

Last night, the Marathon County Board Executive Committee voted to authorize an independent investigation into some comments I made on a Facebook page focused on efforts to re-open the Wausau schools. In the course of a passionate and emotional discussion, words I chose to use have been misinterpreted, and that has led to some unfortunate repercussions for my office, my staff, County Board members, my fellow County employees, and the job I love so dearly. It is regrettable and heartbreaking that these statements I made have been misunderstood.

I appreciate the work of all our elected officials, including the school board. I and my office have a proven track record of providing ethical service to every person within our amazing county. My office is completely open and transparent, and any citizen is welcome to inspect any public record at any time.

In these difficult times, where resources are in such demand to deal with so many needs, I am saddened that my friends and neighbors are spending 25,000 of their dollars to look into a Facebook post. I'm sure that upon reflection, we can all point to a time where we might have worded something more effectively to convey our true meaning.

It is the privilege of a lifetime to serve the citizens of Marathon County, and I am confident an investigation will show that they can continue to have confidence in the safety and integrity of the election process here in our County. Those values are at the forefront of why I got involved in local government and just a few of the things I hold dear in my position. I value my position and take great pride in my track record of conducting safe and ethical elections. I look forward to working to assure that all future elections are carried out with the high level of integrity for which our office is known.