



# REPORT TO VILLAGE BOARD

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<b>ITEM NAME:</b>	Update on Proposed County Highway Facility by Marathon County Board Supervisors
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	April 28, 2025
<b>PRESENTING COMMITTEE:</b>	
<b>COMMITTEE CONTACT:</b>	Trustee Sandi Sorensen
<b>STAFF CONTACT:</b>	
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Trustee Sandi Sorensen

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**ISSUE:** Purchasing three parcels of land next to the Wausau Homes plan for the sole purpose of relocating Marathon County Highway Department.

**OBJECTIVES:** Stop the relocation of the Marathon County Highway Department from relocating to the Village of Kronenwetter.

**ISSUE BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS ACTIONS:** The Marathon County Board was under the mistaken impression that the residents of Kronenwetter had been adequately informed and are in agreement with the proposed relocation of the Marathon County Highway Department. Since nothing could be further from the truth, I feel it is imperative we slow the process down or at least get community involvement. The reasons for my opinion are as follows:

First, the residents have not been informed, some not at all, let alone adequately informed. The few who are informed are in opposition to this proposal! Voters do not want the added cost for the installation of a new well and water tower! Those costs would be passed on to the residents.

Second, they are not in favor of absorbing the added costs for maintaining roads due to the addition of heavy, frequent traffic of vehicles.

Third, there is no added revenue to the Village, no positive incentive to the Village.

Fourth, voters do not like big government (in this case Marathon County) arbitrarily deciding to force a plan on the taxpayers hoping they won't object or voice their dissent.

Fifth, why were wheel taxes collected, to build buildings or to maintain roads?

Sixth, coming to Kronenwetter from Rothschild the proposed home for the Marathon County Highway Department would be one of the first structures to greet visitors. Do we really want a building of that size being the first thing to greet neighbors, residents and visitors?

Given this late date in the schedule, I would highly recommend they slow this process or at a minimum meet with residents of the Village at a special community meeting to inform, educate and address community concerns.

**PROPOSAL:** Best case, find a different location. Worst case, plan the relocation for three to five years in the future. This would all the community time to pay off current debt, recoup some of the erroneously spend funds.

**ADVANTAGES:** I see no real advantage to having the Marathon County Highway Department in our community.

**DISADVANTAGES:** Listed above.

**ITEMIZE ALL ANTICIPATED COSTS (Direct or Indirect, Start-Up/One-Time, Capital, Ongoing & Annual, Debt Service, etc.)**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Stop this relocation.

**OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:** Look at another location or at a date 3-5 years in the future.

**TIMING REQUIREMENTS/CONSTRAINTS:**

**FUNDING SOURCE(s) – Must include Account Number/Description/Budgeted Amt CFY/% Used CFY/\$**

Remaining CFY

Account Number:

Description:

Budgeted Amount:

Spent to Date:

Percentage Used:

Remaining:

**ATTACHMENTS (describe briefly):**