to sign a death certificate.
- i. When, after reasonable efforts, a physician cannot be obtained to sign the medical certification, as required under s. 69.18 (2) (b) or (c), within 6 days after the pronouncement of death, or sooner under circumstances which the Coroner or Medical Examiner determines to be an emergency.

Below is an edited list of pros and cons submitted by the Coroner in 2013:

Coroner

Elected Position
Four year preset salary
No required education, training or experience
No continuing education requirements
May be anyone
Some statutory limitations
Elected every four years

State statute allows county boards to determine
if a county prefers a coroner or medical examiner
Candidates who run for position once elected can do as they please
Little oversight of elected official*

Medical Examiner

Appointed Position
Determined by county board
Determined through job description
Determined by county board
Determined by county board
Some statutory limitations
Serves at the pleasure of appointing
authority

Subject to county work rules

Report to supervisor as well as
Committee of jurisdiction

**PROPOSED
Coroner/Medical Examiner Budget**

Description	2012 Actual Amount	2013 Original Budget	2013 Revised Budget	2014 Approved Administrator	2014 Medical Examiner Administrator	Difference
Fund: 12 Medical Examiner						
<u>Revenues</u>						
Tax Levy	78,417	68,836	68,836	72,419	63,440	8,979
Medical Examiner Fees	28,550	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	0
Central Duplicating Charge	6,730	20	20	20	20	0
Fund Balance Applied (added to)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revenues Total	113,697	108,856	108,856	112,439	103,460	8,979
<u>Expenditures</u>						
Administrative Fee					40,000	-40,000
Regular Wages	29,323	29,906	29,906	30,504		30,504
Salaries without Retirement	0	0	0	5,250		5,250
Fringe Benefits FICA	1,962	2,288	2,288	2,736		2,736
Fringe Benefits Retirement	2,067	2,213	2,093	2,364		2,364
Fringe Benefits Health & Dental	21,842	21,808	21,808	20,765		20,765
Fringe Benefits Life Insurance	81	83	83	84		84
Fringe Benefits Workers Comp	600	598	598	716		716
Physician's Fees	24,000	24,000	24,000	26,250	31,000	-4,750
Telephone	120	300	300	100	300	-200
Death Investigators			3,500		8,000	-8,000
Purchase of Service	3,500	3,500	12,000			0
Hospital Expense	9,219	12,000		12,000		12,000
Body Storage					5,000	-5,000
Lab Work					5,000	-5,000
Office Supplies	335	500	500	350	500	-150
Postage	90	135	135	100	135	-35
Courthouse Printing	63	100	100	100	100	0
Dues, Registration & Tuition	120	300	300	120	1,300	-1,180
Meals and Lodging		250	250	150	1,250	-1,100
Other Travel Expense	8,478	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0
Equipment Maintenance		450	450	450	450	0
Photographic Expense	333	425	425	400	425	-25
Expenditures Total	102,133	108,856	108,736	112,439	103,460	8,979
						0
Revenues Grand Total	113,697	108,856	108,856	112,439	103,460	8,979
Expenditure Grand Totals	102,133	108,856	108,736	112,439	103,460	8,979
Net Grand Totals	11,564	0	120	0	0	0