

RICHLAND COUNTY

Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

November 18, 2022

NOTICE OF MEETING

Please be advised that the Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee will convene at 6:30 p.m., Monday, November 21st, 2022 using **WebEx Videoconference**, **WebEx Teleconference**, or **by Phone**. You can find meeting access information at: <https://administrator.co.richland.wi.us/minutes/referendum-ad-hoc-committee/>

If you have any trouble accessing the meeting, please contact MIS Director Barbara Scott at 608-649-5922 (phone) or barbara.scott@co.richland.wi.us (email), or Referendum Ad Hoc Committee Chair Shaun Murphy-Lopez at 608-462-3715 (phone/text) or shaun.murphy@co.richland.wi.us (email).

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Proof of notification
3. Agenda approval
4. Public comments
Topics raised in comments received from the public may be placed on a future agenda for consideration.
5. Approval of minutes
6. Emails from the public
7. Public education information report*
 - a. State shared revenues
 - b. Highway Department
 - c. UW-Richland
 - d. Debt
 - e. Pine Valley census comparison
 - f. Updated budget cuts
8. Correspondence from committees*
 - a. Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee
 - b. Public Works Standing Committee
 - c. Public Safety Standing Committee
 - d. HHS & Veterans Standing Committee
 - e. Land & Zoning Standing Committee
 - f. Fair, Recycling & Parks Standing Committee
 - g. Education Standing Committee
 - h. Finance & Personnel Standing Committee
 - i. Symons Natatorium Board
 - j. Richland Economic Development Board
9. Report on presentation at Richland Center School Board
10. Video scripts
11. Levy referendums in Wisconsin at the past election
12. County Board survey*
13. Future agenda items
14. Adjournment

*Meeting materials for items marked with an asterisk may be found at <https://administrator.co.richland.wi.us/minutes/referendum-ad-hoc-committee/>.

RICHLAND COUNTY

Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

CC: Committee Members, County Board, Department Heads, Richland Observer, WRCO, Valley Sentinel, Courthouse Bulletin Board

A quorum may be present from other Committees, Boards, or Commissions. No committee, board or commission will exercise any responsibilities, authority or duties except for the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee.

Richland County

Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

October 10th, 2022

The Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee convened on Monday, October 10th, 2022, in the County Board Room at the Richland County Courthouse, 181 W Seminary Street, in person and by WebEx.

Committee members present included County Board Steve Carrow, Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Bob Frank, Dave Turk and Kerry Severson by Webex.

Also present was Assistant to the Administrator Cheryl Dull taking minutes, Administrator Clinton Langreck logged on by Web Ex with several department heads, county employees, general public, County Board Members and WRCO logged in by Web Ex. John Couey was present from MIS running the teleconferencing.

Not present: Todd Coppernoll and Erin Unbehaun

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Murphy-Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
2. **Proof of Notification:** Assistant to the Administrator Dull verified that the meeting had been properly noticed. Copies of the agenda were sent by email to all Committee members, County Board members, WRCO, County department heads, Richland Observer, Valley Sentinel and a copy was posted on the Courthouse Bulletin Board.
3. **Agenda Approval:** Chair Murphy-Lopez asked for approval of the agenda. Moved by Supervisor Frank to approve the agenda, second by Supervisor Turk. All voting aye, motion carried.
4. **Public Comments:** None
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Chair Murphy-Lopez asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes for the September 7th and September 27th meeting. Moved by Carrow to accept the minutes as present, 2nd by Frank. Motion carried.
6. **Video scripts:** Supervisor Turk has prepared and presented draft scripts. Discussion followed on the Shared Revenue and Levy Limits script with some possible adjustments suggested. The Committee Identified topics for future videos – Budget 101, What does County Government do?, How does Richland County treat it's employees? Which could be split into 2 separate topics, and Misconceptions. Supervisor Turk will turn the first 2 scripts into videos and bring back to the next meeting for review and then will start working on the ideas that have been shared tonight.
7. **Public education information report:**
 - a. Highway Department: Chair Murphy-Lopez has added education information on page 16 of the presentation. Discussion followed concerning the wheel tax, the highways budget and some ideas were contributed to add to the education information.
 - b. UW-Richland: Chair Murphy-Lopez added in a couple charts concerning enrollment created from information he received as a result of his open records request he made a couple months ago. He also added the percent of state support decrease and information on the list of staff positions are no longer filled on page 16.
 - c. Departmental staffing comparison with other counties:
 - i. Addition of Iowa County: Chair Murphy-Lopez updated the staffing chart on page 20 adding in Iowa County.
 - ii. Health & Human Services Department detail: Chair Murphy-Lopez added in a Health and Human Services staff chart. There have been a lot of questions recently concerning the HHS staffing counts. Extensive discussion followed on staff counts, how they are staffed, how those are funded and if costs are paid to the county for the contracted staff. The staff count in the Classification will be updated after the next HHS & Veterans meeting on Thursday.
 - d. 5-year financial plan expense and revenue categories: New charts have been prepared but not yet added relating to 5-year financial plan. Chair Murphy-Lopez reviewed and explained the charts that are in the report and asked for feedback from the committee.
 - e. Other updates: Pine Valley proposed to cover their wage increases by increasing revenues. The Counties

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contingency fund will be almost depleted at the end of 2022 to balance the budget. The plan is to start putting money back into the contingency fund in 2027. Chair Murphy-Lopez pointed out a couple discrepancies due to the data for the Property Tax Levy being 2 months old when comparing the dollar amounts to what is in the resolutions.

Moved by Supervisor Carrow to adopt an updated public education information report to use in communicating with the public, committees, boards, agencies, and other bodies and called for discussion, 2nd by Supervisor Frank. All voting aye, motion carried.

8. Correspondence from committees:

- a. Richland Economic Development Board: The Board responses to Resolution was “they would like to stay with the current model”. Moved by Supervisor Frank to accept the 2 bullet points addressed to Richland Economic Development Board and add a 3rd bullet; 1) Research from other counties that have private funding for economic development including the amount of time it takes to raise funds and how the governing board is represented by private contributors., 2) Resolution 22-91 directs the RED Board to explore half of its budget coming from private sources, which amounts to approximately \$37,000 per year. We are seeking information about how much of that amount the RED Board would like to have placed on a referendum versus a permanent reduction in the RED budget., 3) Identify the private businesses that are supporting the Economic Development in other Counties., 2nd by Supervisor Turk. All voting aye, motion carried.
- b. Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee: Discussion was held concerning the response from Pine Valley to Administrator Langreck in reference to the Resolution. Moved by Supervisor Murphy-Lopez to request from Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee; 1) A copy of Pine Valley's 2023 proposed budget showing how proposed profits are being determined, including their amount and how proposed profits relate to other projected expenses and revenues., 2) Financial projections showing how proposed profits are being determined for the years 2024 – 2027, including their amount and how they relate to other projected expenses and revenues., 3) The current financial plan projects \$300,000 in profits from Pine Valley for each of the years 2023 – 2027. Resolution 22-92 directed Pine Valley to explore the possibility of increasing that amount to approximately \$740,000 per year. We are seeking information about how much of that \$440,000 difference the Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee would like to have placed on a referendum versus a permanent reduction in Pine Valley's property tax operating levy amount (i.e., increase to the profits returned to the general fund)., 2nd by Supervisor Frank. Moved by Carrow to amend the request to ask the Committee for the rational for approximately \$1.2M in the Capital Fund, 2nd by Frank. All voting aye on the motion to amend, motion carried. All voting aye on the motion to approve the 3 bullet point plus the amended bullet point, motion carried.
- c. Public Works Standing Committee: The response to the Ad Hoc Committee was discussed. They questioned why the Courthouse maintenance budget wasn't reduced. Commissioner Elder stated, the public works committee decided to stick with the big departments to take the hit on the budget and leave the Courthouse budget alone as it is a small budget. Moved by Frank to request that the Public Works Committee respond the questions; 1) How proposed reductions to the property tax levy will be made in years 2025, 2026, and 2027, including the types of projects and purchases that will not be funded., 2) The Highway Department is already projecting a \$567,000 decrease to highway reconstruction projects by 2027 to fund increases employee wage and benefits. What is the total budget for highway reconstruction projects in the operating levy, and is it large enough to absorb additional reductions through 2027?, 3) The portion of the Courthouse Maintenance budget that may be included in reductions to the property tax levy., 4) Why MIS prioritized items in the 5-year financial plan over the purchase of new computers. (As detailed in item 08, page 2), 2nd by Supervisor Carrow. All voting aye, motion carried.

d. Other committees:

9. Responses from the public to

- a. Sheriff's Department social media post: Chair Murphy-Lopez presented responses from the public. There were 39 shares and he couldn't see comments from those shares. Director Scott recommended a different format to share educational information so that the comments come back to one spot.
- b. Richland Observer article on Veterans Department: Chair Murphy-Lopez shared a newspaper article concerning the Veterans.

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Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

- c. WRCO interview: Supervisor Brewer did a morning show with Mayor Coppernoll. It is archive on WRCO's website if anyone wants to listen to it.

10. Report on presentations at:

- a. Richland Center City Council: Supervisor Turk present to the City Council. He shared the results and questions from that presentations. He also received several questions at the meeting concerning the ambulance.
- b. Symons Natatorium Board: Supervisor Frank presented to Symons. He reported the board was very surprised when they learned the Sheriff's department does not get revenue from the citations they write, the school district gets that revenue. Other fees such as court fees and jail fees go to other sources.

11. Presentation at Richland Center School Board: School Board President Unbehaun reported the next school board meetings are Oct 17 and Nov 7th and they will make room on the agenda if someone could present at either of those. Supervisor Carrow can do it at 7:00 pm on November 7th.

12. Future agenda items: None

13. Adjournment: Next meeting will be Monday, October 31st @ 6:30 pm in the County Board Room. Moved by Supervisor Carrow to adjourn at 8:18 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Frank. All voting aye, motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Cheryl Dull

Richland County Assistant to the Administrator

Richland County Tax

Greg Dettmann <gdettmann@yahoo.com>

Wed 10/12/2022 12:20 PM

To:

Shaun Murphy-Lopez;

Supervisor Murphy,

I'm writing in regard to budget dilemma our county is facing. Let me give you a brief introduction; I grew up and worked most of my life in Richland County. Graduated from RCHS and Have an Associate degree from UW Richland. I worked for 38 years in management at Rockwell automation and retired about 11 years ago. I then moved to Minnesota for another work opportunity and moved back to RC about 4 years. ago. I must tell you I'm starting to seriously doubt that decision.

I want to make myself very clear that I can't support or afford a property tax increase of any sort! Being senior on a fixed income the property tax burden is becoming unbearable for us especially those of us in the city of RC and in the Richland School District. I could go on and on but I will try and raise some points and questions for your consideration. Perhaps if you are interested, we could discuss some more in depth in the future. Here are some of my thoughts on this dilemma:

- Is there some other form of tax that could be used instead of being put on property owners? A sales tax increase for example which would spread the burden over the whole population and even others from outside of the area.
- Property tax re-assessment of properties in the county. For example, when I bought my home in RC 2018 my taxes were about \$1600 the next year, they increased to nearly \$2900 granted a large part of that was due to property value being based on increased value reflected by the selling price but they are now \$3400!! My point here is the house next to me is paying taxes based on a property value set years ago (it has been over 10 years since an assessment has been done in RC). I don't know how the rest of the county valuation is based but I have a feeling it's in somewhat the same shape. Perhaps some low hanging fruit? People just won't want to locate in Richland County if we aren't careful with our taxation levels.
- Nontaxable properties, has anyone looked at properties in the county that have been removed from the tax rolls for nonprofit or religious ownership and are they still being used for a purpose that qualifies as nontaxable? Another question on this is the Koch property the hospital purchased now off the tax rolls and if it is I have to wonder how much that is. How is that new solar project near Lone Rock taxed? Commercial or farm?
- Can some proposed projects be postponed? Example Emergency Communications upgrade. There could be more but hopefully project expenditure is being looked at.
- UWC Richland, don't get me wrong I don't want to lose the campus from our community, but we must come up with a plan to make it viable. I've driven through the parking lot at various times of the day the past couple of weeks and the average number of cars averages less than 30.

Well that my two cents worth for now. Feel free to contact me if you would like further discussion. Thank You Greg Dettmann 6086040504 gdettmann@yahoo.com

Richland County Budget
Aaron Dettmann <dettmaaw@gmail.com>
Fri 10/21/2022 3:39 PM

To:

Clinton Langreck;
Shaun Murphy-Lopez;
Marty Brewer;

Hi Mr. Clint Langreck, Mr. Marty Brewer, and Mr. Shaun Murphy-Lopez,

First of all, thank you very much for all the work you have put into Richland County, in trying to make it a better and more sustainable place to live! I think the work you have been doing is terrific, and it has been great to see all the county budget numbers in one place, so it's easier to see exactly what the expenses are for each department. I've been an avid follower of the Richland County's financial situation, since the county finance committee started discussing what programs would need to be cut to balance the budget during the meetings in summer. I attended a few of the meetings, and thought many good points were brought up. Since the school year started up again (I'm the teacher librarian at Richland Center High School), I haven't been able to follow as closely, but I've been reading the updates in The Observer, whenever they're listed.

One item of particular interest to me was the wages Richland County is paying their employees. I know Mr. Langreck originally proposed raises of 9% in 2023, 7% in 2024, 6% in 2025, 3% in 2026, and 3% in 2027. Some people questioned these raises, and thought they were unreasonable and too high. However, I had a feeling that these raises were needed to get our county employees to a fair amount of pay, as I knew that similarly to the school district employees, county employees had their salary frozen for various years throughout the past decade. When the school district did a comparison to other school districts in WI of similar size in March 2021, the school district discovered their teachers were in the bottom 33rd percentile of pay. Richland School District said they want to be an above average school district, and because of that comparison, they took corrective action, and now their teachers are in the top 1/3 of pay compared to other school districts in WI of similar size. I had a suspicion that Richland County employees were also near the bottom of pay compared to other surrounding counties, and was glad to hear during a meeting in summer that there was going to be a wage comparison done with the surrounding counties. Therefore, I was not surprised to learn in the Oct. 13th issue of The Observer that compared to 10 other counties in WI, Richland County is "in the last three wage payers in all job areas" including dead last in a few. If Richland County wants to **attract** quality candidates to fulfill the job positions, the county needs to offer a competitive salary. In addition, if Richland County wants to **retain** the quality staff we already have, again, the county needs to offer a competitive salary.

I feel that Richland County needs to do what is fair for their employees, and to pay them an equitable wage for the work they are doing. To me, that means paying our county employees at least the median salary of what other counties are paying, or if we want to be an above average

county, maybe that even means paying in the top 1/3 compared to what other counties are paying. Realistically, a referendum is the only means to afford that amount of money, but let's put that question up to the voters, and if that referendum passes, let's get our employees there right away. Even if that means giving some employees a 15% wage increase for next year, if that is what is required to get them to a fair, competitive salary, then I feel that is what the county should do. Why wait, and why drag it out across a number of years, when a referendum is capable of getting county employees to a fair wage right away?

One more note: making cuts to the county's economic development budget, veterans office, and other departments that bring in more money through grants and other sources than the county is paying them doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me to make cuts to those departments. I know we want to be as efficient with the county's money as possible, but I also know departments have been continuously cutting their budgets for the past decade, so I don't know how much more can be cut without a drastic loss of services. In the end, if there is any fluff, eliminate that, and then for the rest that simply need more money to fund those programs, please put it up to a county referendum to adequately fund both the people, and the services the county provides.

Thanks for reading, and thanks for all the time you've been putting into figuring out the county's budget!

Aaron Dettmann

Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Public education information report

Department	County Board	Presented By:	Shaun Murphy-Lopez
Date of Meeting:	11/21/22	Action Needed:	Motion
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Resolution 22-74
Date submitted:	11/21/22	Referred by:	Motion at 10/10/22 meeting

Recommendation and/or action language: Motion to adopt an updated public education information report to use in communicating with the public, committees, boards, agencies, and other bodies.

Background: At the October 10th meeting of the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee, the committee adopted a public education information report. Attached is an updated version for the committee's consideration with tracked changes.

Attachments and References:

07A Public Education 112122	
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Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

Approval:

Review:

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)

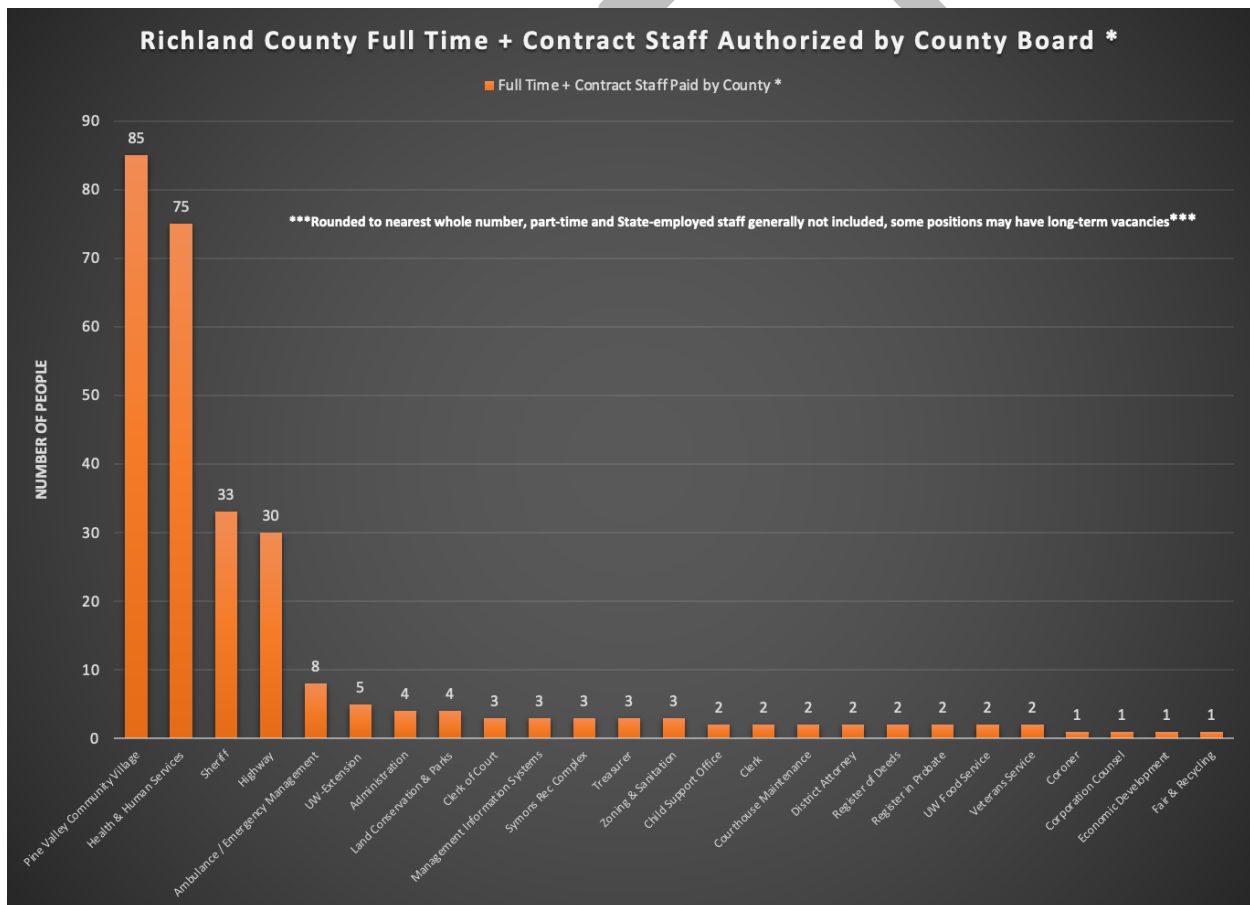
Educational Information for Use by the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

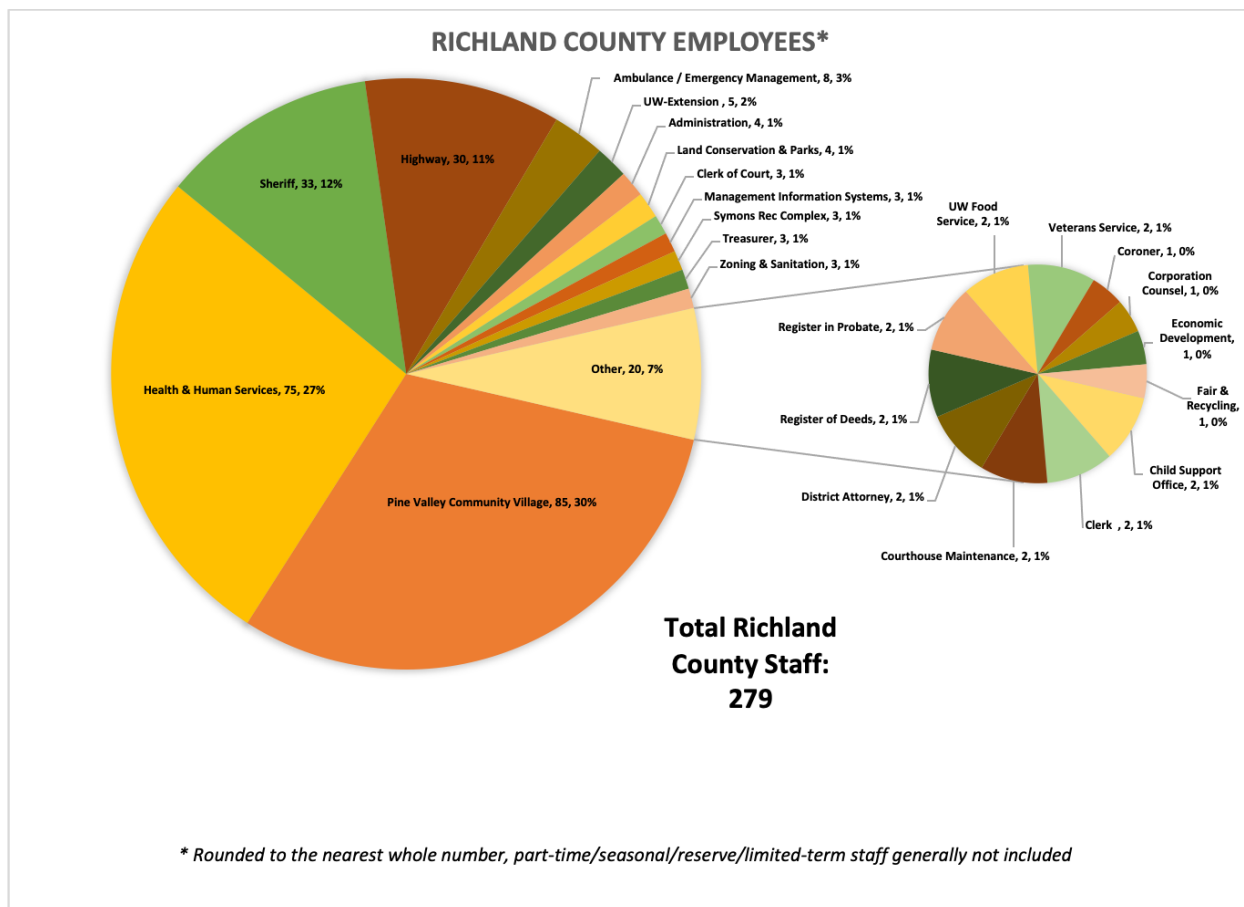
The following information provides educational context for the work of the Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee, and has the following primary purposes:

1. To serve as the basis for educational materials to be developed by the Committee so the public can better understand our mission
2. To be used as a tool for communication with County departments/committees, as well as other government agencies and their representatives

Introduction

The Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee is *considering the idea of a referendum* so the voters can decide if the County's operating levy should be increased to maintain current staffing levels and services. **Staffing levels currently look like this:**





The County has a total budget of \$36 million in the current 2022 calendar year. **The budget is balanced, meaning \$36 million in expenses matches \$36 million in revenues.**

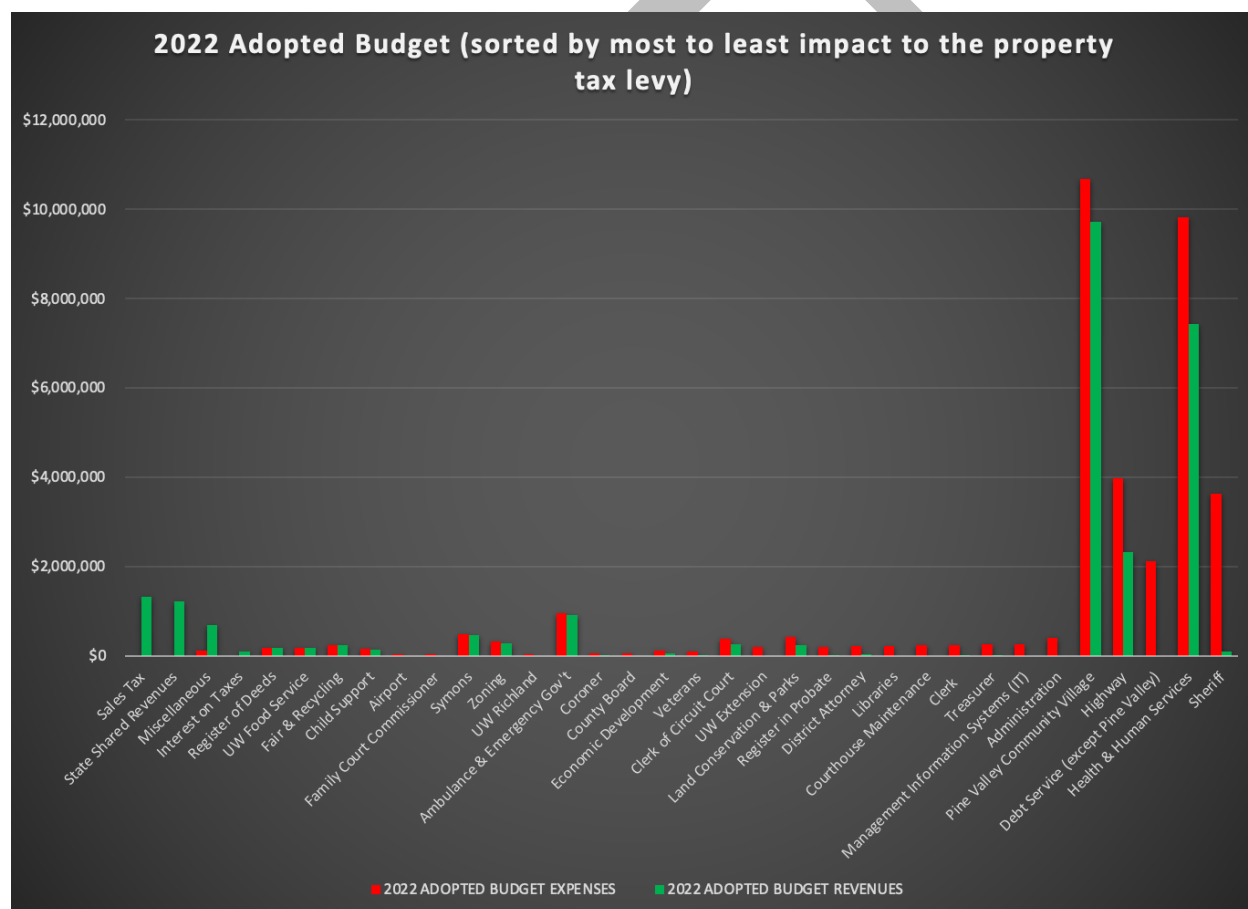
Revenues vs. Expenses

Most County budget revenues come from other governments, typically at the federal and state levels. Some departments bring in significant amounts of revenue to offset County expenses. For example,

- The **federal government** pays for patient care at **Pine Valley Community Village**
- The **federal and state governments** pay for programming in the **Health & Human Services Department** (i.e., mental health, economic support, aging and disability resources, child protection, public health)
- The **state government** pays the **Highway Department** to maintain state-owned highways (e.g., US Highway 14, Wisconsin Highway 60)

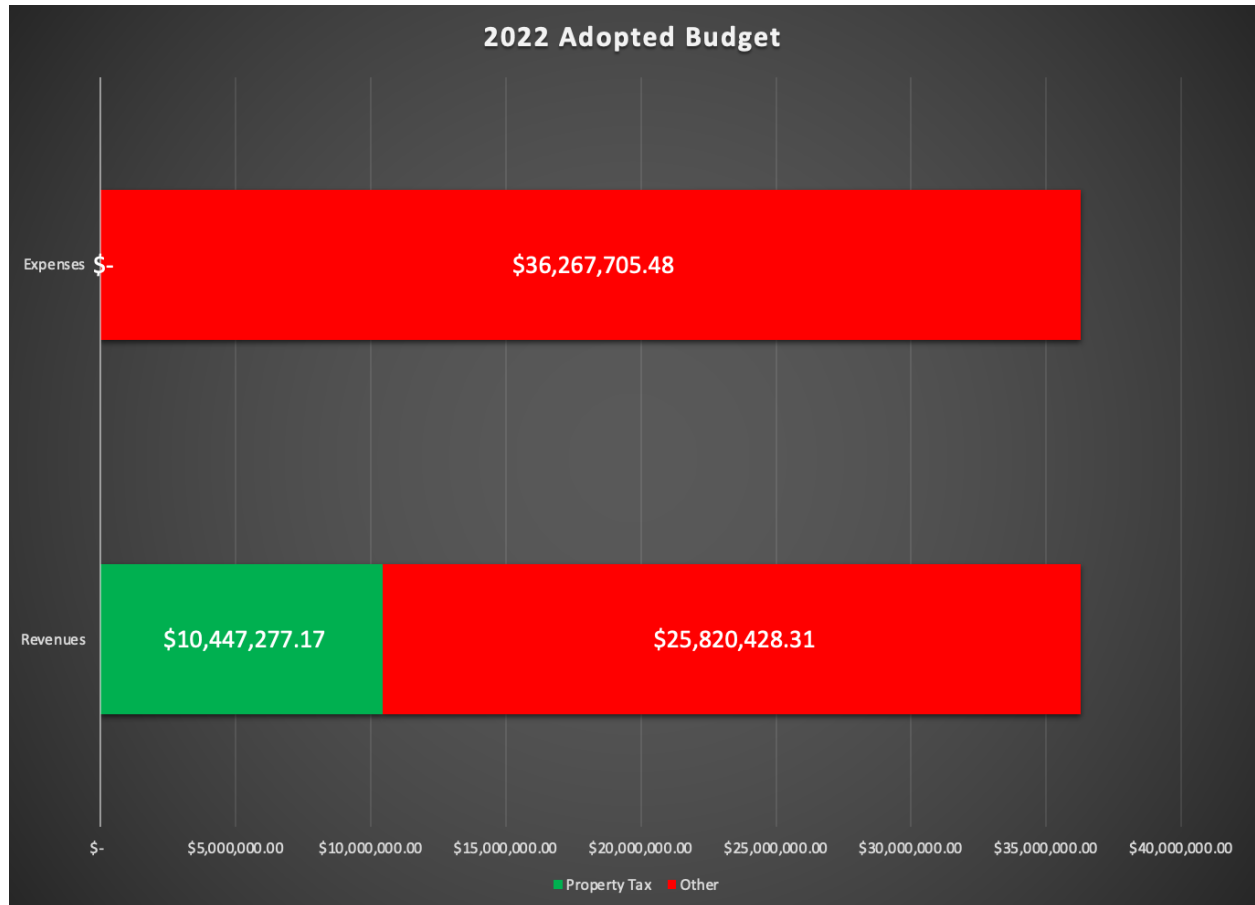
Some of these outside revenues are reliant on matching monies from Richland County.

Meanwhile, other departments don't have the ability to bring in very much revenue. **The expenses and revenues of all departments currently look like this:**



The Property Tax

How does the County make up the difference in revenues and expenses for each department? **We levy a property tax**, as shown here:

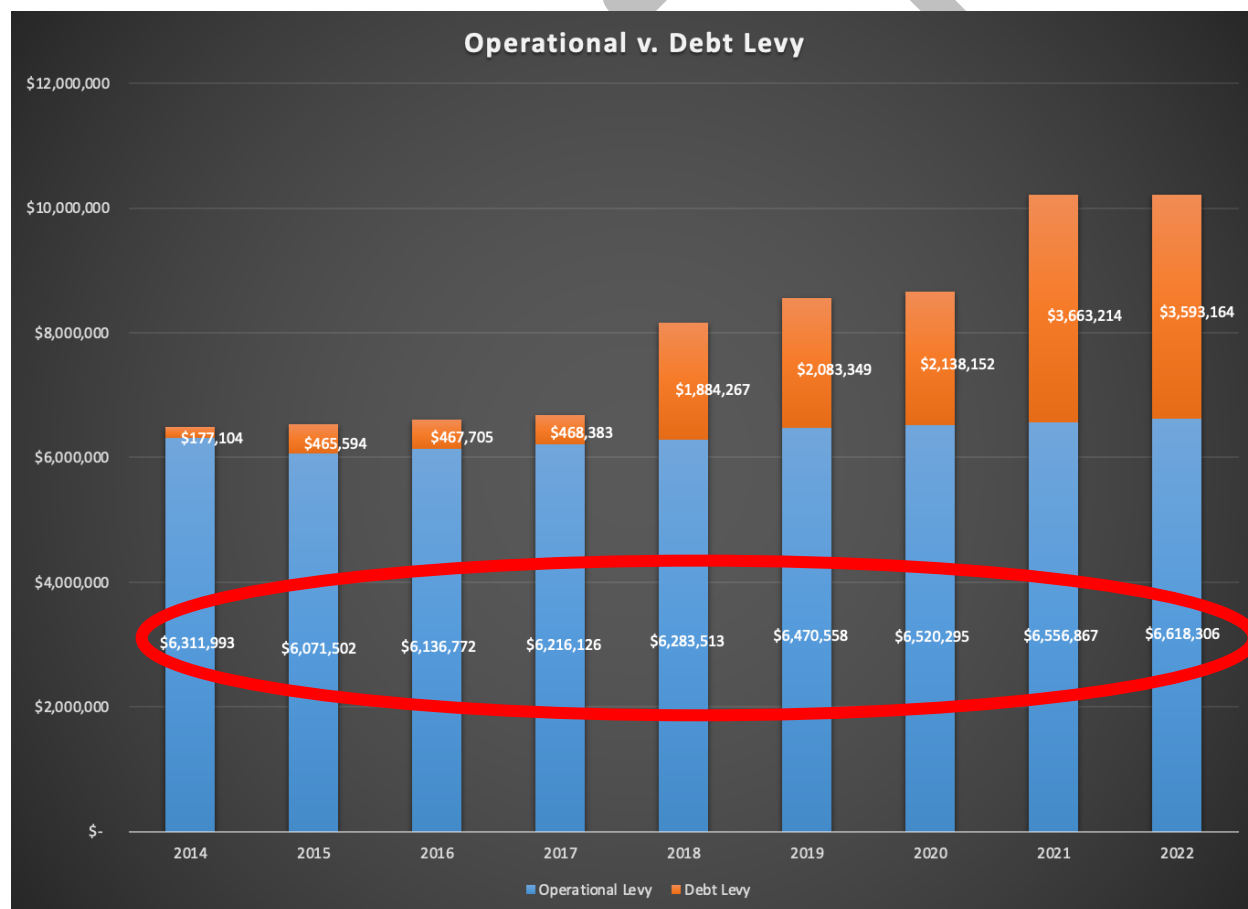


The property tax levy is divided into 2 parts: **operating and debt**. We do this because the State of Wisconsin has different laws about how the County can levy property taxes for each part:

1. The first law says the County **cannot raise the operating levy at a rate faster than net new construction**.¹ According to the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the State implemented an earlier version of this law in 2006 because property taxes were rising as state shared revenue declined.²
2. The second law says the County **can raise the debt levy at the rate it chooses**, as long as the total outstanding debt stays below 5% of the value of all property in the County.

Over the past 8 years, **the operating levy has stayed relatively flat, while the debt levy has risen at a faster pace** to pay for the new building at Pine Valley Community Village (between 2017 and 2018) and highway/building maintenance needs (between 2020 and 2021).

The County's Referendum Ad Hoc Committee is looking at the possibility of asking the voters to approve a more substantial increase to the operating levy (circled in red below):



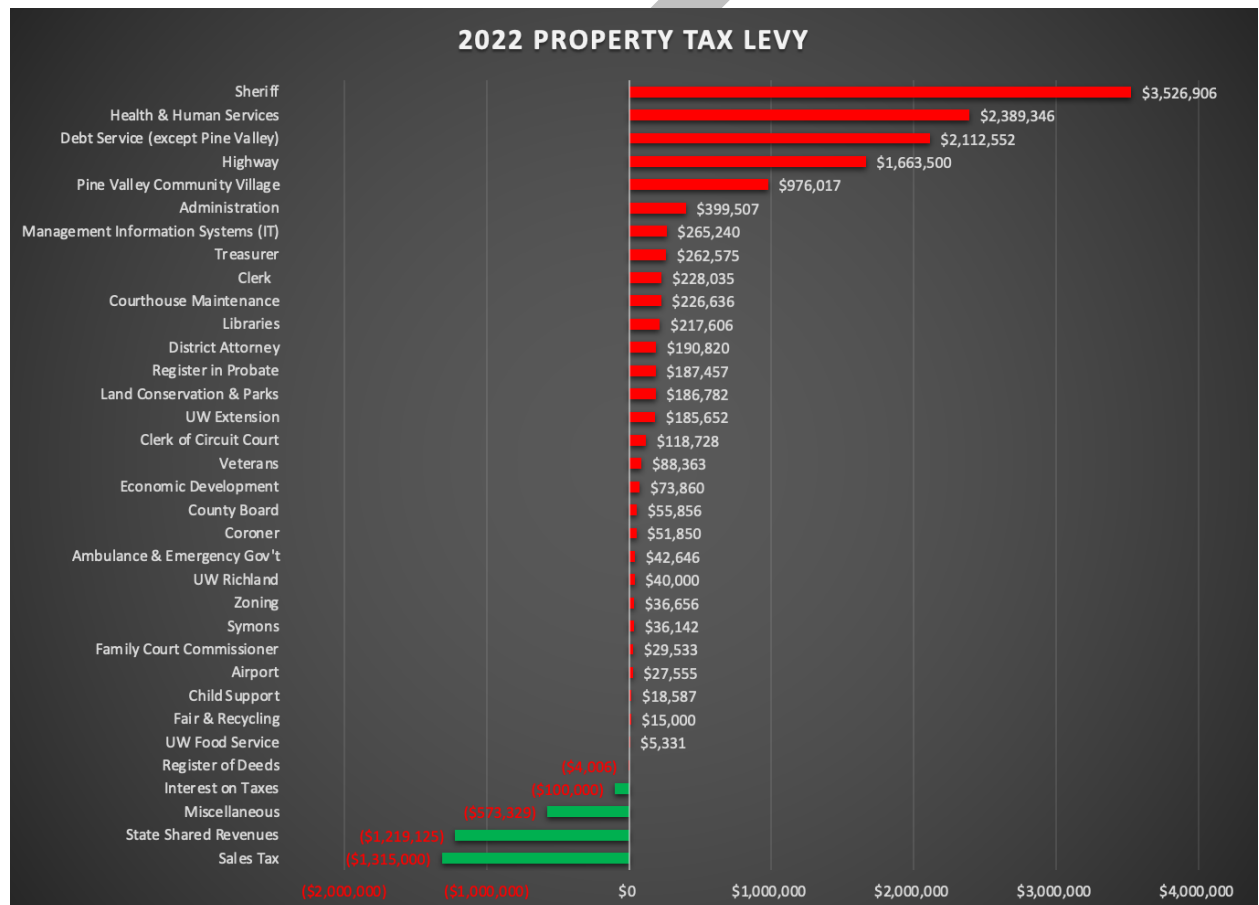
¹ <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/66/vi/0602>

² https://wispolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/13_04-Local-Gov-Finances.pdf

Departments Relying on the Property Tax

Which departments benefit most from property taxes? If federal and state revenues, as well as fees for services (such as those collected by the Ambulance, Clerk of Court, Register of Deeds, Symons, UW Food Service, and Zoning Department) are set aside, the **following 4 departments use the most property tax** (as shown in the chart below):

1. Sheriff
2. Health & Human Services
3. Highway
4. Pine Valley Community Village

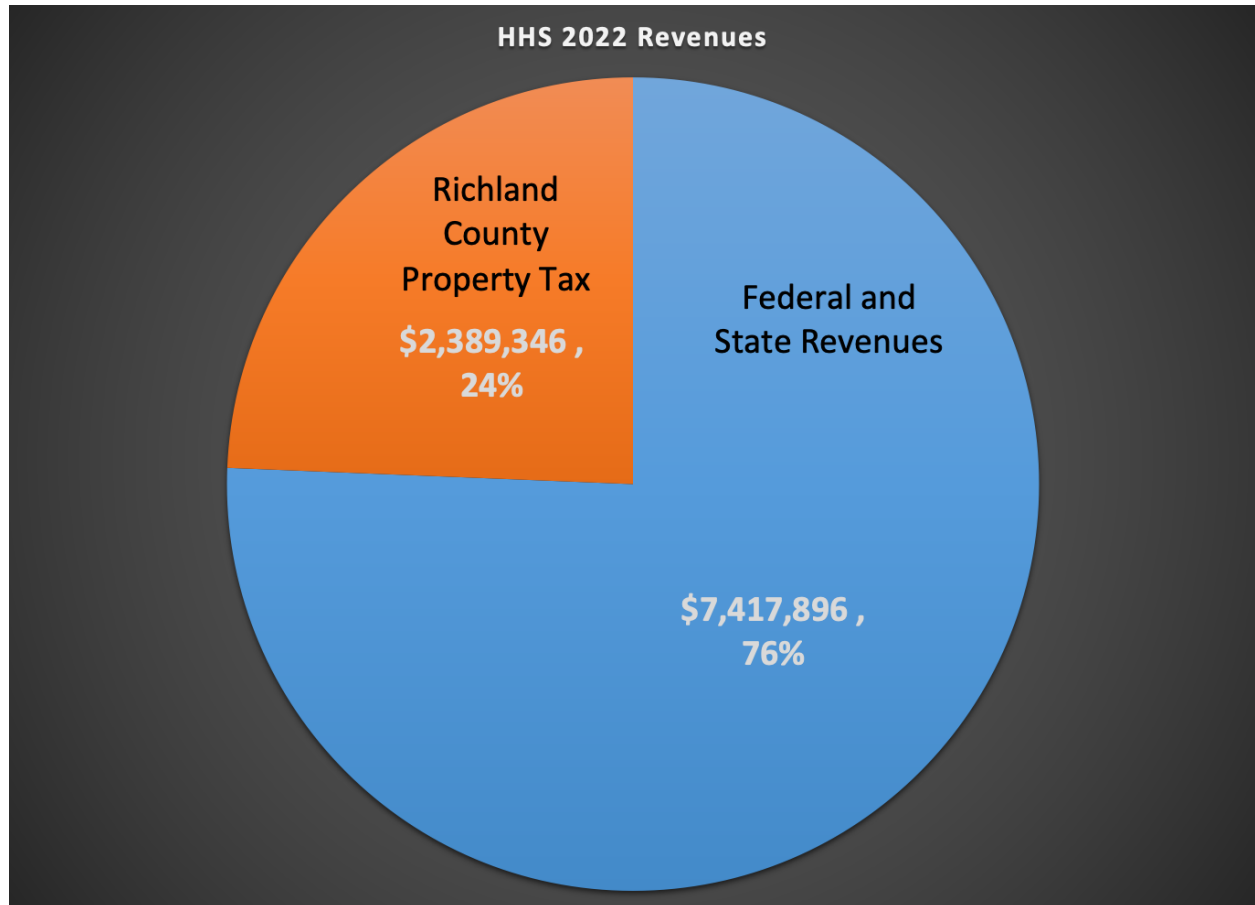


Next, we'll look at six categories that often have associated misconceptions and/or questions: 1) Health & Human Services, 2) Pine Valley Community Village, and 3) State Shared Revenue, 4) Highways, 5) UW-Richland, and 6) Debt.

Category #1: Health & Human Services

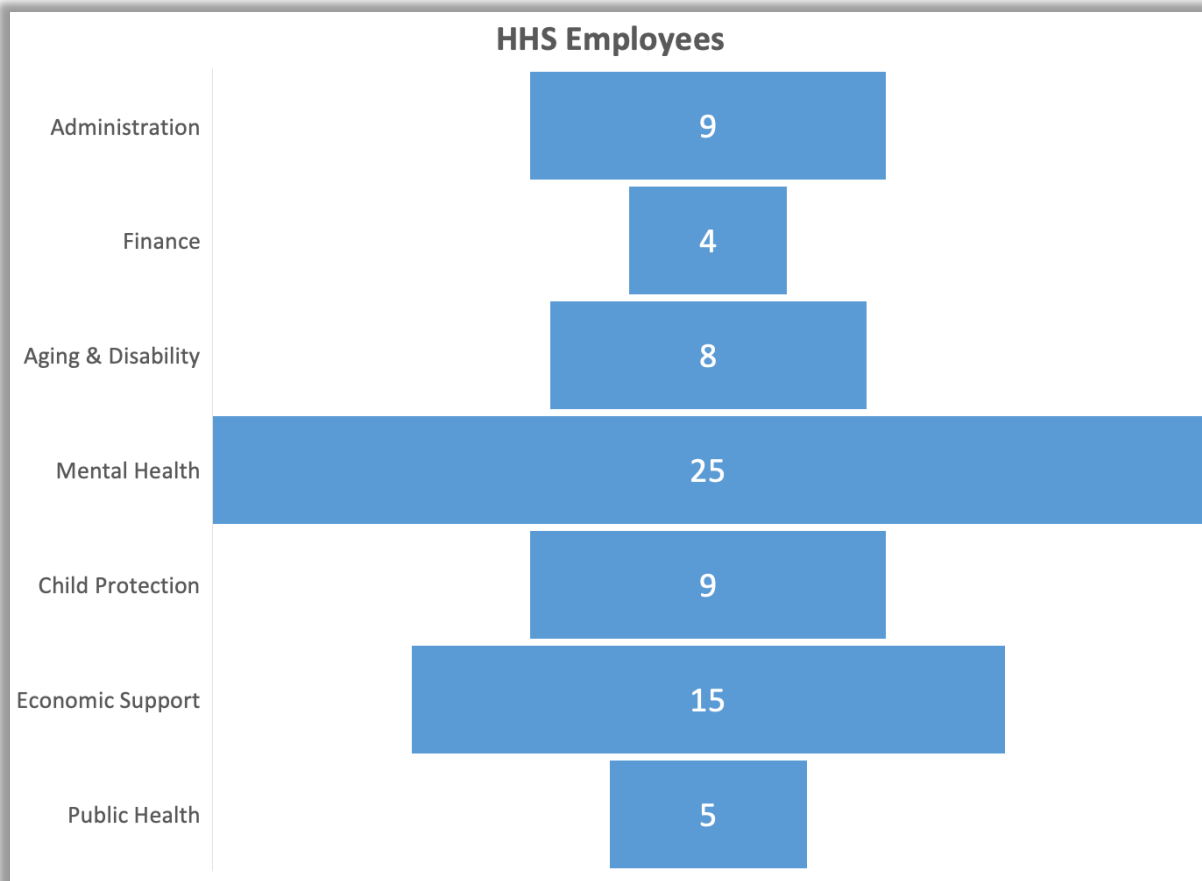
As shown in previous charts, the Health & Human Services (HHS) Department has the 2nd highest number of employees out of any department at the County. At the same time, this department uses less property tax revenue than the Sheriff's Department (\$2.4 million for HHS vs. \$3.5 million for Sheriff). Why is this?

It's because **HHS brings in a lot of revenue from the federal and state governments.**



If the County reduced its property tax revenue contribution to HHS, some of these federal and state revenues would be lost.

People also often think HHS is primarily a welfare agency. **While economic support is important, it's one of only 5 main areas of service to residents.** More employees are dedicated to mental health services than economic support, as shown in this chart:



Note: Over the coming months, the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee will be working with the Health & Human Services and Veterans Standing Committee to better understand how federal and state funding is tied to employee positions.

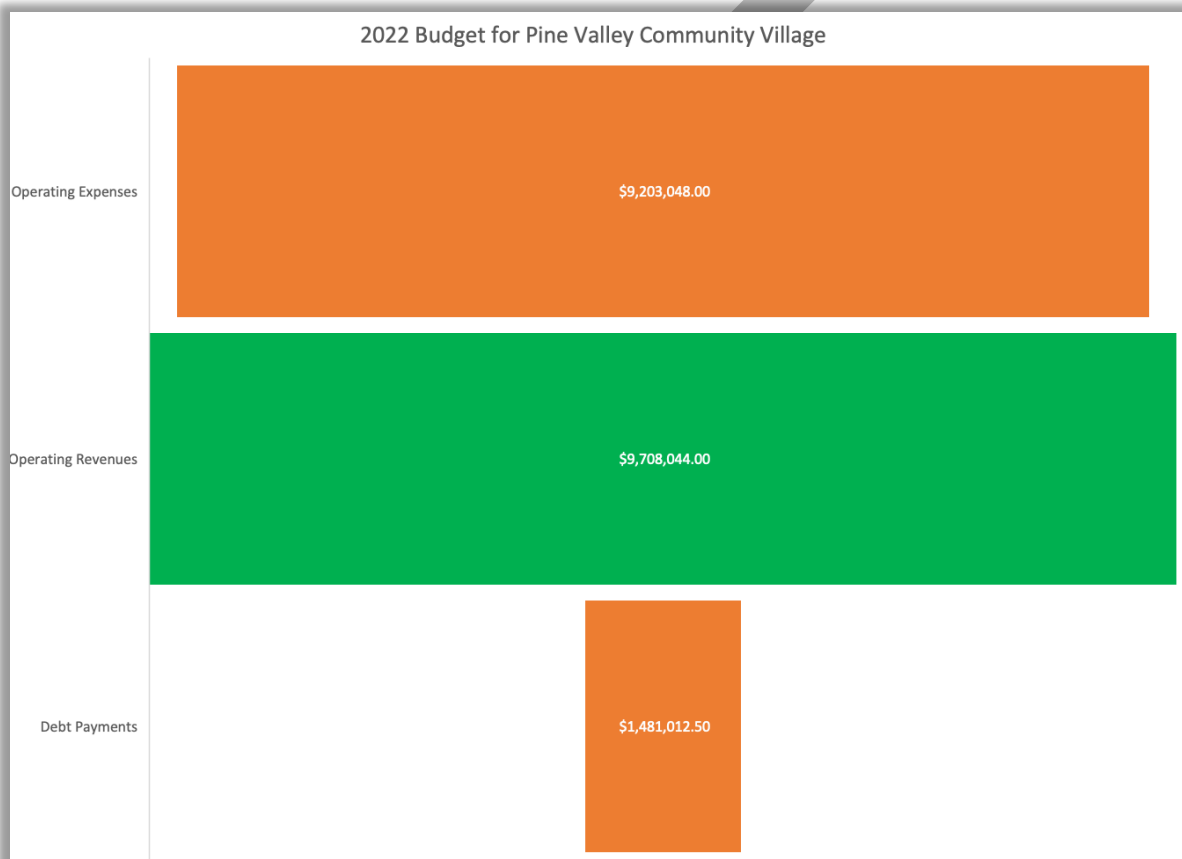
Category #2: Pine Valley Community Village

It is often said that Pine Valley Community Village:

1. Makes a profit for the County
2. Doesn't pay its debt

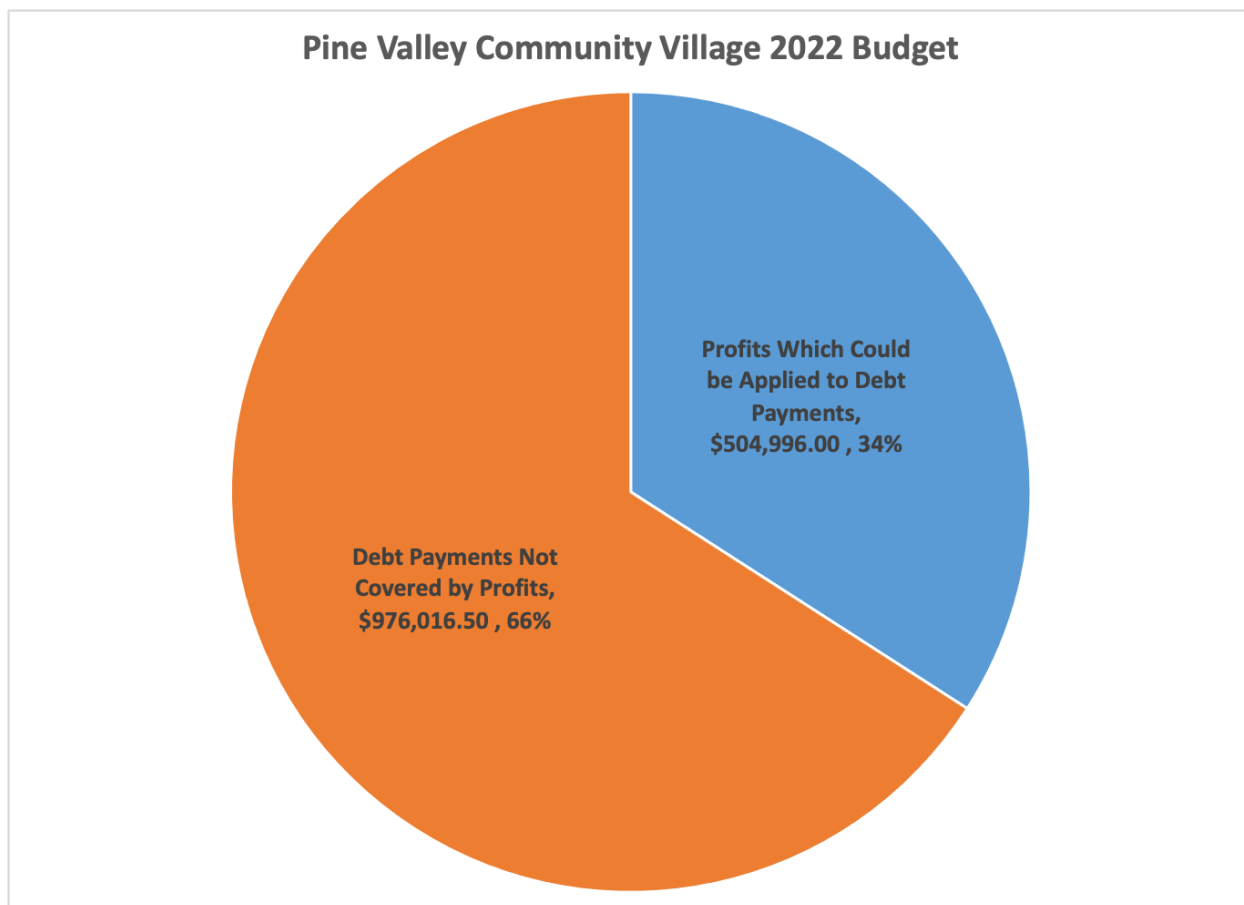
Which is true?

There is some truth to both statements, but neither is totally accurate. Because of the state laws referred to earlier, the County keeps track of Pine Valley's budget in two categories – operating and debt:



Statement #1 would be more accurate if it said, **"Pine Valley makes an operating profit for the County."**

In recent years, the operating profit from Pine Valley has been applied to offset the operating expenses of other departments at the County. **If that operating profit was instead applied to debt payments, it would cover one-third of annual debt payments**, as shown in the following chart:



So, statement #2 would be more accurate if it said, **“Pine Valley’s operating profits could cover one-third of its debt payments, if those profits were not used by the County Board to offset the operating expenses of other County departments.”**

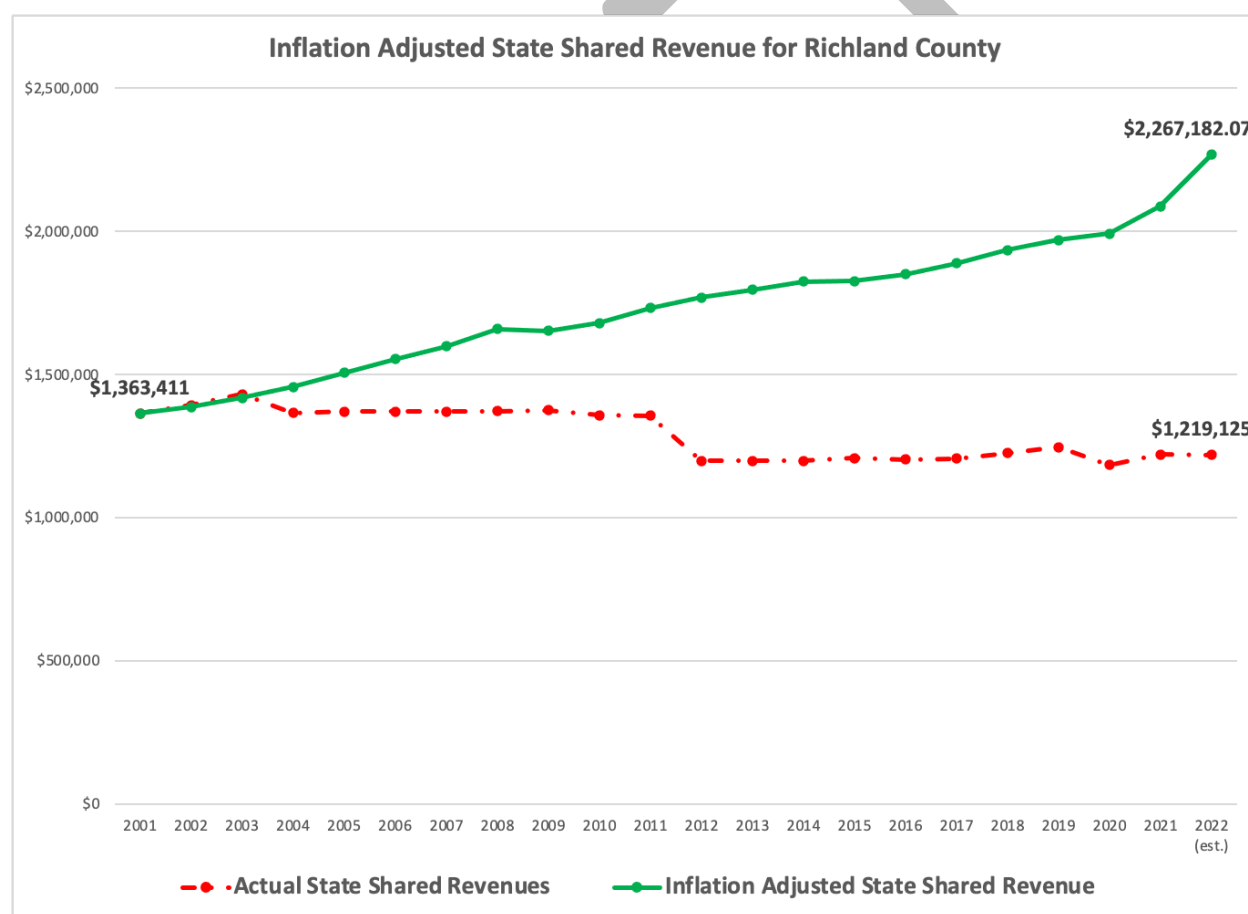
Note: Over the coming months, the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee will be working with the Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee to better understand if operating profits can be increased to cover 50% of its debt payments.

Category #3: State Shared Revenue

State shared revenue comes from the State of Wisconsin. **Every local government agency in Wisconsin receives this revenue.**

Shared revenue was originally put in place in the early 1900's to share state income tax revenue with local governments in exchange for a reduction in property that could be taxed³. In the 1970's, shared revenues were begun to be used to level the playing field between communities with lower income tax revenues and wealthier parts of the state.⁴

In 2001, Richland County received \$1.36 million that could be spent on general government activities such as public safety, human services, and highways. **In 2021, the State shared \$1.22 million, a drop of 12%.** If the amount received in 2001 was adjusted for inflation⁵, the amount would be \$2.27 million.



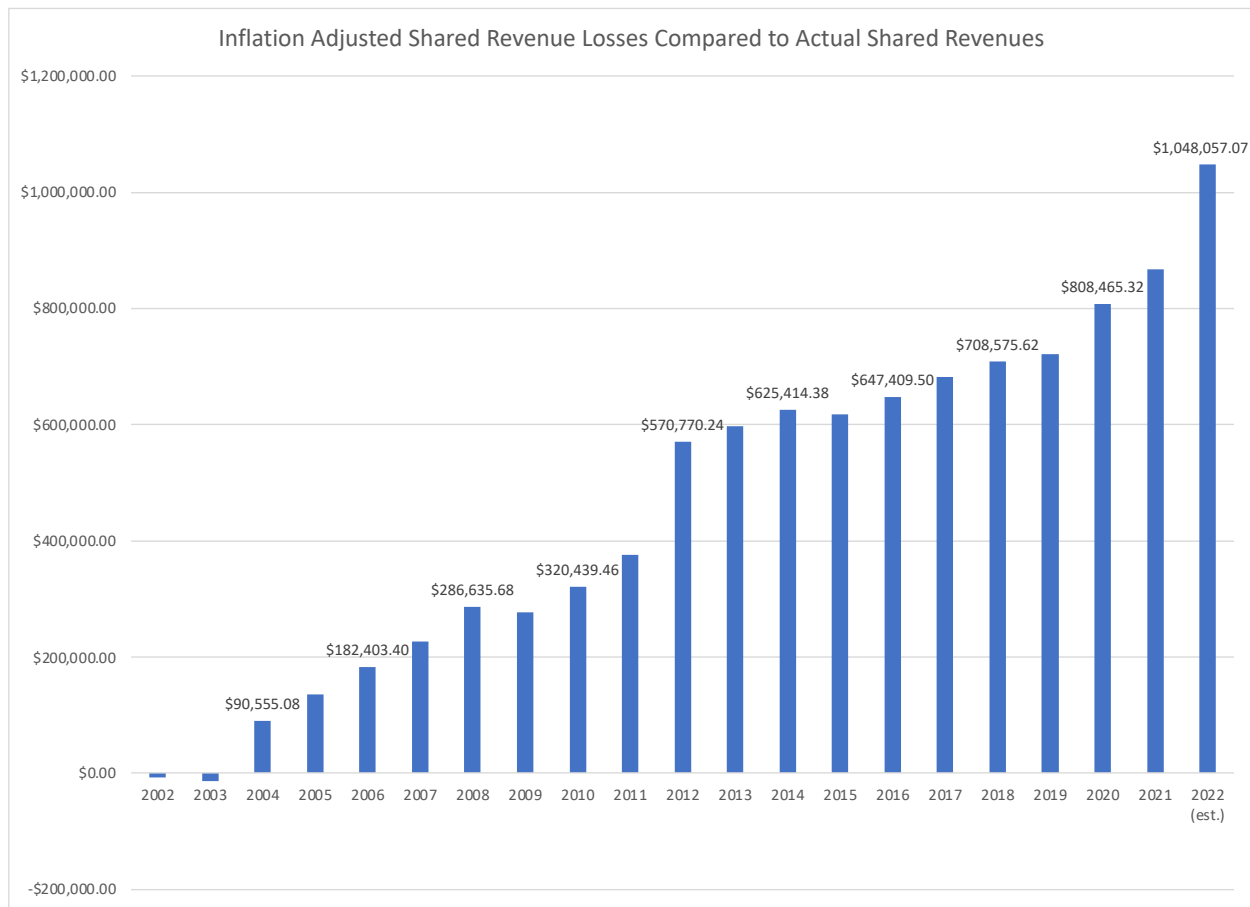
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https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/informational_papers/january_2017/0018_shared_revenue_program_informational_paper_18.pdf

⁴ <https://lwm-info.org/DocumentCenter/View/5904/8-22-The-Municipality-State-Local-Partnership>

⁵ <https://www.minneapolisfed.org/about-us/monetary-policy/inflation-calculator/consumer-price-index-1913->

The annual loss of shared revenues from the State are illustrated in the following chart. When all amounts are added together, the losses since 2001 total \$9.8 million.

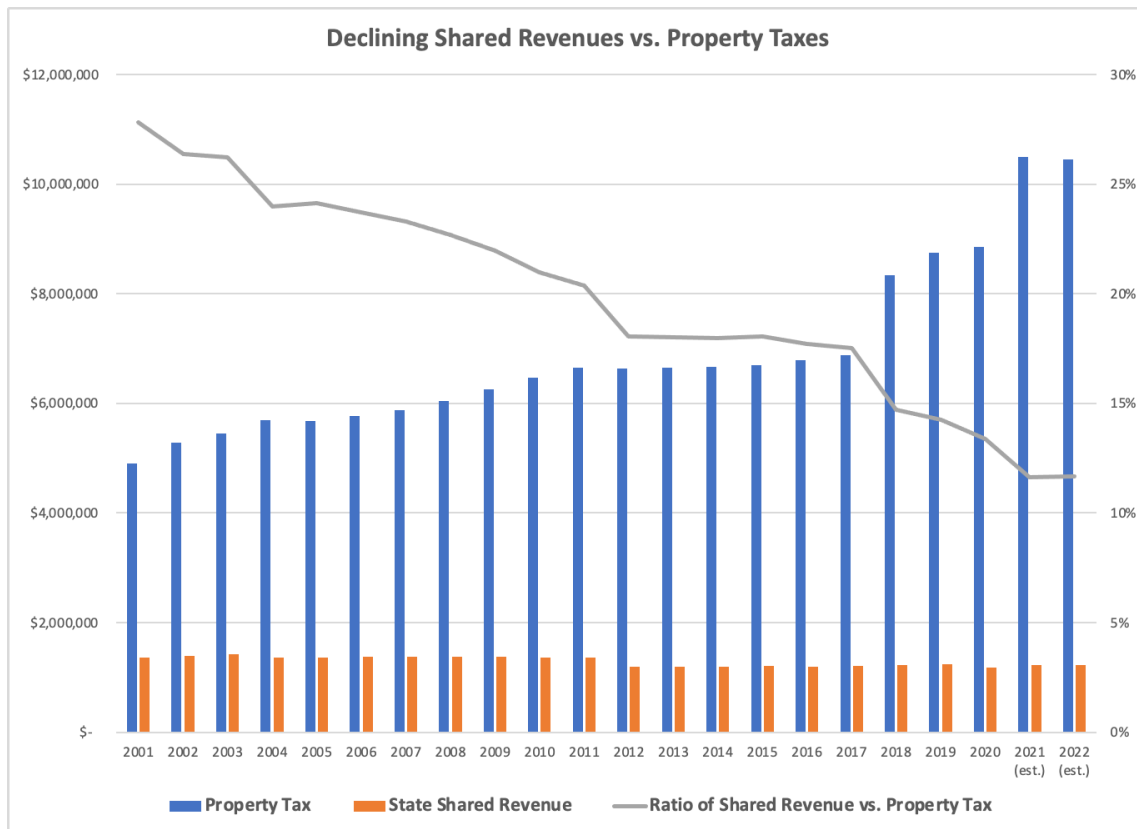


Why is shared revenue from the State declining? According to a Wisconsin Policy Forum report from 2013, the following state spending priorities shifted after 1995⁶:

- More focus on school aid
- More property tax credits for individuals rather than governments
- Corrections spending rose rapidly as the state built and filled prisons
- State funding for Medicaid (i.e., BadgerCare) repeatedly rose since its 1999 inception
- Decelerating state tax revenues between 1999 and 2012, due to
 - Indexing the state income tax to inflation in 1999
 - State income tax rates being lowered in 2000
 - Recessions in 2001 and 2008-09

Since shared revenues from the State of Wisconsin are declining, this means **Richland County has had to rely more on property taxes to finance departments that need additional revenues**, as shown in the following chart:

⁶ https://wispolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/13_04-Local-Gov-Finances.pdf



Note: Over the coming months, the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee will be working with the Finance & Personnel Standing Committee to better understand the development of the State of Wisconsin budget, as it relates to state shared revenues.

Category #4: Highway Department

People often ask, “What happened to the wheel tax the County Board passed?”

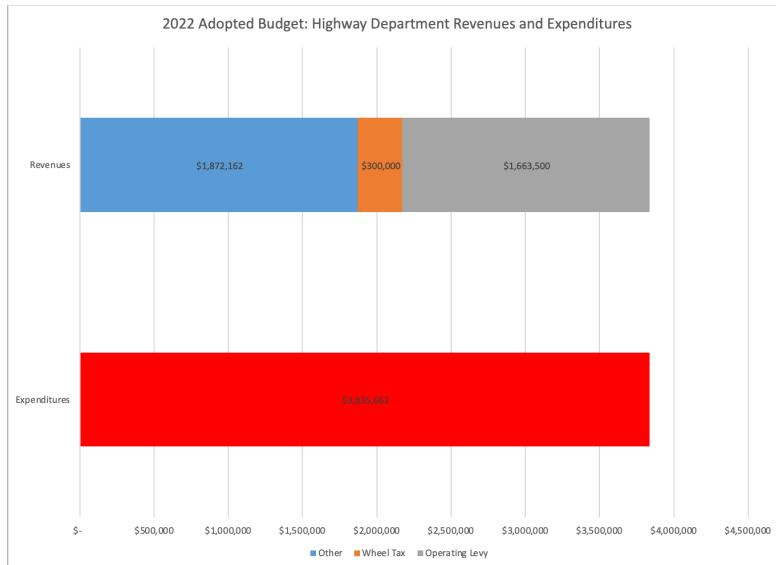
In 2019, the County Board approved an annual \$20 wheel tax for vehicles registered within Richland County. The additional revenue of approximately \$300,000 per year has been used to re-start the County’s sealcoating program for County highways. In 2022, 20 miles of County highways were seal coated, with the majority of funds coming from wheel tax revenues:

1. County Highway D between Bloom City and West Lima (6 miles)
2. County Highway JJ between US Highway 14 and WI Highway 130 (4 miles)
3. County Highway Q between Richland Center and County Highway E (7 miles)
4. County Highway SR between County Highway AA and WI Highway 80 (3 miles)



Wheel tax revenues are being used to seal coat County highways, like County Highway D near West Lima.

Wheel tax revenues make up less than 10% of County Department revenues, as shown in the following chart.



The Referendum Committee is currently working with the Highway Department to better understand the following figures highlighted in yellow provided to the Committee by the County's Finance Officer:

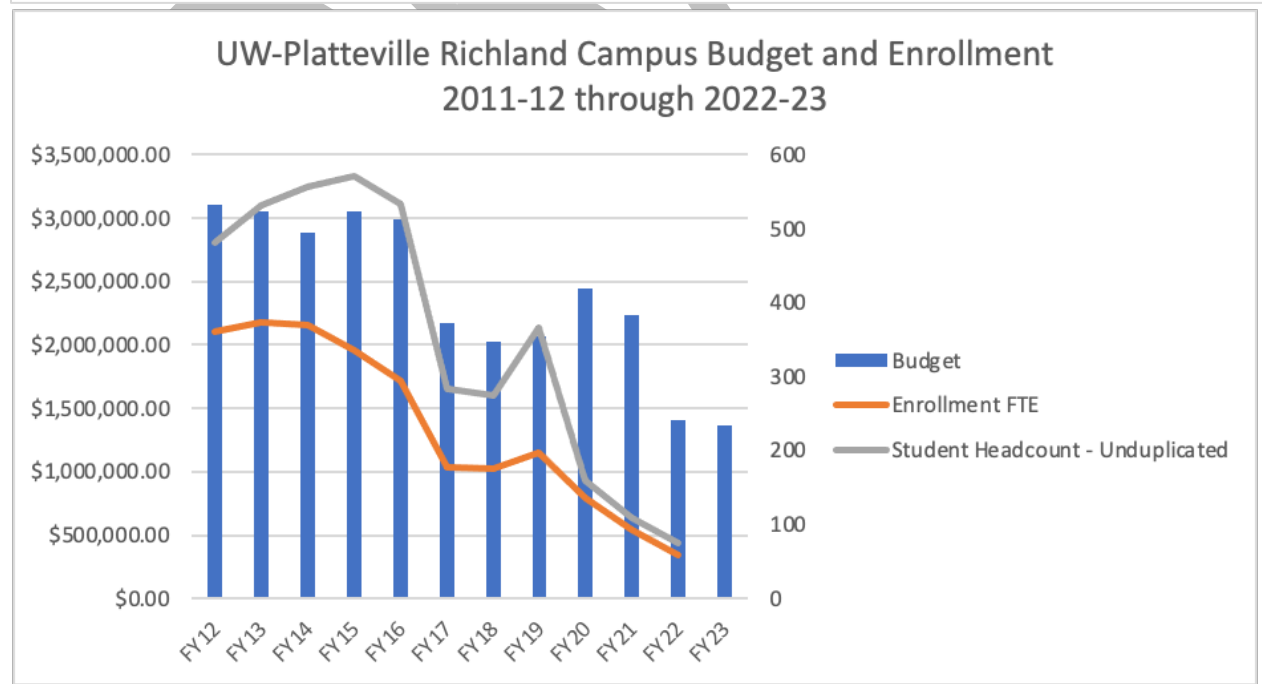
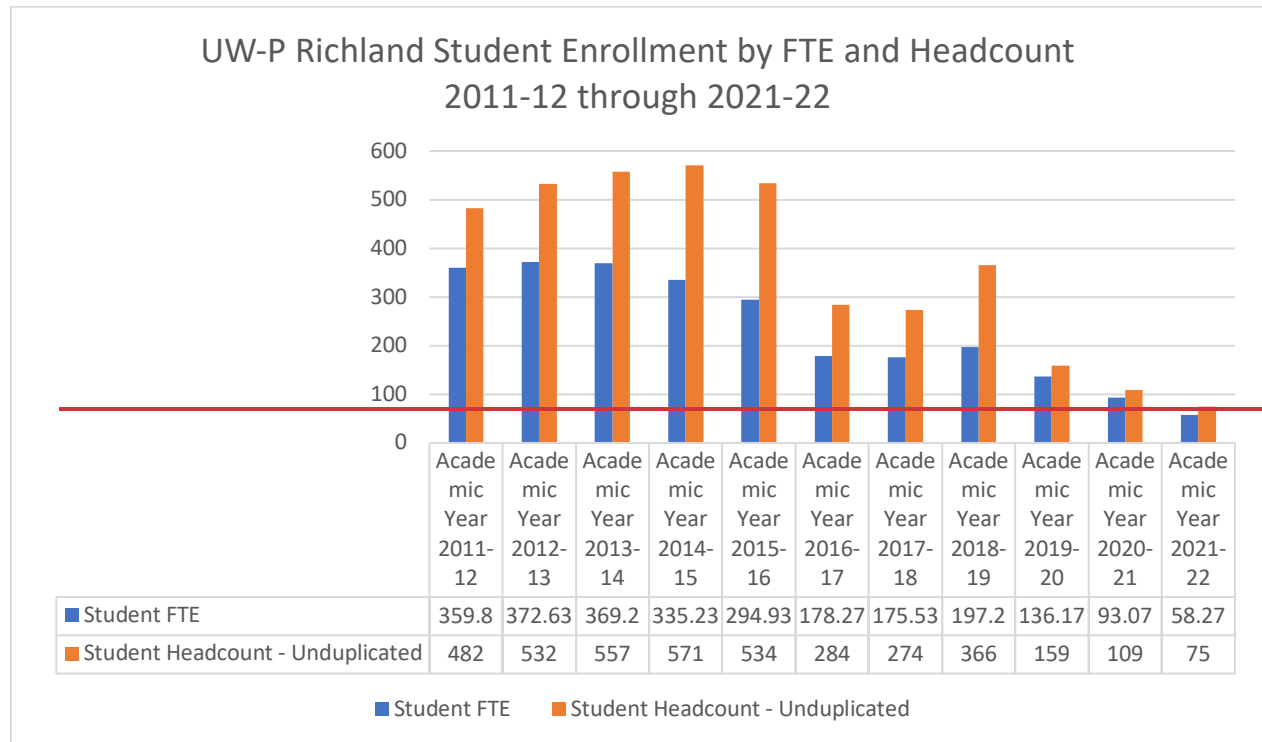
	Expenditures	Other Revenues	Operating Levy
State Maintenance Agreement	1,197,400.00	1,197,400.00	0.00
State Aid - General Transportation Aid	0.00	576,904.16	0.00
Wheel Tax	0.00	300,000.00	0.00
Equipment (Machinery)	483,000.00	1,824,560.00	483,000.00
County Highway Road Construction Projects	1,225,500.00	0.00	0.00
County Highway Routine Maintenance	2,154,365.68	269,240.91	1,166,028.70
Town Bridge 50/50 Cost Share	14,471.30	0.00	14,471.30
HIGHWAY TOTAL	3,835,661.86	2,172,161.86	1,663,500.00

These figures don't match those provided by the Highway Department, and as a result the Chair of the Referendum Committee is meeting with the Highway Commissioner and Finance Officer to sort through the discrepancies:

HIGHWAY SERVICES	Expenditures	Other Revenues	Operating Levy
State Maintenance Agreement	1,197,400.00	1,197,400.00	0.00
State Aid - General Transportation Aid	576,904.16	576,904.16	0.00
Wheel Tax	300,000.00	300,000.00	0.00
Equipment (Machinery)	2,307,560.00	1,824,560.00	483,000.00
County Highway Road Construction Projects	1,225,500.00	1,225,500.00	0.00
County Highway Routine Maintenance	2,154,365.68	988,336.98	1,166,028.70
Town Bridge 50/50 Cost Share	14,471.30	0.00	14,471.30
HIGHWAY TOTAL	7,776,201.14	6,112,701.14	1,663,500.00

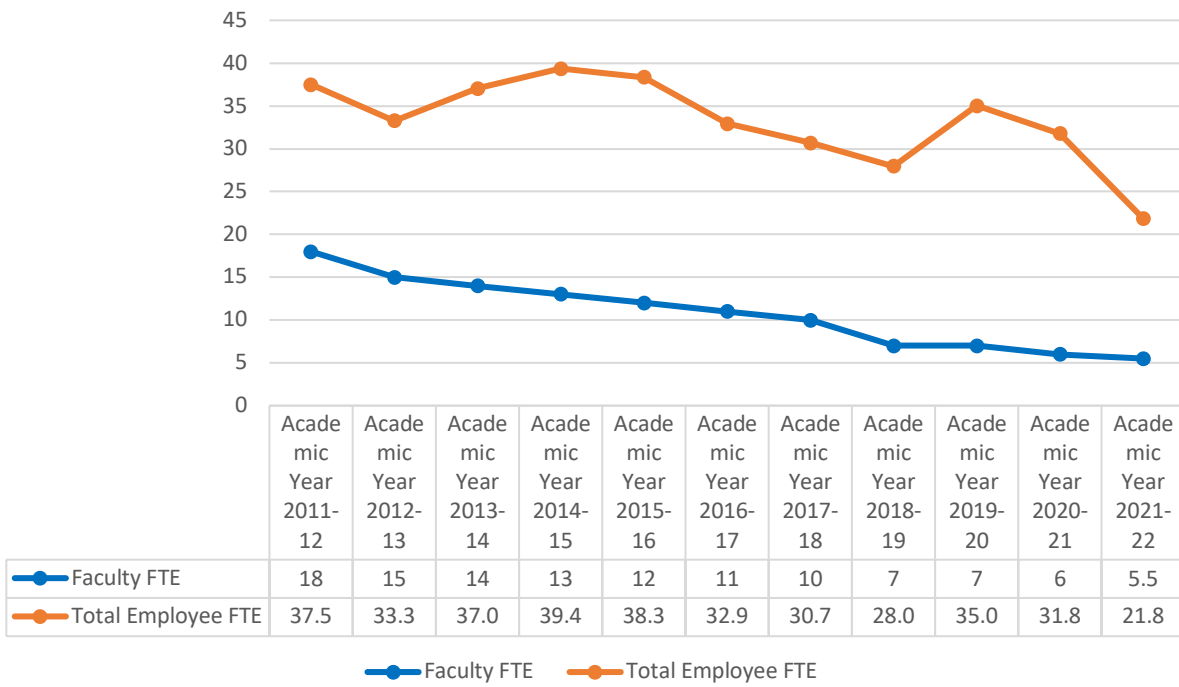
Category #5: UW-Richland Campus

Many people have heard student enrollment has declined at UW-Richland. Staff numbers have also declined, in part due to the drop in student enrollment, and in part due to funding cuts by the State of Wisconsin. The following charts and notes *in italics* show this decline, and come from UW-Platteville's Chief Communications~~Data~~ Officer.



- 1) The drop in overall enrollments between Academic Years 2015-16 and 2016-17 represents the discontinuation of the Academic Alliance program, which was piloted in 1997 at UW-Richland in partnership with Richland Center and Ithaca high schools and discontinued in 2015-16.
- 2) The bump in enrollment in Academic Year 2018-19 represents a one-time counting methodology change in which distance education students were credited to a local campus if their home zip code was in that campus' area. This methodology was only used in that single year.
- 3) Data up through FY2019 (prior to collaborative integration with UW-Platteville) is from the University of Wisconsin Redbook.
- 4) Data from FY2020 to current is from the PlanUW system.
- 5) The dramatic budget drop in FY17 is due to reorganization and regionalization of central services prior to collaborative integration.
- 6) Budgets have been further reduced since collaborative integration, primarily by rebalancing how services are provided and taking advantage of the economies of scale provided by the main campus and shared between the two branch campuses.
- 7) It is important to note that, for nearly every budget year, enrollment declines have preceded budget reductions. These data would suggest a narrative that, in the interest of public stewardship, resources have been consistently adjusted to align with declining demand.

UW-P Richland Faculty and Employee FTE
2011-12 through 2021-22



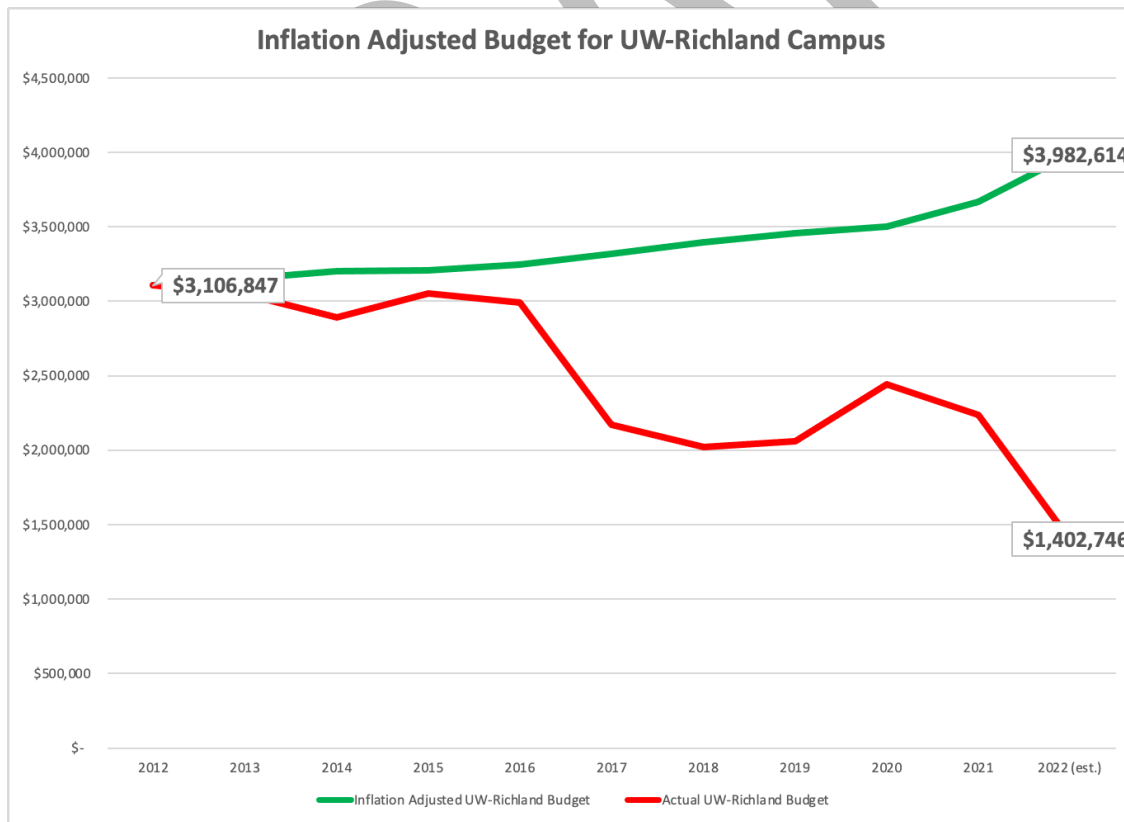
- 1) *The dip in employee FTE in 2018-19 may well reflect shuffling of staff reporting lines that occurred during Collaborative Integration. Additionally, a shift from handling teaching load with full-time faculty to use of multiple adjuncts to ensure that smaller classes needed by students for degree completion could be offered impacted the fluctuations in non-faculty-staff from 2017-18 through 2020-21.*

As stated in Richland County Resolution 22-72, Requesting the State of Wisconsin Support the UW Colleges to Where it was Supporting them in 2015:

- ~~Starting in 2016-17 state support for UW-Richland decreased by 28% (\$822,641) compared to 2015-16 and has decreased each year since.~~
- The campus no longer has the positions of Dean, 5 Associate Student Services coordinators, 1 custodian, 1 Library Assistant, 1 Continuing Education Coordinator, 3 Financial Specialists, and 1 First Year Initiative Coordinator
- No new or replaced professors have been hired since 2015.

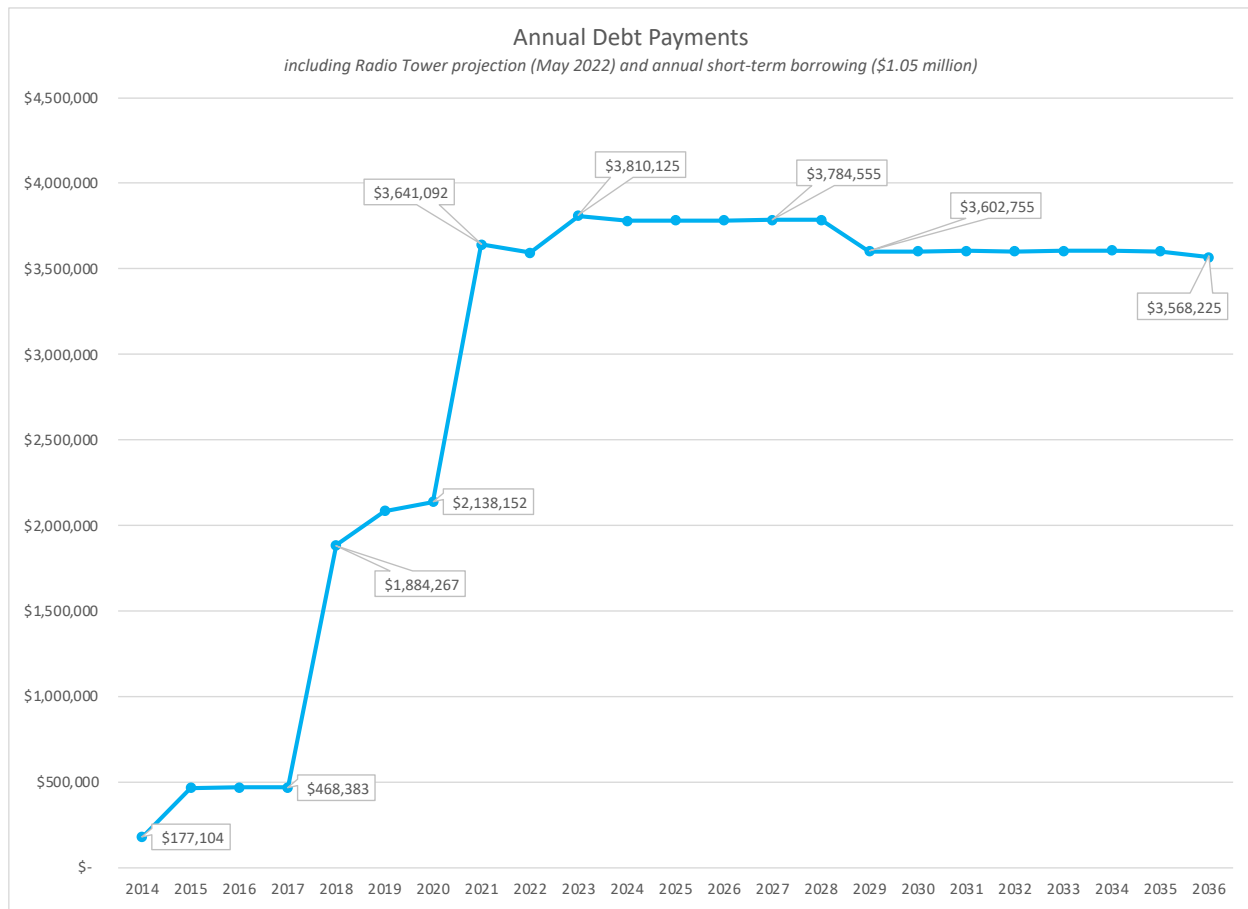
There is also no longer a recruiter focused on UW-Richland. Recruiting now happens by UW-Platteville staff simultaneously for all 3 campuses (UW-Baraboo, UW-Richland, and UW-Platteville).

If the UW-Richland budget had kept pace with inflation since 2012, it would be approximately \$4 million:



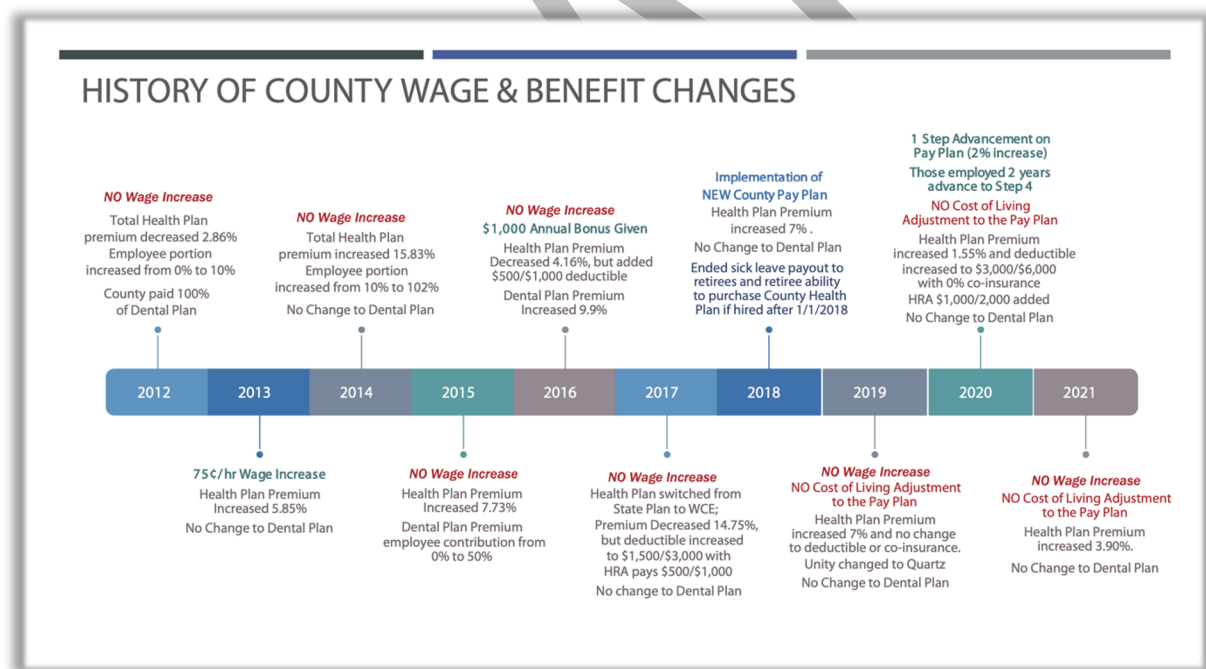
Category #6: Debt

The County's current projected debt for future years is shown in the following chart:



Where Do We Go from Here?

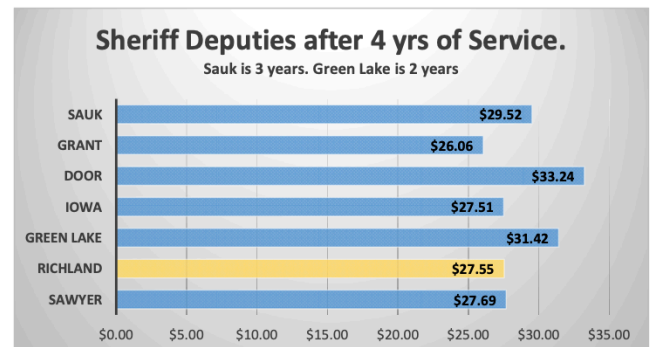
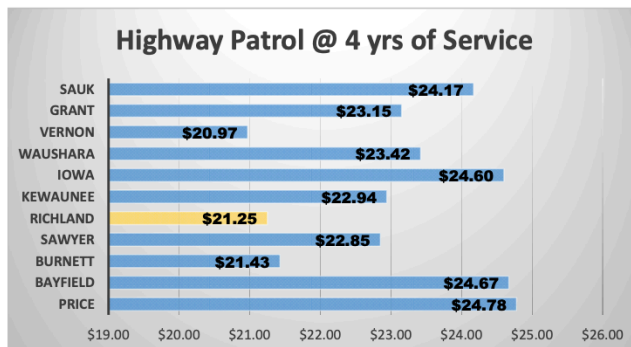
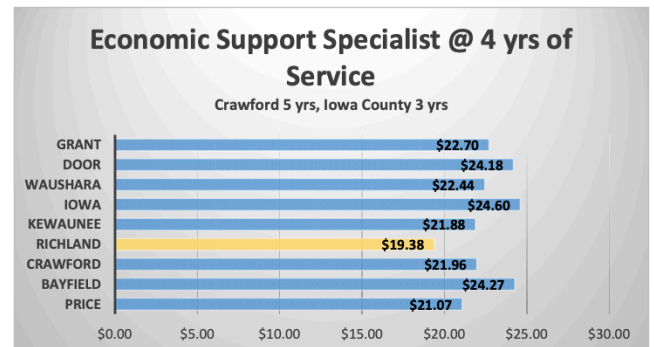
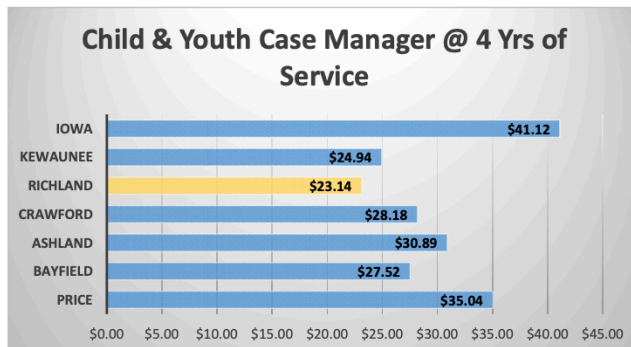
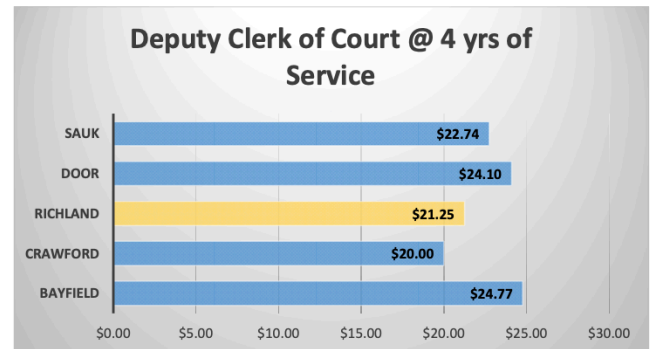
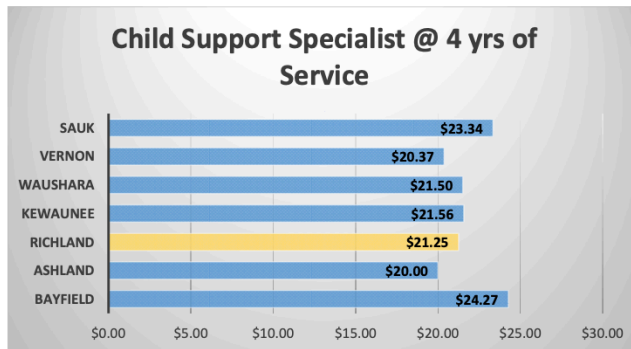
Over the past decade, **Richland County** has been responding to the State of Wisconsin's policies by **skipping annual pay increases and reducing health insurance benefits**, as shown in the following graphic.



Earlier this year, Richland County adopted a Strategic Plan⁷ that determined that path is no longer sustainable, with a **commitment to annual pay increases for employees**.

⁷ <https://administrator.co.richland.wi.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Richland-County-Strategic-Plan-Chapter-2-Operations.pdf>

Current wages for select positions show how Richland County compares to peer counties in the following charts:



Current staffing levels for County departments show how Richland County compares to peer counties in the following charts:

Department	Richland*	Bayfield**	Burnett***	Kewaunee****	Iowa*****	Grant*****	Sauk*****
Population of County	17,300	16,200	16,500	20,600	23,600	51,900	65,800
Pine Valley Community Village	85				54	112	125
Health & Human Services	66	48	47	42	49	110	195
Sheriff	33	46	39	37	49	57	53
Highway	30	26	22	28	42	52	62
Ambulance / Emergency Management	8	1	1	2	2	2	2
UW-Extension	5	6	2	6	6	6	7
Administration	4	2	5	6	5	5	13
Land Conservation & Parks	4	15	10	9	4	4	12
Clerk of Court	3	5	8	4	4	9	15
Management Information Systems	3	4	2	2	3	5	14
Symons Rec Complex	3						
Treasurer	3	2	3	2	2	3	3
Zoning & Sanitation	3	11	5	1	4	4	6
Child Support Office	2	3	3	3	2	6	11
Clerk	2	4	5	2	2	4	4
Courthouse Maintenance	2	3	6	4	4	6	14
District Attorney	2	4	4	2	5	4	8
Register of Deeds	2	3	2	2	2	3	3
Register in Probate	2			3	2	3	2
UW Food Service	2						
Veterans Service	2	1	2	2	1	2	5
Coroner	1		5			1	
Corporation Counsel	1		2	1	0	1	6
Economic Development	1	1	1				1
Fair & Recycling	1					3	
Airport			4		0	0	1
Family Court	0			1	0		2
Total	270	185	178	159	242.4	402	564
*Richland County: Employees authorized by the County Board; Rounded to nearest whole number; full-time + contract staff included; part-time/seasonal/reserve/limited term staff generally not included							
** Bayfield County: Full-time employees only (no part-time employees included); Clerk of Court includes Register in Probate; Zoning includes 5 Land Records employees; Economic Development is Tourism; Land Conservation includes 11 Forestry employees							
*** Burnett County: Part-time employees included; Courthouse Maintenance is Maintenance; Zoning includes 3 Surveyor/Land Records employees; Land Conservation includes 6 Forestry employees							
**** Kewaunee County Notes: FTE employee count (individual employee count is not shown); Courthouse Maintenance is Maintenance; Land Conservation & Parks includes Fair and Zoning; Zoning is Land Information							
***** Iowa County: FTE employee count; Pine Valley is Bloomfield and has now closed; Administration includes 3 Finance and 1 Employee Relations staff; Zoning & Sanitation is Planning & Development; Courthouse Maintenance is Environmental Services; DA includes 1 FTE for Court Ordered Programs							
***** Grant County: FTE employee count (individual employee count is not available); Administration includes Finance & Personnel Dept staff (no Administrator); Courthouse Maintenance is Facilities & Maintenance, Grant County contributes to an Economic Development Corporation							
***** Sauk County: Individual employee count (including part-time employees) but no contracted employees are included except UW Extension; Courthouse Maintenance is Building Services; MIS includes GIS and property lister; Economic Development is Community Development Coordinator							

Regarding Health & Human Services Department staffing level comparisons, a detailed chart is included below to note how the numbers in the above chart were determined.

Department Name	Richland*	Bayfield**	Burnett***	Iowa****	Kewaunee*****	Grant	Sauk
Population	17,300	16,200	16,500	23,600	20,600	51,900	
ADRC			15	11.6	7	17	32
Capital Consortium - Not Paid by Richland County	-9						
Health & Human Services	75		32				
Health or Public Health		11		5.8	5	26	44
Human Services		37			30		113
Justice, Division, and Support							6
Social Services				22		39	
Unified Community Services				10		28	
Total	66	48	47	49.4	42	110	195
*Richland County full time and contract/lease positions authorized by the County Board							
** Bayfield full-time employees in 2022							
*** Burnett County # of current employees (includes part time)							
**** Iowa County FTE authorized in 2022 budget							
***** Kewaunee County FTE authorized in 2022 budget							
***** Grant County FTE							
***** Sauk County # of current employees (includes part time)							

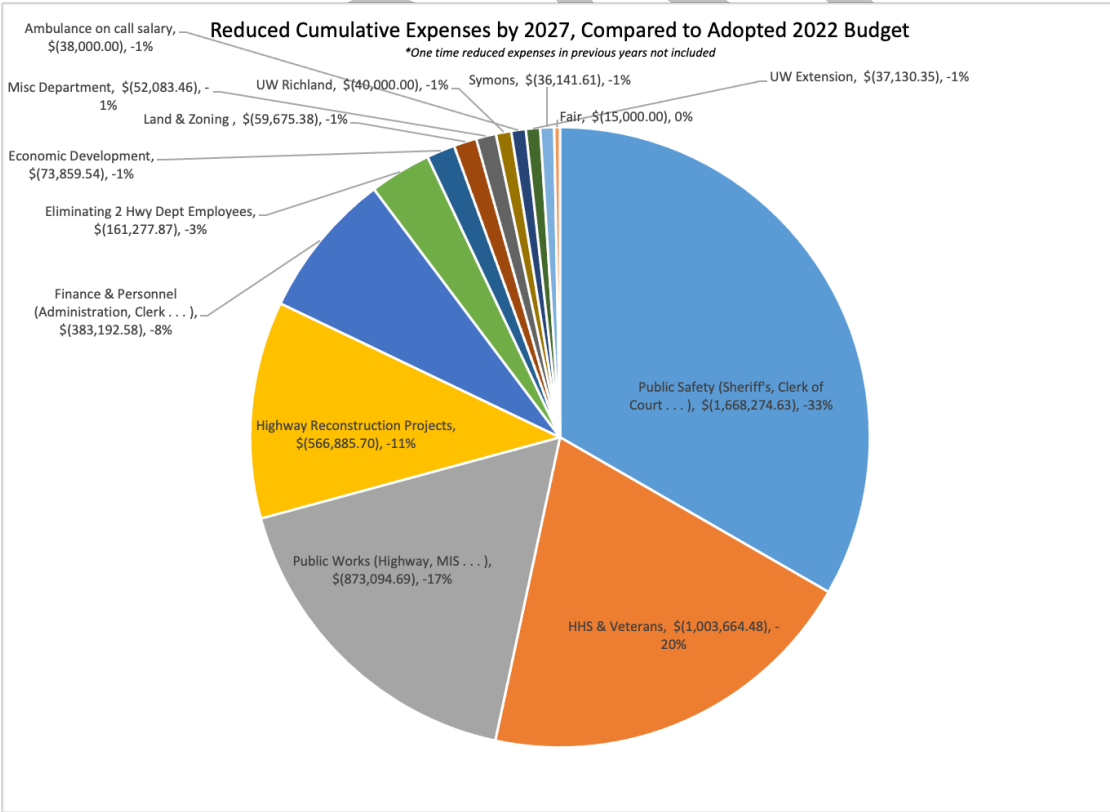
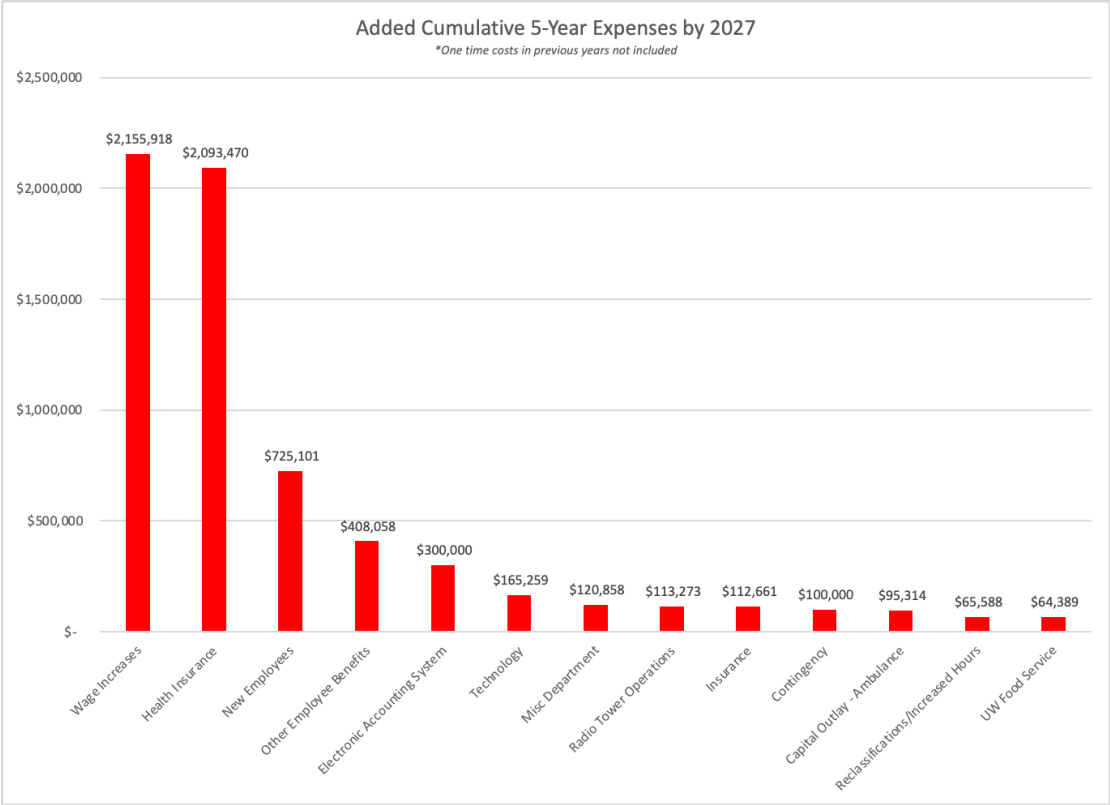
Regarding nursing home employees compared to licensed beds and daily census figures, the data in the following chart illustrates locations with county-owned nursing homes.

County	Richland*	Iowa**	Grant***	Sauk****	Lafayette*****
Nursing Home Employees	85	54	112	125	
Licensed Beds*****	80	50	99	82	50
Employees per licensed bed	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.5	
Average daily census for December 2021	69	38	69		
*Richland County full time and contract/lease positions authorized by the County Board					
** Iowa County FTE authorized in 2022 budget					
*** Grant County FTE					
**** Sauk County # of current employees (includes part time)					
***** Lafayette County's website says it has 64 beds.					
***** Licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/guide/nhdir.pdf					

The County Administrator has also created a 5-year (2023 – 2027) financial plan that **estimates expenses and revenues projected by the year 2027, compared to the adopted 2022 budget**. Those expenses and revenues have been divided into four categories.

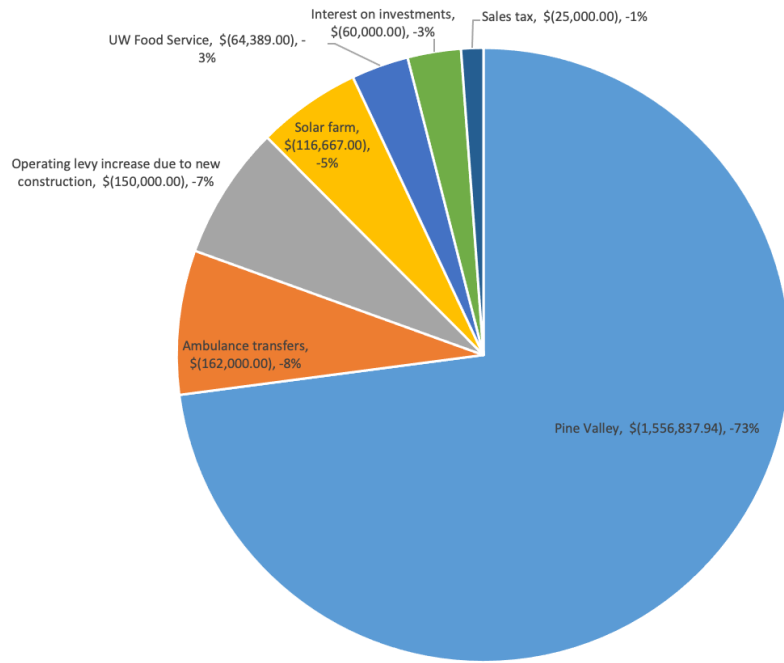
5-Year Plan Category, Comparing to 2027 to 2022	
Total Added Expenses	\$ 6,519,889.15
Total Reduced Expenses	\$ (5,008,280.29)
Total Added Revenues	\$ (2,134,893.94)
Total Reduced Revenues	\$ 623,285.08
Balanced Budget	\$ (0.00)

Added expenses, reduced expenses, added revenues, and reduced revenues are shown in the following four charts.

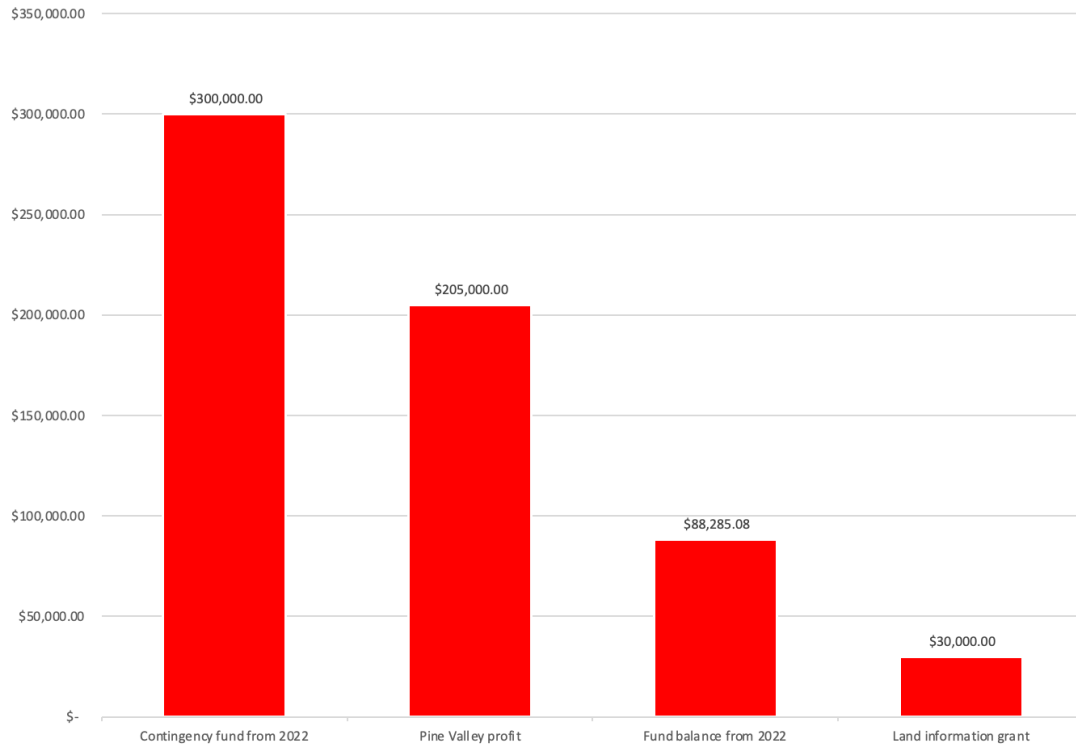


Added Cumulative Revenues by 2027, Compared to Adopted 2022 Budget

**One time revenues in preveious years not included*



Reduced Cumulative Revenues by 2027, Compared to the 2022 Adopted Budget

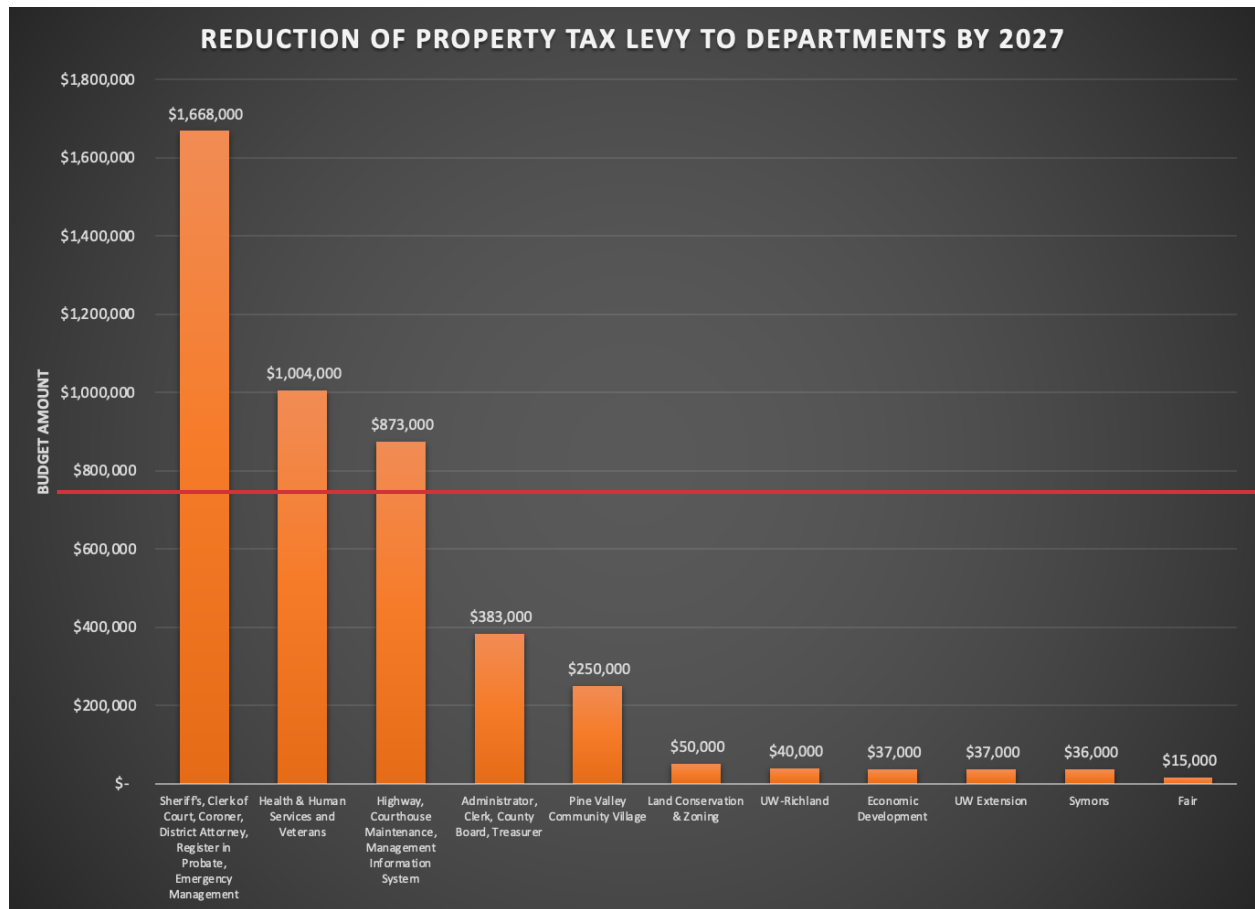


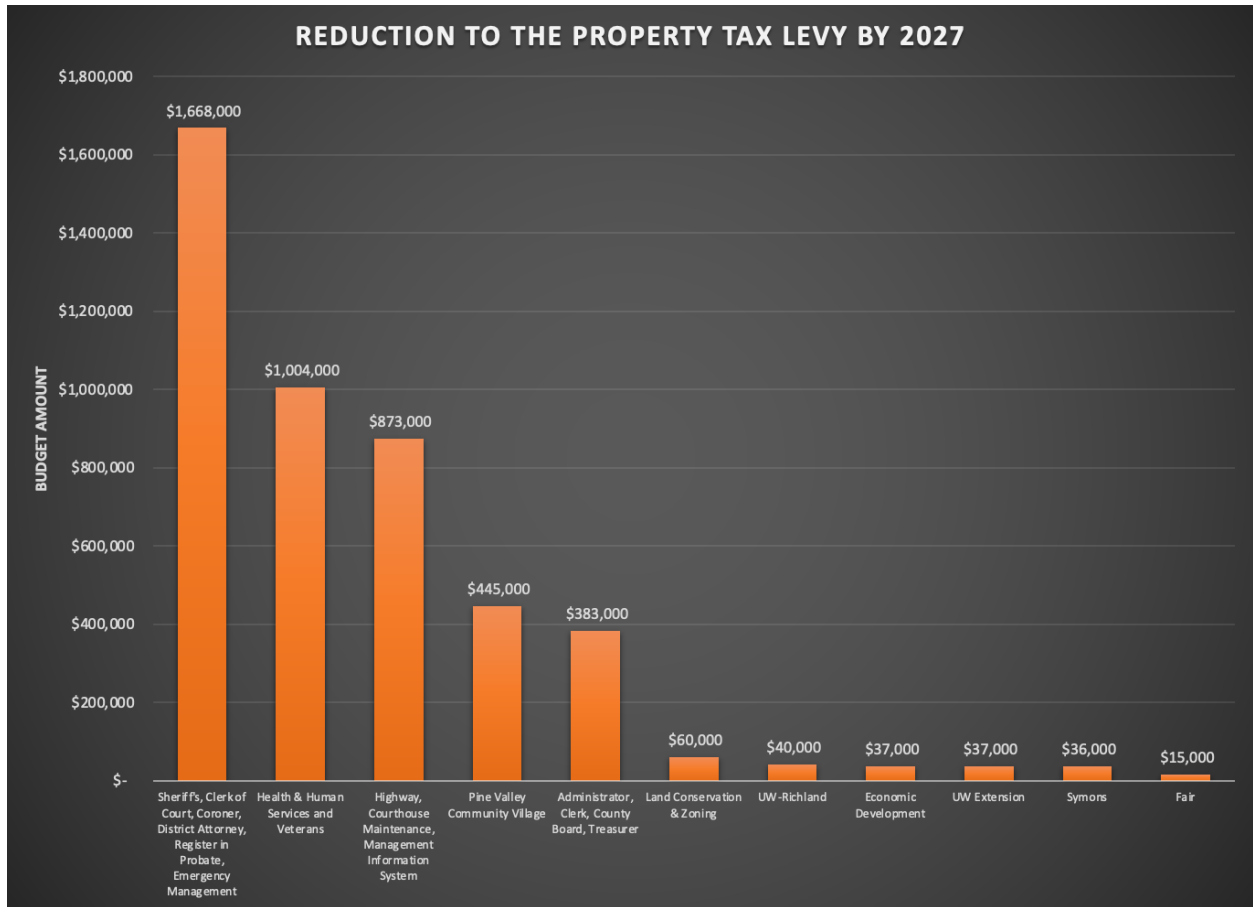
The County Board also recently adopted a set of resolutions guiding committees and departments as to how to decrease their impact on the property tax levy. **Some of these decreases may be permanent, but some may be identified for a potential property tax operating levy referendum in 2023, to take effect in 2024.**

Note that many of these reductions in the property tax levy begin in 2024 and escalate to the amounts shown in the following chart/s in 2027, to account for increasing costs such as wages and benefits.

Departments and committees may meet these reductions to the property tax levy by any of the following methods:

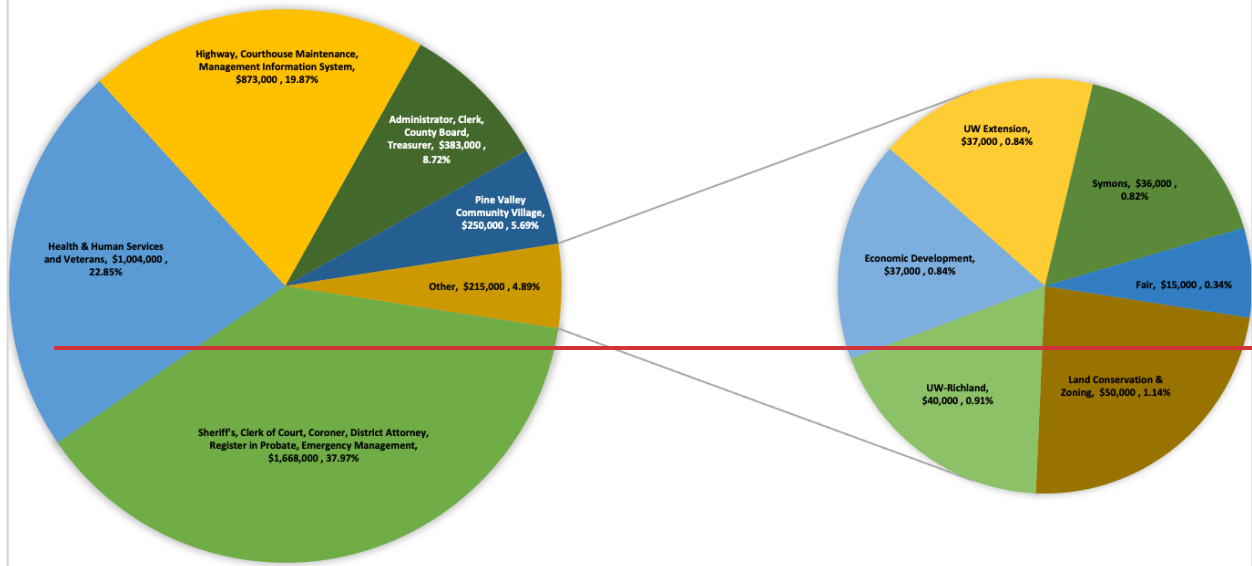
1. Decreased expenses
2. Increased revenues from sources other than the property tax levy
3. Increased revenues from an operating levy referendum *(assuming such a referendum is recommended by the County Board and passed by voters)*





*Note the discrepancies between dollar amounts in the above chart for Pine Valley Community Village, Land Conservation & Zoning, and Economic Development compared to the pie chart on a previous page illustrating the 5-year financial plan entitled, “Reduced Cumulative Expenses by 2027.”

REDUCTION TO THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY BY 2027



Total:
\$4.4 million

Next Steps

The Referendum Ad Hoc Committee has identified the following next steps:

1. Communicate directly with committees and departments heads affected by a potential referendum, so that expectations are clear:
 - Share this report
 - Share the Committee's public education plans
 - Short-term (September/October): Educate the public about the work of the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee
 - Long-term (TBD): If the Committee recommends moving forward with an operating levy referendum in 2023, educational materials will be developed for the approximate 2-month period before the ballot measure is placed on the ballot
 - Request information needed by the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee
 - How each committee plans to describe the identified property tax levy decrease
 - Which budget amounts will be recommended as a permanent decrease, and which budget amounts will be recommended for inclusion on a potential property tax operating levy referendum, to take effect in 2024
 - Collect questions each committee has for the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee
2. Research other operating levy referendums
3. Educate the public about the work of the committee
 - Radio
 - Newspaper
 - Video
4. Recommend action on the referendum, including:
 - Whether or not to develop a referendum question
 - The date, amount, and purpose of a potential operating levy referendum
 - Public education content and format for a potential operating levy referendum
 - The consequences/outcome of a failed operating levy referendum
5. Draft a report for submittal to the committee we report to (Finance & Personnel Standing Committee)

Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

Agenda Item Name: Correspondence from Committees

Department	County Board	Presented By:	Steve Carrow & Shaun Murphy-Lopez
Date of Meeting:	11/21/22	Action Needed:	Motion
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Resolution 22-74
Date submitted:	11/21/22	Referred by:	Multiple, see below

Recommendation and/or action language: A motion to request more information from multiple committees and boards.

Background: At the October 10th meeting of the Referendum Committee, the committee reviewed reports and requested more information from the following bodies:

- Public Works Standing Committee
- Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee
- Richland Economic Development Board

Public Works and Pine Valley/Child Support responded. Their original reports and responses to our requests are included in Attachments A and B. Follow-up requests for information from the Referendum Committee may include the following:

Public Works Standing Committee (see Attachment A)

Follow-up requests are *in red*.

- How proposed reductions to the property tax levy will be made in years 2025, 2026, and 2027, including the types of projects and purchases that will not be funded. **The figures provided do not match Resolution No. 22-96. Please use those figures and follow the chart format used by the Public Safety Committee (combining Highway, Courthouse Maintenance, and MIS into one chart).**
- The Highway Department is already projecting a \$567,000 decrease to highway reconstruction projects by 2027 to fund increases employee wage and benefits. What is the total budget for highway reconstruction projects in the operating levy, and is it large enough to absorb additional reductions through 2027? **No answer received. Please answer this question.**
- The portion of the Courthouse Maintenance budget that may be included in reductions to the property tax levy. **No answer received.**
- Why MIS prioritized items in the 5-year financial plan over the purchase of new computers (shown in chart below). **Thank you for providing an answer to this question. Our follow-up question is this: MIS proposes to reduce new computer purchases by \$40,000 each year. Are new computer purchases coded to fund and account number 10.5182.0000.5809? If so, the budgeted amount in 2022 was \$10,000. The budgeted amount in 2023 was \$50,000. Resolution No. 22-96 directs MIS to generate levy reductions compared to the 2022 budget. Please identify budget reductions compared to the 2022 budget.**

Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee (see Attachment B)

Follow-up requests are *in red*.

- A copy of Pine Valley's 2023 proposed budget showing how proposed profits are being determined, including their amount and how proposed profits relate to other projected expenses and revenues. **Thank you for providing an answer to this question.**
- Financial projections showing how proposed profits are being determined for the years 2024 – 2027, including their amount and how they relate to other projected expenses and revenues. **Thank you for**

Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

providing an answer to this question. The 5-year financial plan is built on the assumption Pine Valley will continue to produce a minimum \$300,000 annual profit, and Resolution No. 22-92 directed the committee to explore the possibility of increasing that profit to \$740,000. We understand the current projected profits are the following:

- \$250,000 in 2023
- \$350,000 in 2024
- \$500,000 in 2026
- \$630,000 in 2027

Please describe the most prudent steps that could be taken to increase the 2023 amount to retain the \$300,000 minimum level and escalate profits to reach \$740,000 by 2027.

- The current financial plan projects \$300,000 in profits from Pine Valley for each of the years 2023 – 2027. Resolution 22-92 directed Pine Valley to explore the possibility of increasing that amount to approximately \$740,000 per year. We are seeking information about how much of that \$440,000 difference the Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee would like to have placed on a referendum versus a permanent reduction in Pine Valley's property tax operating levy amount (i.e., increase to the profits returned to the general fund). **Thank you for providing an answer to this question.**
- Rationale for the approximate \$1.2 million in Pine Valley's capital fund. **Thank you for providing an answer to this question.**

At the November 14th meeting of the Finance & Personnel Committee, the committee received multiple reports from additional bodies responding to resolutions passed by the County Board in August. The County Board resolutions are shown in Attachment C.

Responses were received from the following committees:

1. Public Safety Standing Committee (*see Attachment D*)
2. HHS & Veterans Standing Committee (*see Attachment E*)
3. Land & Zoning Standing Committee (*see Attachment F*)
4. Fair, Recycling, and Parks Standing Committee (*see Attachment G*)
5. Education Standing Committee (*see Attachment H*)
6. Symons Natatorium Board (*see Attachment I*)

While a response has not been received from the Finance & Personnel Standing Committee regarding the Administrator, Clerk, and Treasurer's offices, the Administrator has filed his recommendation regarding those departments with the committee (*see Attachment J*).

The Referendum Committee may choose to request information from each committee. Ideas may include but not be limited to:

Public Safety Standing Committee (*see Attachment D*)

- What language in state statute requires a minimum level of service for the coroner?
- Can the Clerk of Circuit Court and District Attorney's offices produce more increased revenues than projected?
- The budget reductions identified in the 5-year financial plan were in comparison to the adopted 2022 budget, not the actual dollar amount spent at the upcoming end of the fiscal calendar year. Can the committee clarify that they are using the adopted 2022 budget to draw comparisons across the departments it oversees?
- Can the committee provide the statutory/constitutional language that mandates an additional position in the DA's office due to Marcy's law?
- Can the committee provide a high-level overview (i.e., estimated dollar amounts) of why housing inmates outside of Richland County is a higher cost than housing them within the county?

Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

- Resolution 22-96 lists several lines in the 5-year financial plan. Did the Public Safety Committee evaluate the need for each line item where additional costs are listed?
- Is there a position in the Sheriff's Department that performs data entry for reports? Is this a redundant service, assuming deputies are the primary authors of information for data entry?

HHS & Veterans Standing Committee (see Attachment E)

- What do the acronyms AMSO, APS, SOR, CYF, and CYS stand for? In general, it would be helpful to write out terms before acronyms are used regularly.
- Are the 2026 and 2027 amounts for the upgrade of the electronic health record system a maintenance fee for the system (i.e., \$100k purchase in 2025, \$10k fee in 2026, \$10k fee in 2027)?
- Why does the elimination of the APS/Crisis Worker only provide a savings of \$27k each year, and not \$82k as listed in an earlier column?
- Please explain in more detail how the restructuring of the behavioral health clinic provides a net savings of \$70k to \$80k each year.
- Is the children's long-term support program being eliminated with \$37k? How is there no service impact?
- Treatment Court is listed as a \$130k expense but the recommended decrease is \$27k. Why the difference? Also, CST is listed as a \$72k expense but the recommended decrease is \$12k. Why the difference?
- How can moving the Nutrition Program to ADRC provide a cost savings if the levy will need to be increased once ARPA funds run out?
- Please describe the practical day-to-day impacts of a \$10k reduction in the \$26k transportation program.
- What agency will be taking over the WHEAP program?
- Has any other county borrowed to comply with court-ordered child and adult placements? Please provide our committee with the statutory language and legal interpretation that allows borrowing for this purpose to occur.
- Most counties our size have HHS staffing levels of 40 – 50. Under the current proposals, what would be the total staffing level of the HHS in each year? Please note Capital Consortium employees allocated to other counties in future staffing level figures.
- 2025 and 2026 have large overages. What is the thinking behind providing those instead of delaying or modifying other cuts?
- Has HHS assessed reductions in grants and other revenue streams if certain cuts are made? Can these be briefly described in relevant line items?
- Please provide one updated chart (i.e., combine the HHS & Veterans charts) based on the actions of the HHS & Veterans Committee at their October 13th meeting.

Land & Zoning Standing Committee (see Attachment F)

- Please prepare a chart with line items and projected reductions to the levy by year (2024 – 2027).
- Why can't the Land Conservation Administrative Assistant be 60% time instead of 50% time to handle Parks operations? Does the committee recommend that another department oversee County parks instead of the Land Conservation Department?
- How do private septic inspection fees in Richland County compare to other similar counties? We are interested in the logic behind the increase.
- What are other options for increasing revenues in the Register of Deeds office, in case the State does not approve additional funding for property transfers?
- Please include a 2024 – 2027 estimate for GIS contract savings.
- If the committee is already aware of further efficiencies that will be realized by combining the Land Conservation and Zoning Departments, please include those in projections. If not, estimate the date when these efficiencies will be determined.

Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

Fair, Recycling, and Parks Standing Committee (see Attachment G)

- The recommended option 3 has several new approaches. A budget showing operating and startup costs for the new configuration should accompany it.
- Response plan has the county continuing with funding capital projects. A comprehensive capital budget plan is needed to assess this.
- What steps can be taken to maintain and increase a healthy level of donations from the community for fairgrounds improvements?

Education Standing Committee (see Attachment H)

- Resolution 22-94 asked for a plan that would have the food services operate with no tax levy revenue. Please provide a copy of this plan.
- Does the Education Committee wish for the Extension staffing reduction to be placed on the referendum?
- Please provide more detail regarding the rental of East Hall, including projections for revenues, expenditures, and timeline.
- Please provide greater detail on the UW-Richland Foundation's agreement to contribute \$100,000 for capital contributions. Is this an annual amount? For how many years? What are the terms of an agreement?
- Describe how your committee plans to achieve a full-time recruiter for the UW-Richland campus.
- How else can the committee provide additional revenues to offset the County cost of maintaining the campus? For example, can the farmland behind the campus generate additional income?

Symons Natatorium Board (see Attachment I)

- What does the YMCA franchise fee cover? Is this an ongoing annual fee? Direct discussion with YMCA may show that the fee covers functions like payroll, IT support, insurance, legal assistance, etc.
- If Symons were a YMCA franchise, does it still have a board, and if so, could current board members act as YMCA board members as a separate role if they so choose? Is it possible for Symons to be an added location of an existing YMCA like Bigley Pool in Viroqua?
- If the non-profit option is not preferred, please describe how additional revenues can be generated over the 2024 – 2027 period to offset the County cost of operating and maintaining Symons. Some ideas to consider:
 - Increasing donations
 - Increasing membership fees for those with higher incomes
 - Increasing class offerings to generate additional income
 - Developing an MOU with the UW-system to share expenses at the gymnasium in exchange for shared use of the gymnasium

Finance & Personnel Standing Committee (see Attachment J)

- When will the committee be delivering their recommendations regarding Resolution 22-96?

Richland Economic Development (RED) Board

The following are requests for more information from the October 10th Referendum Committee meeting:

- Research from other counties that have private funding for economic development (e.g., Vernon, Green), including the amount of time it takes to raise funds and how the governing board is represented by private contributors.
- Resolution 22-91 directs the RED Board to explore half of its budget coming from private sources, which amounts to approximately \$37,000 per year. We are seeking information about how much of that amount the RED Board would like to have placed on a referendum versus a permanent reduction in the RED budget.

Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

- Identify the private businesses that are supporting Economic Development in other counties such as Vernon and Green.

Attachments and References:

08A Public Works	08B Pine Valley
08C Resolutions	08D Public Safety
08E HHS & Veterans	08F Land Zoning
08G Fair Recycling Parks	08H Education
08I Symons	08J Finance Personnel

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

Approval:

Review:

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)

Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

Agenda Item Name: Correspondence from Committees

Department	County Board	Presented By:	Steve Carrow & Shaun Murphy-Lopez
Date of Meeting:	11/21/22	Action Needed:	Motion
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Resolution 22-74
Date submitted:	11/21/22	Referred by:	Multiple, see below

Recommendation and/or action language: A motion to request more information from multiple committees and boards.

Background: At the October 10th meeting of the Referendum Committee, the committee reviewed reports and requested more information from the following bodies:

- Public Works Standing Committee
- Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee
- Richland Economic Development Board

Public Works and Pine Valley/Child Support responded. Their original reports and responses to our requests are included in Attachments A and B. Follow-up requests for information from the Referendum Committee may include the following:

Public Works Standing Committee (see Attachment A)

Follow-up requests are *in red*.

- How proposed reductions to the property tax levy will be made in years 2025, 2026, and 2027, including the types of projects and purchases that will not be funded. *The figures provided do not match Resolution No. 22-96. Please use those figures and follow the chart format used by the Public Safety Committee (combining Highway, Courthouse Maintenance, and MIS into one chart).*
- The Highway Department is already projecting a \$567,000 decrease to highway reconstruction projects by 2027 to fund increases employee wage and benefits. What is the total budget for highway reconstruction projects in the operating levy, and is it large enough to absorb additional reductions through 2027? *No answer received. Please answer this question.*
- The portion of the Courthouse Maintenance budget that may be included in reductions to the property tax levy. *No answer received.*
- Why MIS prioritized items in the 5-year financial plan over the purchase of new computers (shown in chart below). *Thank you for providing an answer to this question. Our follow-up question is this: MIS proposes to reduce new computer purchases by \$40,000 each year. Are new computer purchases coded to fund and account number 10.5182.0000.5809? If so, the budgeted amount in 2022 was \$10,000. The budgeted amount in 2023 was \$50,000. Resolution No. 22-96 directs MIS to generate levy reductions compared to the 2022 budget. Please identify budget reductions compared to the 2022 budget.*

Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee (see Attachment B)

Follow-up requests are *in red*.

- A copy of Pine Valley's 2023 proposed budget showing how proposed profits are being determined, including their amount and how proposed profits relate to other projected expenses and revenues. *Thank you for providing an answer to this question.*
- Financial projections showing how proposed profits are being determined for the years 2024 – 2027, including their amount and how they relate to other projected expenses and revenues. *Thank you for*

Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

providing an answer to this question. The 5-year financial plan is built on the assumption Pine Valley will continue to produce a minimum \$300,000 annual profit, and Resolution No. 22-92 directed the committee to explore the possibility of increasing that profit to \$740,000. We understand the current projected profits are the following:

- \$250,000 in 2023
- \$350,000 in 2024
- \$500,000 in 2026
- \$630,000 in 2027

Please describe the most prudent steps that could be taken to increase the 2023 amount to retain the \$300,000 minimum level and escalate profits to reach \$740,000 by 2027.

- The current financial plan projects \$300,000 in profits from Pine Valley for each of the years 2023 – 2027. Resolution 22-92 directed Pine Valley to explore the possibility of increasing that amount to approximately \$740,000 per year. We are seeking information about how much of that \$440,000 difference the Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee would like to have placed on a referendum versus a permanent reduction in Pine Valley's property tax operating levy amount (i.e., increase to the profits returned to the general fund). **Thank you for providing an answer to this question.**
- Rationale for the approximate \$1.2 million in Pine Valley's capital fund. **Thank you for providing an answer to this question.**

At the November 14th meeting of the Finance & Personnel Committee, the committee received multiple reports from additional bodies responding to resolutions passed by the County Board in August. The County Board resolutions are shown in Attachment C.

Responses were received from the following committees:

1. Public Safety Standing Committee (*see Attachment D*)
2. HHS & Veterans Standing Committee (*see Attachment E*)
3. Land & Zoning Standing Committee (*see Attachment F*)
4. Fair, Recycling, and Parks Standing Committee (*see Attachment G*)
5. Education Standing Committee (*see Attachment H*)
6. Symons Natatorium Board (*see Attachment I*)

While a response has not been received from the Finance & Personnel Standing Committee regarding the Administrator, Clerk, and Treasurer's offices, the Administrator has filed his recommendation regarding those departments with the committee (*see Attachment J*).

The Referendum Committee may choose to request information from each committee. Ideas may include but not be limited to:

Public Safety Standing Committee (*see Attachment D*)

- What language in state statute requires a minimum level of service for the coroner?
- Can the Clerk of Circuit Court and District Attorney's offices produce more increased revenues than projected?
- The budget reductions identified in the 5-year financial plan were in comparison to the adopted 2022 budget, not the actual dollar amount spent at the upcoming end of the fiscal calendar year. Can the committee clarify that they are using the adopted 2022 budget to draw comparisons across the departments it oversees?
- Can the committee provide the statutory/constitutional language that mandates an additional position in the DA's office due to Marcy's law?
- Can the committee provide a high-level overview (i.e., estimated dollar amounts) of why housing inmates outside of Richland County is a higher cost than housing them within the county?

Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

- Resolution 22-96 lists several lines in the 5-year financial plan. Did the Public Safety Committee evaluate the need for each line item where additional costs are listed?
- Is there a position in the Sheriff's Department that performs data entry for reports? Is this a redundant service, assuming deputies are the primary authors of information for data entry?

HHS & Veterans Standing Committee (see Attachment E)

- What do the acronyms AMSO, APS, SOR, CYF, and CYS stand for? In general, it would be helpful to write out terms before acronyms are used regularly.
- Are the 2026 and 2027 amounts for the upgrade of the electronic health record system a maintenance fee for the system (i.e., \$100k purchase in 2025, \$10k fee in 2026, \$10k fee in 2027)?
- Why does the elimination of the APS/Crisis Worker only provide a savings of \$27k each year, and not \$82k as listed in an earlier column?
- Please explain in more detail how the restructuring of the behavioral health clinic provides a net savings of \$70k to \$80k each year.
- Is the children's long-term support program being eliminated with \$37k? How is there no service impact?
- Treatment Court is listed as a \$130k expense but the recommended decrease is \$27k. Why the difference? Also, CST is listed as a \$72k expense but the recommended decrease is \$12k. Why the difference?
- How can moving the Nutrition Program to ADRC provide a cost savings if the levy will need to be increased once ARPA funds run out?
- Please describe the practical day-to-day impacts of a \$10k reduction in the \$26k transportation program.
- What agency will be taking over the WHEAP program?
- Has any other county borrowed to comply with court-ordered child and adult placements? Please provide our committee with the statutory language and legal interpretation that allows borrowing for this purpose to occur.
- Most counties our size have HHS staffing levels of 40 – 50. Under the current proposals, what would be the total staffing level of the HHS in each year? Please note Capital Consortium employees allocated to other counties in future staffing level figures.
- 2025 and 2026 have large overages. What is the thinking behind providing those instead of delaying or modifying other cuts?
- Has HHS assessed reductions in grants and other revenue streams if certain cuts are made? Can these be briefly described in relevant line items?
- Please provide one updated chart (i.e., combine the HHS & Veterans charts) based on the actions of the HHS & Veterans Committee at their October 13th meeting.

Land & Zoning Standing Committee (see Attachment F)

- Please prepare a chart with line items and projected reductions to the levy by year (2024 – 2027).
- Why can't the Land Conservation Administrative Assistant be 60% time instead of 50% time to handle Parks operations? Does the committee recommend that another department oversee County parks instead of the Land Conservation Department?
- How do private septic inspection fees in Richland County compare to other similar counties? We are interested in the logic behind the increase.
- What are other options for increasing revenues in the Register of Deeds office, in case the State does not approve additional funding for property transfers?
- Please include a 2024 – 2027 estimate for GIS contract savings.
- If the committee is already aware of further efficiencies that will be realized by combining the Land Conservation and Zoning Departments, please include those in projections. If not, estimate the date when these efficiencies will be determined.

Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

Fair, Recycling, and Parks Standing Committee (see Attachment G)

- The recommended option 3 has several new approaches. A budget showing operating and startup costs for the new configuration should accompany it.
- Response plan has the county continuing with funding capital projects. A comprehensive capital budget plan is needed to assess this.
- What steps can be taken to maintain and increase a healthy level of donations from the community for fairgrounds improvements?

Education Standing Committee (see Attachment H)

- Resolution 22-94 asked for a plan that would have the food services operate with no tax levy revenue. Please provide a copy of this plan.
- Does the Education Committee wish for the Extension staffing reduction to be placed on the referendum?
- Please provide more detail regarding the rental of East Hall, including projections for revenues, expenditures, and timeline.
- Please provide greater detail on the UW-Richland Foundation's agreement to contribute \$100,000 for capital contributions. Is this an annual amount? For how many years? What are the terms of an agreement?
- Describe how your committee plans to achieve a full-time recruiter for the UW-Richland campus.
- How else can the committee provide additional revenues to offset the County cost of maintaining the campus? For example, can the farmland behind the campus generate additional income?

Symons Natatorium Board (see Attachment I)

- What does the YMCA franchise fee cover? Is this an ongoing annual fee? Direct discussion with YMCA may show that the fee covers functions like payroll, IT support, insurance, legal assistance, etc.
- If Symons were a YMCA franchise, does it still have a board, and if so, could current board members act as YMCA board members as a separate role if they so choose? Is it possible for Symons to be an added location of an existing YMCA like Bigley Pool in Viroqua?
- If the non-profit option is not preferred, please describe how additional revenues can be generated over the 2024 – 2027 period to offset the County cost of operating and maintaining Symons. Some ideas to consider:
 - Increasing donations
 - Increasing membership fees for those with higher incomes
 - Increasing class offerings to generate additional income
 - Developing an MOU with the UW-system to share expenses at the gymnasium in exchange for shared use of the gymnasium

Finance & Personnel Standing Committee (see Attachment J)

- When will the committee be delivering their recommendations regarding Resolution 22-96?

Richland Economic Development (RED) Board

Follow-up requests are in red.

- Research from other counties that have private funding for economic development (e.g., Vernon, Green), including the amount of time it takes to raise funds and how the governing board is represented by private contributors. **Thank you for providing information about Green County. The Vernon Economic Development Association (VEDA) is 100% privately funded and can be researched through contact information at www.veda-wi.org.**
- Resolution 22-91 directs the RED Board to explore half of its budget coming from private sources, which amounts to approximately \$37,000 per year. We are seeking information about how much of that amount

Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

the RED Board would like to have placed on a referendum versus a permanent reduction in the RED budget. **Thank you for answering this question.**

- Identify the private businesses that are supporting Economic Development in other counties such as Vernon and Green. **Please answer this question.**

Attachments and References:

08A Public Works	08B Pine Valley
08C Resolutions	08D Public Safety
08E HHS & Veterans	08F Land Zoning
08G Fair Recycling Parks	08H Education
08I Symons	08J Finance Personnel
08K RED	

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

Approval:

Review:

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)



Pine Valley Community Village

Skilled Nursing Center – Assisted Living Center – Rehabilitation Center

25951 Circle View Lane - Richland Center, WI 53581

- Phone: (608)647-2138
- Fax: (608)647-8955
- Website: pinevalleycommunity.org
- E-mail: pvhrc@co.richland.wi.us

"....dedicated to providing quality physical, spiritual and emotional care to all individuals who seek our services."

Date: September 22, 2022

To: Clint Langreck, Administrator

Re: Response to Resolution 22-96

From: Tom Rislow, administrator Pine Valley

Appointed Task: The Pine Valley and Child Support Standing Committee was specifically asked to *"Explore the possibility of Pine Valley generating profits that annually equal 50% of their mortgage payments to be used by the county for operations or capital projects, outside of Pine Valley, and return to Finance & Personnel with a report by 10/31/2022"*.

Principle and Interest on PV's debt for 2016-2019 varied.

However, from 2020 until 2036 it doesn't change.

Therefore, we will focus on that annual amount **which is \$1,482,912**.

50% of \$1,482,912 = \$741,456.

QUESTION

So the question for Pine Valley is whether it can generate at least \$741,456 in profits annually.

ANSWER

The short answer is NO.

The longer answer is...

YES, for 2017, 2018, 2019, and even 2020, when Covid stimulus dollars were received. However, since then even the best forecasted year would generate profits of only 23% of the mortgage amount. Why is that? What has changed?

Future occupancy for the nursing home section is forecasted at least 7% below historical numbers.

Therefore, annual revenue for the nursing home section is forecasted more than \$400,000 below what was previously possible.

Lack of staff is the cause for that.

Working against us...

Factors working against Pine Valley's ability to make larger profits, include:

- Heavy reliance on government funding
- Heavy reliance on hands on care
- Heavy care needs of residents
- Staffing shortages
- High Cost of contracted staff
- Rising wages and cost of benefits for employees (necessary in order to stay competitive)
- Have little to no fat left in expenses for cutting
- Have continued to periodically turn away potential admissions (due to staffing)
- Have less revenue because of lower occupancy

Working in our favor...

Factors working in Pine Valley's favor include:

- New facility
- Private rooms
- Reputation for high quality care (rated by CMS as 5-Star)
- Core group of committed dedicated employees
- Talented department leaders
- Strong demand for the assisted living apartments
- The State of Wisconsin recognizing nursing home challenges and raising Medicaid rates
- Higher retention rates and lower turnover rates among Pine Valley nursing positions when compared to the rest of the State of Wisconsin

Empty rooms...

Since forecasted occupancy is less, that means plenty of empty beds. Can't those be used for something else? The nursing home section has 4 separate households. Only if one of those households totally emptied all of its rooms, could a different licensure and type of care and clientele be considered. That would be a consideration if occupancy ever dipped that low which hasn't happened to date. However, by closing a nursing home section and delicensing the beds, Pine Valley would permanently lose its ability to get those licensed beds back.

Net cash history by year, and **Occupancy**:

	<u>Net cash</u>	<u>Occupancy(N.H.)</u>	<u>Asst.Liv.</u>
2018	\$610,714	95%	89%
2019	\$1,146,359	95%	95%
2020	*\$1,011,173	86%	96%
2021	\$526,315	86%	95%
2022	\$350,000	85%	93%
2023 – est.	\$300,000	88%	92%
2024 – est.	\$250,000	88%	92%
2025 – est.	\$350,000	88%	92%

Where did cash go?

- build up operating cash (*currently at \$2,710,328*)
- build up capital fund (*currently at \$1,161,249*), and
- the county general fund (*\$1,346,996 from 2019-2022*)

What causes the year-to-year variances?

- Occupancy
- Labor costs
- *additional COVID dollars in 2020

Assumptions

- Wage and health insurance increase percentages used for 2023, 2024 and 2025 were as originally proposed
(wages 7% - 7% - 4%) & (health insurance premiums 15% - 11% - 10%)
- While still challenging, in preparing this forecast we assumed staffing levels would be sufficient for maintaining an occupancy of at least 88%. **Should staffing levels not be able to be maintained, then forecasted cash flow will be less. (for example, the effect of closing one of the 20-bed households would cause an annual drop in revenue of 1.3 million, and a reduction in expenses of 1 million.)**

To: Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc committee

From: Tom Rislow, Administrator, Pine Valley

On behalf of the Trustees of the Pine Valley/Child Support standing committee

Date: November 10, 2022

Subject: **Response to the following information request** received from the Ad Hoc committee:

Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee

- *A copy of Pine Valley's 2023 proposed budget showing how proposed profits are being determined, including their amount and how proposed profits relate to other projected expenses and revenues.*
- *Financial projections showing how proposed profits are being determined for the years 2024 – 2027, including their amount and how they relate to other projected expenses and revenues.*
- *The current financial plan projects \$300,000 in profits from Pine Valley for each of the years 2023 – 2027. Resolution 22-92 directed Pine Valley to explore the possibility of increasing that amount to approximately \$740,000 per year. We are seeking information about how much of that \$440,000 difference the Pine Valley & Child Support Standing Committee would like to have placed on a referendum versus a permanent reduction in Pine Valley's property tax operating levy amount (i.e., increase to the profits returned to the general fund).*
- *Rationale for the approximate \$1.2 million in Pine Valley's capital fund.*

● **Please find attached**

- 1) Pine Valley's 2023 operations budget as passed by the F & PC
- 2) Pine Valley's financial projections for '24 through '27
- 3) Pine Valley's response to the question regarding the referendum
- 4) Pine Valley's rationale for its capital fund (2 pages)

**2023
PROPOSED
BUDGET**

wages at 7% increase

Pine Valley's 2023 Budget

40000 Revenue	
Medicare Part A	2,102,400
CBRF - Private Pay	737,832
CBRF - Family Care	91,980
Family Care	1,665,072
Private SNF	743,020
Medicaid SNF	4,058,928
Medicare Part B	236,400
Other Revenue	23,700
Total Revenue	9,659,332
60000 OPERATING-EXPENSE	
Activities	169,910
Social Services	142,723
Nursing	3,686,800
Medical Supplies	259,370
Other Purchased Services	536,139
Pharmacy	129,646
Physician Care	17,100
Nursing Administration	85,912
Dietary	716,570
Laundry	107,400
Housekeeping	247,675
Plant & Maintenance	252,342
Utilities	159,252
Sewer Plant	24,000
Accounting	177,025
Medical Records	55,731
Assisted Living	403,250
General & Administration	526,337
Employee Benefits	1,992,745
Insurance	209,172
Depreciation	1,123,587
Governing Board	0
Non-Operating Exp. Tx to Gen. Fund	
Therapy Supplies	10,130
Total OPERATING EXPENSE	11,032,816
Total Income / Loss From Operations	(1,373,484)
Tax Levy	0
S/P Funds (estimate)	600,000
Loss	-773,484
Add back in Depreciation	1,123,587
\$ tx. to Debt Service Fund	-300,000
\$ tx to PV capital fund	-40,000
Net	\$ 10,103 at 7%

← surplus to
'Debt Service'
Fund

for county use.

Pine Valley financial projections '24 through '27, based on estimated occupancy; estimated Medicaid and Medicare rates; estimated CPI, and COLA increases, and estimated increases in cost of benefits – most of which has lately become more unpredictable than ever. We would put less faith in the forecast; the further one gets away from 2022.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
Revenues	\$10,277,000	\$10,774,116	\$11,224,116	\$11,674,116
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>11,627,116</u>	<u>12,050,110</u>	<u>12,376,182</u>	<u>12,723,745</u>
= Loss	(1,350,116)	(1,275,994)	(1,152,068)	(1,049,629)
S/P Funds	<u>527,000</u>	<u>553,000</u>	<u>581,000</u>	<u>610,000</u>
= Loss	(823,116)	(722,994)	(571,068)	(439,629)
Add back				
<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>1,123,500</u>	<u>1,123,600</u>	<u>1,123,000</u>	<u>1,123,000</u>
= Surplus	300,384	400,606	551,932	683,371
To Debt				
Service Fund	250,000	350,000	500,000	630,000
<u>To Capital Fund</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>
= Net	10,384	10,606	11,932	13,371

Regarding the referendum question...

Many factors influence Pine Valley's annual financial performance, and so the above forecasts could end up being understated or overstated. Should the forecasts be proven in future years to be understated, then Richland County would be the beneficiary of more excess funds being returned to it from Pine Valley. However, should the forecasted numbers be proven in future years to be accurate or overstated, then Richland County would receive far less than the 50% of annual debt payments desired. Could expense reductions make up the difference?

Pine Valley has no positions that could be cut without negatively impacting resident services. Cuts to nursing department staffing would force closure of an entire wing. While the closure of a wing would potentially save \$1,000,000 annually in expenses. The closure of a wing would also cause a reduction of an estimated \$1,300,000 annually in revenues, thereby making Pine Valley's financial health more challenging than it is now.

Pine Valley, if mandated to produce profits each year that would cover 50% of its annual debt payment, would be forced to take from its Capital Fund and/or its operating reserves – in direct opposition to advice from its Financial Auditors. Richland County's taxpayers already bear a considerable burden with having to cover the county's debt payments for Pine Valley's facility. Asking them to bear even more would not be prudent.

Given all of these considerations, the Trustees of the Pine Valley/Child Support standing committee recommend that Pine Valley not be included on the referendum.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FORECAST – Pine Valley Community Village (July '21)
(items highlighted in red color were used in forecasting capital funds balance needs)

Year 1 (2022)

Computer replacements (10)	\$ 8,750
Mechanical patient lift-to-stand(1)	\$ 6,000
Air mattresses (2)	\$ 2,000
Laundry equipment (2)	\$ 2,600
Refrigerator (1)	\$ 2,000
Creation of additional parking	
In employee lot	<u>\$25,000</u>
Picnic shelter	<u>\$30,000</u>

Years 2-5 (2023-2026)

Mechanical patient lift (1)	\$ 6,000
Mechanical patient lift-to-stand (1)	\$ 6,000
Air Mattresses (6)	\$ 6,000
Refrigerators (4)	\$ 8,000
Patient Scales (2)	\$ 5,000
Storage shed	-----
Laundry equipment (8)	\$ 10,400
Computer replacements (40)	\$ 35,000
Floor Scrubber	<u>\$12,000</u>
Pave the alley road	<u>\$60,000</u>

Years 6-10 (2027-2031)

Computer replacements (50)	\$ 43,750
Mechanical patient lift (1)	\$ 6,000
Mechanical patient lift-to-stand (1)	\$ 6,000
Lawn Tractor - trade	<u>\$ 25,000</u>
Air Mattresses (6)	\$ 6,000
Floor Sweeper	\$ 2,700
Carpet Extractor	\$ 3,000
Dishwashers (5)	\$ 30,000
Ice Makers (5)	----
Refrigerators (5)	\$ 10,000
Roof top air handler unit motors	\$ 3,200
Elevator component replacement	<u>\$ 20,000</u>
Heat seal machine/printer	\$ 2,000
Laundry equipment (8)	\$ 10,400
Spa Tub	<u>\$ 25,000</u>

Years 11-20 (2032-2041)

Computer replacements	\$ 87,500
Laundry equipment	\$ 20,800
Refrigerators	\$ 20,000
Truck - trade	\$ 15,000
Lawn Tractor - trade	\$ 25,000
Blanket Warmers	\$ 10,000
Air Mattresses	\$ 12,000
Mechanical patient lifts	\$ 12,000
Mechanical patient lift-to-stands	\$ 12,000
Bladder Scanners	\$ 15,000
Floor Scrubber	\$ 14,000
Carpet Extractor	\$ 4,000
Replace 3 compressors	\$ 8,400
Asphalt Replacement	\$ 80,000
Exterior concrete replacement	\$ 62,000
Grant Vehicle	\$ 12,000 (cost share)
Mechanical room air handler	----
Motor replacements	\$ 3,000
Main GEO loop motor replacement	\$ 5,000
Spa Tub	<u>\$ 26,000</u>

20+ years (2042 & beyond)

Roof replacement	\$350,000
Electric Beds	\$160,000
Elevator component replace	\$ 50,000
Main GEO loop motor replacement	<u>\$ 5,500</u>

Total (red color only) \$1,006,000

***Revised total for out to
20 years, factoring inflation \$1,625,801***

**Less current balance (July '21) (\$ 921,250)
= Difference \$ 704,551**

**Annual contribution to capital fund for next 20 years in order to fund the 'difference'
of \$704,551 = \$35,227**

Capital Fund balance as of 9/30/22 = \$1,169,249

This figure includes \$160,000 set aside for Pine Valley's budgeted share of Solar Project cost.

Richland County Public Works

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Discussion and Possible Action on Feedback on the Education Information Document from the Ad-Hoc Committee.

Department	MIS/Highway	Presented By:	Barbara Scott/Joshua Elder
Date of Meeting:	09/08/2022	Action Needed:	Approval
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	
Date submitted:	09/06/2022	Referred by:	

Recommendation and/or action language:

Motion to ... Approve suggestions for cost savings suggestion to meet budgeting needs for MIS if no increase in tax levy can be made due to unsuccessful referendum.

Background: *(preferred one page or less with focus on options and decision points)*

All Richland County Department Heads have been instructed to respond to the Education Information Document from the Ad-Hoc Committee with effective realistic ways that we can cut costs to meet the budgetary constraints as possible directive action for 2024 budget.

While the MIS department is not a mandatory department and Highway is, the services that are provided by both are required for operations of mandatory services. Any business today requires IT support and service to function. The suggestions that are made here are carefully considered. It is with the utmost hesitation that we recommend cutting \$40,000.00 from MIS and \$238,000 from Highway for a combined savings of \$278,000. MIS uses \$40,000 for equipment that furnishes computers for departments within all of Richland County. Highway uses \$238,000 for purchase of asphalt. As this is compounded through 2027 the only way that computers will be replaced is through grants or other funding sources. Highway's funding potential loss could be replaced through alternatives such as short term borrowing. Slowing replacement of computers and roads will have negative impacts on the county up to including loss of productivity and impact to users of county services.

Attachments and References:

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Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source	Savings for Tax Levy	
<input type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

(summary of current and future impacts)

Approval: *Barbara J Scott*

Review: *Clinton Langreck*

Richland County Public Works

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Discussion and Possible Action on Feedback on the Education Information Document from the Ad-Hoc Committee.

Department	Highway	Presented By:	Joshua Elder
Date of Meeting:	10/13/2022	Action Needed:	Approval
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	
Date submitted:	09/06/2022	Referred by:	

Recommendation and/or action language:

Motion to ... Approve suggestions for cost savings suggestion to meet budgeting needs for Highway increase in tax levy can be made due to unsuccessful referendum.

Background: *(preferred one page or less with focus on options and decision points)*

All Richland County Department Heads have been instructed to respond to the Education Information Document from the Ad-Hoc Committee with effective realistic ways that we can cut costs to meet the budgetary constraints as possible directive action for 2024 budget.

In order to meet the \$238,000 for reduction of the 2024 budget, with a compounding total amount of reduction savings to county projected extending out into 2027 of \$952,000 for the tax levy proposed for Highway, two options were instructed to be considered. Option One is in response of the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee on 10-10-2022. Option 2 specifically for Finance and Personal on 11-1-2022.

Option One (Not Recommended by Department Head):

Reduction of three staff, reducing cost of staffing by \$236,518.62 and purchase of asphalt by \$1,481.38 to reach proposed portion of levy cut of \$238,000 in year 2024

Impact of Option One (Again Not recommended by Department Head):

Loss of revenue (Revenue produced by employees): \$164,269.08 per year and totaling \$657,076.32 by year 2027

Increased Overtime Cost (Added overtime to remaining employees): \$13,800 per year and totaling \$55,200 by year 2027

Additional Costs: \$36,000 per year (forced to sub contract labor and equipment) and totaling \$144,000 by year 2027

Increase of average response time during weather and public safety events

NOTE: These impact calculations are based off of a three-year average cost and revenue per employee.

Option Two (Recommended and accepted by department head and Public Works Committee on 9/8/2022 and again on 10/13/2022)

Reduce purchase of asphalt by \$238,000 (one mile of road) in 2024 and totaling \$952,000 by year 2027 (four miles of road).

Impact of option two:

No impact to revenue

No impact to overtime

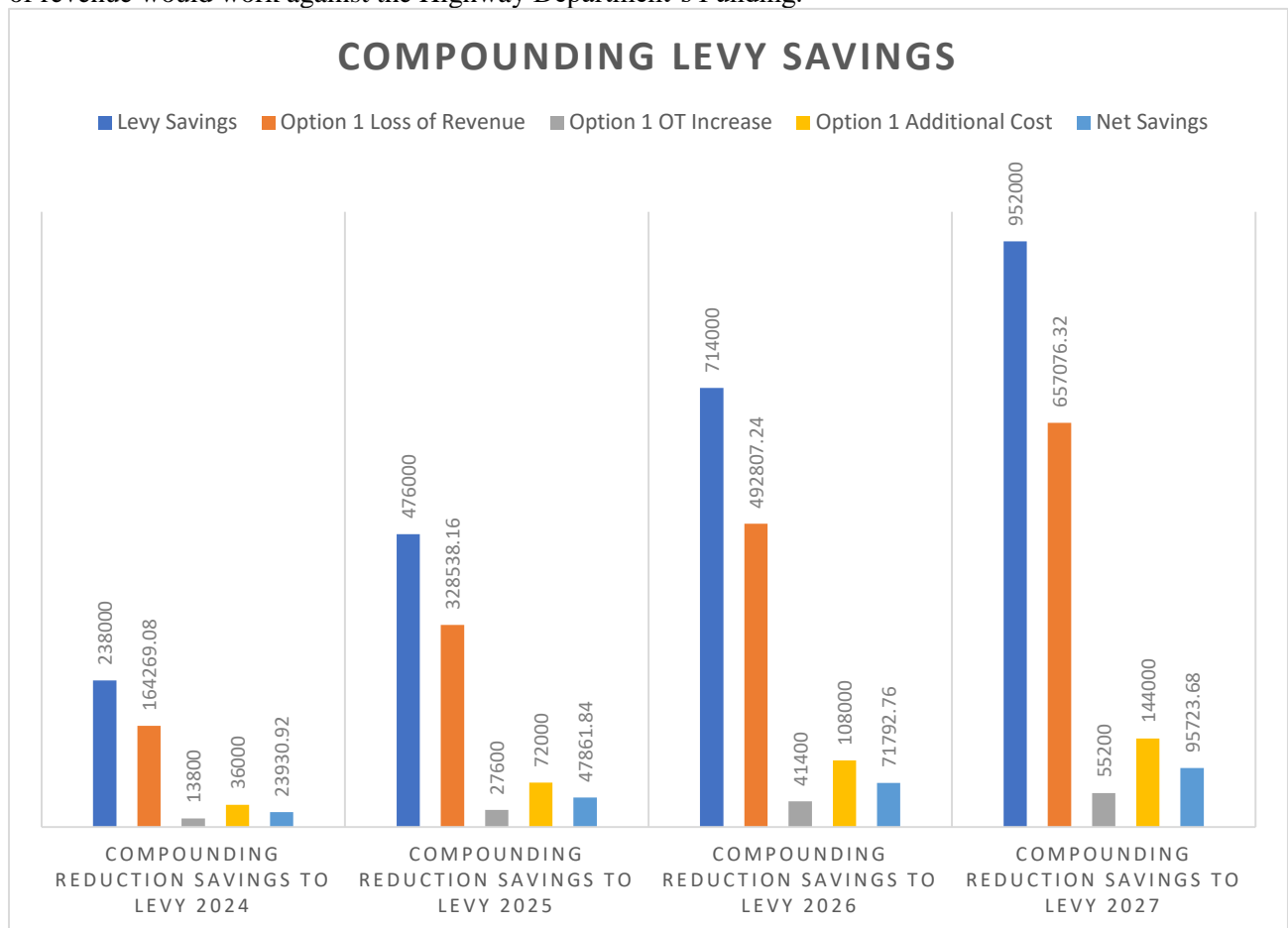
No impact to additional costs

No impact to current response times

Richland County Public Works

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NOTE: With increased costs from option one, the reduction to staffing would greatly reduce revenue produced, which in return would show a decrease in the amount of asphalt purchased because of the addition funding loss along with inadequate man power to place materials. Future costs could see impacts totaling greater than option 1 reduction of asphalt given the fact severity of weather events cannot be determined each year. Highway has already reduced staffing by two employees for future budget constraints. Further reduction of staffing will result in decreased moral and most likely an increase in empty positions with no applicants to fill them causing again increased costs. Most importantly the Highway Department's staffing costs, wage and benefit increases, are absorbed by the revenues employees produce. Employees time is always charged out for in all projects. In summary employee's wages and benefits are not paid for completely by operating tax levy. Below is a chart showing levy savings and break down of Option 1 costs. Please Pay attention to the Net Savings column. The Net Savings column shows the projected savings only to the Highway Department if the recommendation of Option 2 is ignored and Option 1 was instructed to take place. With Option 1 added expenditures and loss of revenue would work against the Highway Department's Funding.



This graph shows a couple of different key components that require further explanation. The first column (Dark Blue) shows the proposed reduction to the Highways Department's portion of the tax levy and the County's over all savings of tax levy compounding from 2024 thru 2027. This is the impact directly to the County and Highway.

Richland County Public Works

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The second column (Orange) is specific to the Highway Department and not the County's tax levy. It shows the estimated loss of revenue for the Highway Department projected in 2024 and compounded thru 2027. This dollar amount has no bearing on the County's tax levy, but the overall loss of revenue that would affect the overall capability of Highway being able to produce revenues used specifically for the purchase of additional materials and support of highway maintenance.

Third (Grey), estimated increase in overtime costs that would not only effect Highway but a portion of the County's tax levy distributed to Highway starting in 2024 thru 2027.

Fourth (Yellow), estimated increase in additional cost to Highway and again a portion of the tax levy distributed to Highway. This represents the projected added cost from having to sub contract additional labor and equipment in response to a possible directed reduction to staff starting in 2024 compounding thru 2027.

Fifth (Light Blue), This shows the projected actual savings specifically to Highway starting in 2024 and compounding thru 2027 from the actual reduction to Highway's portion to tax levy.

Attachments and References:

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Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source	Savings for Tax Levy	
<input type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

(summary of current and future impacts)

Approval: *Joshua Elder*

Review: *Clinton Langreck*

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)

Richland County Public Works

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Agenda Item Name: Discussion and Possible Action on Feedback on the Education Information Document from the Ad-Hoc Committee.

Department	MIS	Presented By:	Barbara Scott
Date of Meeting:	09/08/2022	Action Needed:	Approval
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	
Date submitted:	09/06/2022	Referred by:	

Recommendation and/or action language:

Motion to ... Approve suggestions for cost savings suggestion to meet budgeting needs for MIS if no increase in tax levy can be made due to unsuccessful referendum.

Background: *(preferred one page or less with focus on options and decision points)*

All Richland County Department Heads have been instructed to respond to the Education Information Document from the Ad-Hoc Committee with effective realistic ways that we can cut costs to meet the budgetary constraints that may be a reality if the referendum fails. This has been accepted by my committee on 9/8/2022 and again on 10/13/2022

While the MIS department is not a mandatory department the services that are provided by it are required for all mandatory services. Any business today requires IT support and service to function. The suggestions that are made here are not made lightly. It is with the utmost hesitation that I recommend cutting \$40,000.00 used for equipment that furnishes computers for departments within all of Richland County.

2024 - \$40,000.00
2025 - \$40,000.00
2026 - \$40,000.00
2027 - \$40,000.00

As this is compounded through 2027 totaling, \$240,000.00, the only way that computers will be replaced is through grants or other funding sources, if possible to find. This will decrease productivity and cause great frustration for employees. Downtime will cause delays in services to the public.

A second Approach that is not recommended by the MIS Director would be to cut the Radio Tech Position. This position will be in charge of managing the radio towers, communications systems, Spillman Cad and our 911 system. These duties would fall back to the network administrator if this position is not filled and that is not recommended as the position of network administrator becomes overwhelmed and will not be effective in completing all tasks as needed. This leads to a system that is not well maintained as well as taking away from the Network Administrators other duties.

The savings for the second NOT recommended would be:

2024 - \$79,750.48
2025 - \$83,738.00
2026 - \$87,924.90
2027 - \$91,441.90

This total would be \$342,855.28.

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Attached is a list of other items in the budget with reasons they were not considered, by the MIS director, as sensible reductions.

Attachments and References:

5 year financial plan items.	
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Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
X	Other funding Source	Savings for Tax Levy	
<input type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

(summary of current and future impacts)

Approval: *Barbara J Scott*

Review: *Clinton Langreck*

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)

Richland County Public Works

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5 Year Financial Plan Items

These are items not recommended as sensible as cuts by Department Head

1. **Reclassification of MIS Administrator** – We would not want to forego this as this position is not being properly compensated according to Carlson Dettman. Not paying the position appropriately will cause problems with staff retention and recruitment.
2. **Sherriff Tech Position** – This is an additional position to be added. Currently the duties for this position are being handled by various people and not getting done consistently. We are putting in a new 8.5-million-dollar system and will need someone to manage the investment by the county.
3. **Reclassification of MIS Director** - We would not want to forego this as this position is not being properly compensated according to Carlson Dettman. Not paying the position appropriately will cause problems with staff retention and recruitment.
4. **MIS Assistant** – With the added demands on the MIS Departments and continued increase in technology it is not realistic to have the current staffing levels support the needs of the county.
5. **Office 365 Licensing**- This will become necessary from a cybersecurity standpoint. Many insurance companies are currently dropping coverage on those companies who are keeping their Exchange on Premise. Also keeping old versions of software will cause more security risks. Microsoft has moved to a per user/month model so the cost will rise significantly.
6. **AS400 Cloud Backup** – The AS400 contains all of the financial data for the county. Ensuring that we have adequate backups of such data is critical.
7. **Smash** - For Cyber liability and open records requirements we need this software to manage our mobile devices. Again insurance companies are requiring some type of device management software for mobile devices to mitigate against attacks.
8. **Jamf** – This software allows us to remotely manage their iPads and iPhones for the county. This allows us to assist the board members in keeping their iPads up to date and working properly. The time saved with this software pays for the cost.
9. **Telephone Licensing** – This is an anticipated increase in cost for licensing. The only way to reduce this line is to advise departments people they have to reduce the number of phones in their departments and take them away from employees.
10. **New Website for the County** – Our current website needs updated and we would like to change to a more aesthetically pleasing platform. To do this we would have to pay more money. If we stay in the platform we currently have it has been said that it is deterring people from coming to our county.
11. **VEEAM** – This software is what our servers run on. Without it we cannot run our servers and would have no data. There is only option is not to have servers and save all data on computers locally without backups – that is not an option.
12. **Misc Software** – This software is what is used by the county for day to day operations. The only option to paying for this software would be to use it illegally or to pirate it which would not be something I can recommend.
13. **Barracuda Web-Filter** – This program protects the county by restricting access to harmful websites. The cybersecurity of the county is dependent on technology like this and cyber insurance companies will require something such as this.
14. **Security Training and Testing Program** - In the past month Richland County users have been hit with several scams and we have found that our users lack training in security. Our cyber

Richland County Public Works

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liability insurance will require this training and we will need to budget it to protect our network and our data.

- 15. Security Cameras and Video Storage** – We are required to retain video from sheriff department wearable video as well as squad cars. We also have video from security cameras in many buildings in the county. This creates a significant amount of data. Storing the data on our own servers is considerably cheaper than storing it in the cloud. So we have to purchase the equipment to store it. Security cameras protect the property of the county – we do not have to have them, but they have been used many times.
- 16. Secondary Internet Redundancy** – Almost all of the county’s departments rely on the internet to conduct business on a day to day basis. If we lose internet connection for one day we will lose significant amount of money. This preventative plan will be a backup so that if the internet is down from one provider we can still conduct business and serve our citizens.

RESOLUTION NO. 22 - 90

A Resolution Directing The Joint Ambulance Committee To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Accepted the County Administrator's Financial Conditions Report that illustrated the financial challenges in maintaining all current county provided services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Adopted the County Administrator's Financial and Capital Plan that iterates the Richland County's Strategic Plan calling for prioritization of services and reductions in levy expenditures on both mandated and non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County has received numerous petitions and concerns regarding the elimination, reduction or displacement of such highly valued services, and recognizes the importance that these services have to the community, and is taking actions to investigate a possible transition of these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Joint Ambulance Committee is tasked to work in conjunction with county administration, supporting staff, and community partners to consider services, develop and evaluate options and make a recommendation, to the County Board, on future operations of the Ambulance and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Ambulance Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Ambulance Operations

1. Service Consideration Matrix — Evaluate services under the guidance of the Service Consideration Matrix (of the Richland County Strategic Plan), finalize responses by a majority vote of the committee and submit the responses to the County Administrator to present to the Rules and Strategic Planning Standing Committee, Finance and Personnel Standing Committee and the Richland County Board.
2. Zero Levy for Operations and Capital Expenditures — Develop a course of action, if possible, where operations of services, ownership and maintenance of all grounds buildings and equipment remain under Richland County but in which no foreseeable operational levy is required entering into 2024 and beyond. This course of action should include a business plan with expenditure and revenue projections, an autonomous capital management program, for implementation no later than 01 Jan 2026.
3. Utilization of levy exemption — Develop a course of action, if possible, where operations of services, ownership of all grounds buildings and equipment, and administrative services remain under Richland County but in which levy exemption may be utilized to fund additional operational, capital and emergency dispatch expenditures. This course of action should include a business plan with expenditure and revenue projections, an autonomous capital management program, coordination with the Sheriff's Department and the Public Safety Committee regarding dispatch expenses, for implementation no later than 01 Jan 2026.

4. Autonomous Operation— Develop a course of action, if possible, where operations of services, ownership of all grounds buildings and equipment, and administrative services no longer under Richland County. This course of action should include a business plan with expenditure and revenue projections, an autonomous capital management program, and transition plan and timeline to operate autonomous on 01 Jan 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Ambulance Committee Chair, through the powers established of setting agendas, is responsible for completing these specified tasks by no later than the June 6th, 2023 Finance and Personnel Standing Committee Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the JAC recommends to proceed with option #4 above, the Richland County Administrator is tasked to work cooperatively with the participating municipalities, utilizing the JAC, to ensure the orderly transition of ambulance operations to the successor of the JAC. Such transition shall be done in a manner and time frame so as not to disrupt the employees of the service or the provision of EMS to the participating municipalities and the Richland Hospital. Any and all assets, including the Emergency Services Building, facility and grounds, equipment, vehicles, fixtures, furniture, financial accounts and supplies used in connection with the operation of the Richland County Ambulance Service, shall be transferred and conveyed to such successor of the JAC at no or nominal consideration. Employees of the Ambulance Service shall automatically be eligible for employment by the successor to the JAC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the JAC shall not request any tax levy dollars, for any ambulance service operations and capital projects, for the fiscal year 2023 and beyond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION
AYES _____ NOES _____

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE FINANCE
AND PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE
(10 AUGUST 2022)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

	FOR	AGAINST
MARTY BREWER	X	
SHAUN MURPHY-LOPEZ	X	
STEVE CARROW	X	
MELISSA LUCK		
DEREK S. KALISH	X	
COUNTY CLERK		
	DAVID TURK	
	STEVE WILLIAMSON	
DATED: AUGUST 16, 2022	MARC COUEY	
	GARY MANNING	X

RESOLUTION NO. 22 - 91

A Resolution Notifying The Symons Natatorium And Richland Economic Development Department Of Future Funding Reductions And Directing The Symons Natatorium Board And Richland Economic Development Board To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Accepted the County Administrator’s Financial Conditions Report that illustrated the financial challenges in maintaining all current county provided services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Adopted the County Administrator’s Financial and Capital Plan that iterates the Richland County’s Strategic Plan calling for prioritization of services and reductions in levy expenditures on both mandated and non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County has received numerous petitions and concerns regarding the elimination, reduction or displacement of such highly valued services, and recognizes the importance that these services have to the community, and is taking actions to investigate a possible transition of these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Richland County Board of Supervisors that the Symons Natatorium and Richland Economic Development have been identified for possible future funding reductions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Symons Natatorium Board and Richland Economic Development Board are tasked to work in conjunction with county administration, supporting staff, and community partner to consider services, develop and evaluate options and make a recommendation, to the County Board, on future operations of the Symons Natatorium and Richland Economic Development Department respectfully; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Symons Natatorium Board and Richland Economic Development Board are specifically tasked with the following:

Symons Natatorium Operations

- 1. Encouraged to explore the transfer of Symons to a non-profit organization, including research of similar non-profit models, and return to the Finance & Personnel Committee with a report by October 31st, 2022.

Economic Development Operations

- 2. Encourage the RED board to explore a public private partnership where public sources make up half and private sources make up half of the Economic Development budget; and return to Finance and Personnel Committee with a report by October 31st 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION
AYES _____ NOES _____

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE FINANCE
AND PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE
(10 AUGUST 2022)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED		FOR	AGAINST
DEREK S. KALISH COUNTY CLERK	MARTY BREWER	X	
	SHAUN MURPHY-LOPEZ	X	
	STEVE CARROW	X	
	MELISSA LUCK		
	TIMOTHY GOTSCHALL	X	
	DAVID TURK		
	STEVE WILLIAMSON		
	MARC COUEY		
DATED: AUGUST 16, 2022	GARY MANNING	X	

RESOLUTION NO. 22 - 92

A Resolution Directing The Pine Valley And Child Support Standing Committee To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Accepted the County Administrator’s Financial Conditions Report that illustrated the financial challenges in maintaining all current county provided services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Adopted the County Administrator’s Financial and Capital Plan that iterates the Richland County’s Strategic Plan calling for prioritization of services and reductions in levy expenditures on both mandated and non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County has received numerous petitions and concerns regarding the elimination, reduction or displacement of such highly valued services, and recognizes the importance that these services have to the community, and is taking actions to investigate a possible transition of these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Pine Valley and Child Support Standing Committee is tasked to work in conjunction with county administration, supporting staff, and community partner to consider services, develop and evaluate options and make a recommendation, to the County Board, on future operations of the Community Village and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pine Valley and Child Support Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Pine Valley and Child Support Operations

- 1. Explore the possibility of Pine Valley generating profits that annually equal 50% of their mortgage payments to be used by the county for operations or capital projects, outside of Pine Valley, and return to Finance and Personnel with a report by 10/31/2022

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pine Valley and Child Support Standing Committee Chair, through the powers established of setting agendas, is responsible for completing these specified tasks by no later than the October 31st, 2022 Finance and Personnel Standing Committee Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION
AYES _____ NOES _____

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE FINANCE
AND PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE
(10 AUGUST 2022)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED	FOR	AGAINST
	MARTY BREWER	X
	SHAUN MURPHY-LOPEZ	X
	STEVE CARROW	X
	MELISSA LUCK	
DEREK S. KALISH	TIMOTHY GOTSCHALL	X
COUNTY CLERK	DAVID TURK	
	STEVE WILLIAMSON	
DATED: AUGUST 16, 2022	MARC COUEY	
	GARY MANNING	X

RESOLUTION NO. 22 – 93 (Amended)

A Resolution Notifying The Fair And Recycling Coordinator And Parks Commission Of Future Funding Reductions And Directing The Richland County Fair, Recycling And Parks Standing Committee To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Accepted the County Administrator’s Financial Conditions Report that illustrated the financial challenges in maintaining all current county provided services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Adopted the County Administrator’s Financial and Capital Plan that iterates the Richland County’s Strategic Plan calling for prioritization of services and reductions in levy expenditures on both mandated and non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County has received numerous petitions and concerns regarding the elimination, reduction or displacement of such highly valued services, and recognizes the importance that these services have to the community, and is taking actions to investigate a possible transition of these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Richland County Board of Supervisors that the Fair and Recycling Operations and Parks and Trails Operations have been identified for future funding reductions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Richland County Fair, Recycling and Parks Standing Committee is tasked to work in conjunction with county administration, supporting staff, and community partner to consider services, develop and evaluate options and make a recommendation, to the County Board, on future operations of the Fair Grounds Recycling Center and County Parks and Trails; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richland County Fair, Recycling and Parks Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Regarding Fair Operations

- 1. To explore the transfer of the fair operations to a nonprofit agricultural society including research on peer counties with a non-profit fair model, and return to Finance and Personnel by 11/30/22 with a report

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION
AYES _____ NOES _____

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE FINANCE
AND PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE
(10 AUGUST 2022)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED		FOR	AGAINST
DEREK S. KALISH COUNTY CLERK	MARTY BREWER	X	
	SHAUN MURPHY-LOPEZ	X	
	STEVE CARROW	X	
	MELISSA LUCK		
	TIMOTHY GOTSCHALL	X	
DATED: AUGUST 16, 2022	DAVID TURK		
	STEVE WILLIAMSON		
	MARC COUEY		
	GARY MANNING	X	

Amended On Board Floor August 16, 2022

RESOLUTION NO. 22 – 94 (Amended)

A Resolution Notifying The UW Platteville-Richland Leadership, UW Extension Office And Food Services Of Future Funding Reductions And Directing The Richland County Education Standing Committee To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Accepted the County Administrator's Financial Conditions Report that illustrated the financial challenges in maintaining all current county provided services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Adopted the County Administrator's Financial and Capital Plan that iterates the Richland County's Strategic Plan calling for prioritization of services and reductions in levy expenditures on both mandated and non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County has received numerous petitions and concerns regarding the elimination, reduction or displacement of such highly valued services, and recognizes the importance that these services have to the community, and is taking actions to investigate a possible transition of these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Richland County Board of Supervisors that the University of Wisconsin Extension Office, Food Services and partners in the UW Platteville-Richland have been identified for future funding reductions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Richland County Education Standing Committee is tasked to work in conjunction with county administration, supporting staff, UW Platteville-Richland and community partner to consider services, develop and evaluate options and make a recommendation, to the County Board, on future operations of the UW Extension Office, Food Services and UW Platteville-Richland; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Education Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Regarding the UW Campus

1. Existing Agreement with No Levy — Develop a course of action, if possible, where ownership of all grounds and property is retained by Richland County and services are provided through UW Platteville-Richland, but in which no foreseeable county levy dollars are needed for any future operations or capital expenditures entering into 2025 and beyond.
2. Explore more cost effective and efficient use of land and buildings.
 - a. Explore the return of recruiting and admissions from the UW Platteville Campus to the UW Richland Campus and
 - b. Explore a dollar for dollar match by UW Richland Foundation for capital projects, not to exceed \$100,000 year in exchange for the County committing to continue to allocate a minimum of \$20,000 a year for insurance and \$100,000 for capital maintenance projects.

Regarding the Food Services

RESOLUTION NO. 22 - 95

A Resolution Directing The Land And Zoning Standing Committee To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Accepted the County Administrator’s Financial Conditions Report that illustrated the financial challenges in maintaining all current county provided services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Adopted the County Administrator’s Financial and Capital Plan that iterates the Richland County’s Strategic Plan calling for prioritization of services and reductions in levy expenditures on both mandated and non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County has received numerous petitions and concerns regarding the elimination, reduction or displacement of such highly valued services, and recognizes the importance that these services have to the community, and is taking actions to investigate a possible transition of these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Land and Zoning Standing Committee is tasked to work in conjunction with county administration, supporting staff, and community partner to consider services, develop and evaluate options and make a recommendation, to the County Board, on future operations of the Land Conservation, Zoning and Register of Deeds and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Land and Zoning Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Regarding Services Provided through Land Conservation, Zoning and Register of Deeds

- 1. Service Consideration Matrix — Evaluate services under the guidance of the Service Consideration Matrix (of the Richland County Strategic Plan), finalize responses by a majority vote of the committee and submit the responses to the County Administrator to present to the Rules and Strategic Planning Standing Committee, Finance and Personnel Standing Committee and the Richland County Board.
- 2. Levy Expenditure Reduction— Develop a course of action, if possible, where departments and budgets under supervision have a total projected, levy operational expense reduction of \$50,000 entering into 2024 and the same sustained reduction beyond. These adjustments in expenditure must account for projected increases in COLA and Compensation Policy and other employee benefits included with the financial plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Land and Zoning Standing Committee Chair, through the powers established of setting agendas, is responsible for completing these specified tasks by no later than the October 31st, 2022 Finance and Personnel Standing Committee Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION
AYES _____ NOES _____

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE FINANCE
AND PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE
(10 AUGUST 2022)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED		FOR	AGAINST
DEREK S. KALISH COUNTY CLERK	MARTY BREWER	X	
	SHAUN MURPHY-LOPEZ	X	
	STEVE CARROW	X	
	MELISSA LUCK		
	TIMOTHY GOTSCHALL	X	
	DAVID TURK		
	STEVE WILLIAMSON		
	MARC COUEY		
	GARY MANNING	X	
DATED: AUGUST 16, 2022			

RESOLUTION NO. 22 – 96 (Amended)

A Resolution Directing The Various Richland County Standing Committees To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Accepted the County Administrator's Financial Conditions Report that illustrated the financial challenges in maintaining all current county provided services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County Board Adopted the County Administrator's Financial and Capital Plan that iterates the Richland County's Strategic Plan calling for prioritization of services and reductions in levy expenditures on both mandated and non-mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Richland County has received numerous petitions and concerns regarding the elimination, reduction or displacement of such highly valued services, and recognizes the importance that these services have to the community, and is taking actions to investigate a possible transition of these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Richland County Board of Supervisors that the various Departments and Services listed below have been identified for service consideration and possible future funding reductions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the various Standing Committees listed below are tasked to work in conjunction with county administration, supporting staff, and community partner to consider services, develop and evaluate options and make a recommendation, to the County Board, on future operations of the various Departments and Services listed below; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health and Human Services and Veterans Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Regarding Services Provided through Health and Human Services and Veterans Services

1. Develop a recommended list of proposed projected levy reductions (in comparing to the 2022 budget) of \$320,000 in 2024, \$637,000 in 2025, \$783,000 in 2026, and \$1,004,000 in 2027, including but not limited to lines 1.01 through 1.92 and 17.01 through 17.92 in the 5-year financial plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Safety Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Regarding Services Provided through Sheriff's Office, Clerk of Courts Office, Corner's Office, District Attorney's Office, Register in Probates Office and Emergency Management

2. Develop a recommended list of proposed projected levy reductions (in comparing to the 2022 budget) of \$531,000 in 2024, \$1,058,000 in 2025, \$1,301,000 in 2026, and \$1,668,000 in 2027, including but not limited to lines 3.01 through 5.91, 8.01 through 8.90, 10.01 through 11.91, and 24.01 through 25.91 in the 5-year financial plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Works Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Regarding Services Provided through Highway Department, Courthouse Maintenance and Management Information Systems

3. Develop a recommended list of proposed projected levy reductions (in comparing to the 2022 budget) of \$278,000 in 2024, \$554,000 in 2025, \$681,000 in 2026, and \$873,000 in 2027, including but not limited to lines 2.01 through 2.91 and 18.01 through 20.91 in the 5-year financial plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Finance and Personnel Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:

Regarding Services Provided through County Administrator, County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Board
and ancillary budgets

4. Develop a recommended list of proposed projected levy reductions (in comparing to the 2022 budget) of \$122,000 in 2024, \$243,000 in 2025, \$299,000 in 2026, and \$383,000 in 2027, including but not limited to lines 6.01 through 6.91, 13.01 through 14.91, and 21.01 through 22.91 in the 5-year financial plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the various Standing Committee Chairs, through the powers established of setting agendas, is responsible for completing these specified tasks by no later than the October 31st, 2022 Finance and Personnel Standing Committee Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

VOTE ON FOREGOING RESOLUTION
AYES _____ NOES _____

RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE FINANCE
AND PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE
(10 AUGUST 2022)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

DEREK S. KALISH
COUNTY CLERK

DATED: AUGUST 16, 2022

	FOR	AGAINST
MARTY BREWER	X	
SHAUN MURPHY-LOPEZ		X
STEVE CARROW	X	
MELISSA LUCK		
TIMOTHY GOTSCHALL	X	
DAVID TURK		
STEVE WILLIAMSON		
MARC COUEY		
GARY MANNING	X	

Resolution Amended On Board Floor August 16, 2022

Richland County

Public Safety Standing Committee

To: Finance & Personnel Standing Committee

Date: November 7, 2022

Re: Response to Resolution 22-96

Overall, the departments reporting to the Public Safety Committee were asked to reduce their budgets or increase revenues for a total of \$1,668,000 by 2027.

It should be noted that most of the departments that report to the Public Safety Committee have statutory responsibilities and provide services that are not available from the private sector. When counties were originally formed in Wisconsin, the services provided by Public Safety Departments were a core reason for their formation. These departments were not created as a revenue stream for counties. Also of note is that the total reduction of \$1.668 million by 2027 **would result in budgets that are 40% less** than the 2022 allocations for all departments that report to this committee.

Clerk of Circuit Court- Requested Total Reduction (2024-2027) \$46,864.44

The Clerk of Circuit Court is able to meet the required levy reduction by the Clerk not using county health insurance (\$22,829) and an increase in collections of unpaid tickets, court settlements, and other fees (\$24,000). The Clerk of Circuit Court office has established a pattern of exceeding budgeted revenue estimates each year for several years so we feel confident they can increase their revenues by the needed amount to meet the levy reduction.

Total reduction/increase revenues 2024-2027 = \$46,829. No need to add to referendum.

Coroner- Requested Total Reduction (2024-2027) \$21,179.77

The Coroner's office budget consists of staff salary (coroner, call-in deputies) and morgue supplies required to meet the statutory duties related to this office. If we were to cut this budget it would have to be to the Coroner's salary or to call-in deputies, which would inhibit the ability of Richland County to fulfill its statutory duties related to deaths in Richland County. **Total reduction 2024-2027 = \$0. Not recommended for addition to the referendum because Committee feels it is a core service and is operating with a minimal budget. Also, if the referendum were to fail we would not, by state statute, be allowed to cut the services provided by this office.**

District Attorney- Requested Total Reduction (2024-2027) \$77,946.33

The District Attorney's office is able to meet the required levy reduction by increase to state staffing funds and increase to bond forfeitures. The state reimburses the County for half the salary/benefits of the victim witness coordinator position and with the reorganization of the District Attorney's office that position will be getting an additional \$10,000 per year in reimbursement (starting in 2023). Also, due to the substantial reorganization of the office, there has been a significant change in the policy regarding filing motions to forfeit cash bonds by repeat offenders. That policy change by the office is likely to generate at least approximately \$10,000 per year by the office for use in the general revenue fund (also starting in 2023). **Total increase to income 2023-2027 = \$100,000**

A new position was approved in this office for 2022. It has taken much of the year to get that position description written and approved. There has also been reorganization of employees in that office which will result in the budget for 2022 being underspent by \$76,000. That amount, when carried forward, will meet the required reduction. In addition, while it is difficult to pin-point the exact numbers at this time, the Richland County general fund will likely see increased victim witness state reimbursement dollars beginning in FY23 due to the office restructuring. As the office moves forward, a more concrete dollar figure will be identified. **Total savings in 2022 = \$76,000. No need to add to referendum.**

Richland County

Public Safety Standing Committee

Emergency Government- Requested Total Reduction (2024-2027) \$14,430.59

The Emergency Management (EM) budget consists of salary for the director at 60% (the other 40% is paid for by Ambulance). Reduction of this position would put Richland County at risk of being unable to appropriately respond to any emergency that may arise and inhibit our ability to apply for and attain FEMA funding. In the past 15 years, Richland County has qualified for FEMA funding in 6 different years, bringing in several million dollars for needed response and repairs. There were at least 2 other years where Richland County met the threshold for damages to qualify for FEMA money but the State as a whole did not so we were not allowed to apply. The EM department was also critical in our response to Covid-19. In addition, there have been countless responses to chemical spills, road hazards, tornadoes, straight-line wind events and many other emergencies. The Director has indicated that he is willing to forego any raises from 2024-2027, which would be a reduction of \$3,508.48. The committee does not recommend this reduction. If we reduce the director position to less than 20 hrs per week we will also lose \$30,509 in federal funding for emergency management staffing. **Total reduction 2024-2027 = \$0. Not recommended for addition to the referendum because Committee feels it is a core service and is operating with a minimal budget. Also, if the referendum were to fail we would not, by state statute, be allowed to cut the services provided by this office.**

Family Court Commissioner- Requested Total Reduction (2024-2027) \$12,063.77

This budget consists of salary for the Commissioner and \$2000 to run the office. If we were to reduce the salary of the commissioner by the required amount her salary would be the same as it was in 1997. The Commissioner is required by statute and reducing the salary to that level would make the position unfillable and the county would not be able to provide the required services of the office. **Total reduction 2024-2027 = \$0. Not recommended for addition to the referendum because Committee feels it is a core service and is operating with a minimal budget. Also, if the referendum were to fail we would not, by state statute, be allowed to cut the services provided by this office.**

Local Emergency Planning Committee- Requested Total Reduction (2024-2027) \$2,989.60

The budget for the LEPC is specifically for expenses related to the Federal requirement of planning for and responding to hazardous materials. LEPC is required under EPCRA which stands for the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act. This budget consists of contract salary for chemical hazard response and planning, payment to Vernon County for our portion for hazmat response coverage (their Hazmat response team/equipment), computer equipment and other hazmat/emergency response equipment, which are all items required by state and federal regulations. The budget can be reduced by \$210 for attendance to a conference. **Total reduction 2024-2027 = \$210. Not recommended for addition to the referendum because Committee feels it is a core service and is operating with a minimal budget. Also, if the referendum were to fail we would not, by state statute, be allowed to cut the services provided by this office.**

Register in Probate- Requested Total Reduction (2024-2027) \$76,572.59

This budget consists of salary for the Register in Probate and a deputy as well as some office supplies and attorney fees. It should be noted that Jenifer Laue is also the Judicial Assistant and Juvenile Clerk. In addition to normal daily duties, there are statutory requirements of this office that include the scheduling of hearings within a set timeframe. When children are taken out of the home and placed into Temporary Physical Custody by the social workers, there must be a hearing within 48 hours. When someone has an emergency detention (Mental) situation there must be a hearing within 72 hours. In juvenile cases, there are times when a hearing must be scheduled within 24 hours because a juvenile cannot sit in jail as is allowed in adult cases. This means that Ms. Laue or her Deputy must always be available during regular business hours. If the deputy position were eliminated from this office, that would mean that Ms. Laue would never be allowed a day away from the office in which she wasn't on call for emergency hearings. Ms. Laue did not have a deputy when she first accepted the positions of Register in Probate/Judicial Assistant/Juvenile Clerk and the Clerk of Circuit Court was her backup, it was not sustainable. The deputy position was assigned to this office a couple of years ago to address this issue. It was created by eliminating a deputy position from the Clerk of Circuit Court's office. Elimination of the deputy position from this office would reduce the budget by \$55,363 but is not recommended by this committee because the Clerk of Circuit Court's office would no longer be able to serve as a backup given that they reduced their staff to make the Register in Probate office whole. Ms. Laue has indicated that

Richland County

Public Safety Standing Committee

the budget can be reduced by the deputy not taking health insurance (\$5009.18), scrutinization of attorney fees (\$2000, estimated) and reduction to conference/continuing education expenses (\$150).

Total reduction 2024-2027 = \$7,159.18. If the deputy position were to be eliminated the committee would recommend it be placed on the referendum.

Sheriff's Department – Requested Total Reduction (2024-2027) \$1,415,952.90

The Sheriff's Department (which includes the Richland County Jail and Dispatch) has been tasked with cutting \$450,762 in 2024, \$447,366 in 2025, \$206,281 in 2026 and \$311,544 in 2027.

In 2024, the department has identified some non-staff areas in their budget that could be reduced for a total of \$132,000. The committee is comfortable with most of those cuts with the exception of the \$7,000 cut to training. Deputies are required to have 24 hrs of training annually (12 hrs of that must be in person). The Sheriff's Department is a relatively young department with 10 of 13 total road patrol deputies having been hired since 2018 (with 6 of those hired in 2021). It seems irresponsible for the county to cut funds for training of such a young force so therefore do not recommend reduction to the training budget. The Sheriff has also begun accepting state sanction inmates that will create additional income of \$60,000. The remainder of the requested budget reductions will have to be taken from staff. To meet the balance of budget reductions 3 positions would need to be eliminated in the Sheriff's Department (\$90,576*/position).

In 2025, the only way to reduce the budget to the requested level would be to eliminate 5 more positions (\$93,752*/position).

In 2026, the only way to reduce the budget to the requested level would be to eliminate 2 more positions (\$97,046*/position).

In 2027, the only way to reduce the budget to the requested level would be to eliminate 3 more positions (\$100,463*/position).

*In calculating these salary amounts it is with the assumption that family health insurance is included.

The table below outlines one scenario for staffing reductions. If these cuts were required, the Sheriff would use his discretion to determine which positions would be cut to meet required budget reductions.

Position	2022	2024	2025	2026	2027
Sheriff	1	1	1	1	1
Chief Deputy	1	1	1	1	1
Lieutenant	1	1	1	1	1
Investigator	1	1	1	1	0
Sergeants-Road Patrol	3	3	3	3	1
Sergeants-Jail/Dispatch	2	2	2	2	2
Road Patrol Deputies	10	7	2	0	0
Jailer/Dispatch Deputies	12	12	12	12	12
Office Manager	1	1	1	1	1
Administrative Assistant	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	33	30	25	23	20

Richland County

Public Safety Standing Committee

Other data to consider when contemplating a reduction to Sheriff's Department positions:

Comparison at current (2022) Richland County Sheriff's Department staffing levels

	Officers per 1000 residents	Coverage Area (sq mile)
Richland County Sheriff	1.33*	589
National Average	2.8**	
Regional Average (Midwest)	2.2**	
Richland Center	2.1	4.6

*Calculated based on 2020 census data. Richland Center population removed from total population to calculate Sheriff Deputy/1000 residents.

**Above statistics obtained from <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/police-employee-data> and <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/tables/table-70>

In 2010 there was an open deputy position in the Sheriff's department that was not filled due to budget considerations and has been left vacant. Since then overall call volume (calls when deputies needed to respond) are up 20%, OWI cases are up 147%, drug cases are up 260%, emergency detention cases are up 766%, domestic cases remain consistent (have not dropped) and crashes remain consistent (have not dropped). It should be noted that one emergency detention case can take up to 10 hours of a deputy's time and are a statutory requirement to handle. These reports generated from Spillman, the Sheriff's Department records management software.

Starting with the cuts in 2024, the department would be severely limited (to completely unable by 2027) to do more than respond to critical emergencies. Theft, trespassing, burglary, minor assaults, paper service, traffic grant programs, routine patrol, house checks, business checks, ambulance assists, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, parades, presence at local events and ballgames and many other non-life threatening issues would not be responded to until all critical emergencies are handled. In addition, the following services would no longer be provided:

1. No Counteract in schools or school visits
2. No bars or business checks
3. No fingerprinting program in schools
4. No K9 demos or school drug sniffs
5. No funeral escorts
6. Withdrawal from Regional Drug Task Force
7. No Special Response Team
8. Court security (statutory duty) would have to be covered by Sheriff working from courtroom

The 2022 staffing levels in the Richland County jail are considered by the State of Wisconsin Jail Inspector to be the minimum allowable without closing one or more blocks in the jail. If even one block were to close, it would mean that some inmates would need to be housed out of county at considerable expense, and that would negate any savings created by eliminating jailer/dispatch positions.

It is the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee that Richland County not cut any deputy or jailer/dispatcher positions from 2024-2027. As indicated by the above data, the Richland County Sheriff's Department is already understaffed at the current staffing levels and therefore this committee cannot recommend these positions be placed on the referendum because if the referendum were to fail we would have to cut those positions.

Respectfully Submitted,



Melissa Luck
Chair, Public Safety Committee

Department	2022 Levy Budget	% of Levy for Public Safety Departments	2024 cuts/increase revenues	2025	2026	2027	Total Cuts/Increased Revenues by 2027	TOTAL Department Budget from LEVY in 2027	% of 2022 budget
Circuit Court	\$ 114,728.40	2.81%	\$ 14,919.08	\$ 14,806.69	\$ 6,827.37	\$ 10,311.30	\$ 46,864.44	\$ 67,863.96	59.15%
Coroner	\$ 51,850.00	1.27%	\$ 6,742.48	\$ 6,691.69	\$ 3,085.54	\$ 4,660.06	\$ 21,179.77	\$ 30,670.23	59.15%
District Attorney	\$ 190,819.69	4.67%	\$ 24,813.85	\$ 24,626.93	\$ 11,355.49	\$ 17,150.06	\$ 77,946.33	\$ 112,873.36	59.15%
Emergency Government	\$ 35,327.40	0.87%	\$ 4,593.91	\$ 4,559.31	\$ 2,102.30	\$ 3,175.08	\$ 14,430.59	\$ 20,896.81	59.15%
Family Court Commissioner	\$ 29,533.19	0.72%	\$ 3,840.44	\$ 3,811.51	\$ 1,757.49	\$ 2,654.32	\$ 12,063.77	\$ 17,469.42	59.15%
Local Emergency Planning Committee	\$ 7,318.80	0.18%	\$ 951.72	\$ 944.55	\$ 435.53	\$ 657.78	\$ 2,989.60	\$ 4,329.20	59.15%
Register in Probate	\$ 187,456.65	4.59%	\$ 24,376.53	\$ 24,192.90	\$ 11,155.36	\$ 16,847.81	\$ 76,572.59	\$ 110,884.06	59.15%
Sheriff's Department	\$ 3,466,381.00	84.89%	\$ 450,761.99	\$ 447,366.41	\$ 206,280.91	\$ 311,543.59	\$ 1,415,952.90	\$ 2,050,428.10	59.15%
		100.00%	\$ 531,000.00	\$ 527,000.00	\$ 243,000.00	\$ 367,000.00	\$ 1,668,000.00		
TOTAL ALL DEPARTMENTS \$ 4,083,415.13									

Resolution Reductions			TOTAL NEW REDUCTIONS PER YEAR	
2024	\$ 531,000.00		\$ 531,000.00	
2025	\$ 1,058,000.00	includes keeping \$531k cuts from 2024	\$ 527,000.00	
2026	\$ 1,301,000.00	includes prev. 1.058M cuts 24/25	\$ 243,000.00	
2027	\$ 1,668,000.00	includes prev.1.3M cuts from 24, 25 & 26	\$ 367,000.00	
TOTAL \$ 1,668,000.00				

DRAFT

				2024		2025		2026		2027		Total Recommended Reduction/Revenues	Resolution Reduction	Difference	
Department	Proposed Cut or Revenue	Dollar Amount	Year of Reduction	Committee Recommend	Budget Adjustment	Committee Recommend	Budget Adjustment	Committee Recommend	Budget Adjustment	Committee Recommend	Budget Adjustment				
Circuit Court	Reduction of Health Insurance for Clerk of Court	\$ 22,829.00	2024	yes	\$ (14,919.08)	yes	\$ (7,909.92)	-	-	-	-				
Circuit Court	Increase Revenue	\$ 24,000.00	2025-2027	-	-	yes	\$ 7,000.00	yes	\$ 7,000.00	yes	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 46,829.00	\$ 46,864.44	\$ (35.44)	
Coroner	Reduction in Salaries	\$ 21,179.77	2024-2027	no	\$ (6,742.48)	no	\$ (6,691.69)	no	\$ (3,085.54)	no	\$ (4,660.06)	\$ -	\$ 21,179.77	\$ (21,179.77)	
District Attorney	Increase in state funding victim/witness position	\$ 10,000.00	2023-2027	yes	\$ 10,000.00	yes	\$ 10,000.00	yes	\$ 10,000.00	yes	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 50,000.00			
District Attorney	Increase bond forfeitures	\$ 10,000.00	2023-2027	yes	\$ 10,000.00	yes	\$ 10,000.00	yes	\$ 10,000.00	yes	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 50,000.00			
District Attorney	Carryover unspent funds from 2022	\$ 76,000.00	2024-2027	yes	\$ 24,813.85	yes	\$ 24,626.93	yes	\$ 11,355.49	yes	\$ 15,203.73	\$ 76,000.00	\$ 77,946.33	\$ 98,053.67	
Emergency Government	Reduction in Salaries	\$ 14,430.59	2026	no	\$ -	no	\$ -	no	\$ -	no	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,430.59	\$ (14,430.59)	
Family Court Commissioner	Reduction in Salary	\$ 12,063.77	2024-2027	no	\$ (3,849.44)	no	\$ (3,811.51)	no	\$ (1,757.49)	no	\$ (657.78)	\$ -	\$ 12,063.77	\$ (12,063.77)	
Local Emergency Planning Committee	Reduction to Conference	\$ 210.00	2024	yes	\$ (210.00)	no	\$ -	no	\$ -	no	\$ -	\$ 210.00	\$ 2,989.60	\$ (2,779.60)	
Register in Probate	Eliminate Deputy	\$ 55,563.00	2024	no	\$ (55,563.00)		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -				
Register in Probate	Deputy not taking health insurance	\$ 5,009.18	2024	yes	\$ (5,009.18)		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -				
Register in Probate	Monitor Attorney Fees	\$ 2,000.00	2024	yes	\$ (2,000.00)		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
Register in Probate	Conference/Continuing Education Reduction	\$ 150.00	2024	yes	\$ (150.00)		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	\$ 7,159.18	\$ 76,572.29	\$ (69,413.11)	
Sheriff's Office	Road Patrol Deputy (3)	\$ 271,728.00	2024	no	\$ (271,728.00)		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -				
Sheriff's Office	Staff training & Professional Development	\$ 7,000.00	2024	no	\$ (7,000.00)										
Sheriff's Office	Reduction in Inmate Meal Costs	\$ 85,000.00	2024	yes	\$ (85,000.00)	\$ 125,000.00	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -				
Sheriff's Office	Reduction in Fuel Costs	\$ 25,000.00	2024	yes	\$ (25,000.00)		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -				
Sheriff's Office	Reduction in DFT/SRT Funds	\$ 2,000.00	2024	yes	\$ (2,000.00)		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -				
Sheriff's Office	Computer maint. & upgrades	\$ 5,000.00	2024	yes	\$ (5,000.00)		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -				
Sheriff's Office	Casual/transport officers	\$ 7,000.00	2024	no if reduce deputies, yes if don't	\$ (7,000.00)		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -				
Sheriff's Office	Ammo	\$ 1,000.00	2024	yes	\$ (1,000.00)		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -				
Sheriff's Office	State Sanctions Revenue	\$ 60,000.00	2024	yes	\$ 60,000.00		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -				
SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2024 SUBTOTALS		\$ 463,728.00			\$ 125,000.00	in cuts+ 60K revenue						\$ 185,000.00	\$ 450,761.99	\$ (265,761.99)	2024
Sheriff's Office	Road Patrol Deputy (5)	\$ 468,760.00	2025	-	-	no	\$(468,760.00)	-	-	-	-				
SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2025 SUBTOTALS		\$ 468,760.00					\$(468,760.00)					\$ -	\$ 447,366.41	\$ (447,366.41)	2025
Sheriff's Office	Road Patrol Deputy (2)	\$ 194,092.00	2026	-	-	-	-	no	\$ (194,092.00)						
SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2026 SUBTOTALS		\$ 194,092.00							\$ (194,092.00)			\$ -	\$ 206,280.91	\$ (206,280.91)	2026
Sheriff's Office	Road Patrol Deputy (3)	\$ 301,389.00	2027	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	\$ (301,389.00)				
SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2027 SUBTOTALS		\$ 301,389.00									\$ (301,389.00)	\$ -	\$ 311,543.59	\$ (311,543.59)	2027
												\$ 415,198.18	\$ 1,667,999.69	\$ (1,252,801.51)	total shortfall

Richland County Health & Human Services and Veterans Standing Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Approve 2024-2027 Budget Levy Reductions per Resolution 22-96 Directive; HHS Levy Reduction List & Referendum Recommendations

Unit	HHS	Presented By:	Tricia Clements
Date of Meeting:	October 13, 2022	Action Needed:	Vote // Resolution
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	
Date submitted:	October 11, 2022	Referred by:	Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

Recommendation and/or action language: Motion to... Approve suggestions for cost savings to meet budgeting needs for HHS if no increase in tax levy can be made due to unsuccessful referendum. Some recommendations are permanent and will not be sent to the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee for their review.

Background: Richland County Health and Human Services and the Veteran Service Office has been tasked to develop a recommended list of proposed projected levy reductions of \$320,000 in 2024, \$637,000 in 2025, \$783,000 in 2026, and \$1,004,000 in 2027, including but not limited to lines 1.01 through 1.92 and 17.01 through 17.92 in the 5-year financial plan.

The following is a list of levy reduction items:

Remove the request to replace the Electronic Health Record System

Eliminate the APS/Crisis Worker

Reclassify 3 Mental Health Therapist positions to Mental Health Case Managers

*Postpone filling two Mental Health Therapist positions and contract out the service

Remove levy from the CLTS Program

*Eliminate the Coordinated Service Team programming

*Eliminate the Treatment Court Program

Eliminate the SWWDB leased custodian position and create a county custodian position

Eliminate the SWWDB leased part-time custodian position

*Decrease the technology budget

Eliminate the second on-call worker in the Child and Youth Services Unit

Decrease the amount of comp time payout in the Child and Youth Services Unit

Remove the request to reclassify the CYS Youth Aide Worker

*Move the Nutrition Program out of the Public Health Unit and put it in the ADRC – add additional funds to get to pre-COVID levy amount

*Decrease funds allocated to the Transportation Program

Allocation a portion of the SOR Grant to Public Health

*Decrease the Child Placement fund by \$200,000

*Decrease the Adult Placement fund by \$200,000

Eliminate 5 positions by the end of 2027

Items with an * will be sent to the Referendum Ad Hoc committee for their consideration.

Attachments and References:

Resolution Response No 22-96 (HHS)	
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Richland County:	Response to Resolution No. 22-96	Committee:	Health and Human Services and Veterans
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A Resolution Directing The Various Richland County Standing Committees To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

Be it further resolved, that the Health and Human Services and Veterans Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:
Regarding Services Provided through Health and Human Services and Beterans Services

“Develop a recommended list of proposed projected levy reductions (in comparing to the 2022 budget) of \$320,000 in 2024, \$637,000 in 2025, \$783,000 in 2026, and \$1,004,000 in 2027, including but not limited to lines 1.01 through 1.92 and 17.01 through 17.92 in the 5-year financial plan.”

Options for Reductions:								
Department/ Budget/ Account:	Function /Service/ Position:	Dollar/Cost:	Year of first reduction:	Service Impact:	Workaround or alternative delivery or service:	Reference 12 AUG 2022 Financial Workbook	Request consideration to add to Referendum levy exemption	
HHS/Behavioral Health Services/56.5472 & 56.5478	Upgrade/Replace Electronic Health Record	\$ 100,000.00	Projected Expense (2025)	To reduce workload for managing paper files and improve efficiencies in case work, billing, and revenue tracking. There will be annual maintenance/support costs once implemented. Partial costs recognized in following years.	We will continue to use the system that we have.	1.01	No	
HHS/Behavioral Health Services/56.5478	Reclassification of Master-level, Mental Health Therapist	\$ 166.85	Current Expense (2024)	Positive impact. Goal is to be able to hire qualified individuals.		1.05	No	
HHS/Behavioral Health Services/56.5478	Reclassification of Mental Health Counselors	\$ 2,609.06	Current Expense (2024)	Positive impact. Goal is to be able to hire qualified individuals.		1.06	No	
HHS/Behavioral Health Services/56.5479	Reclassification of APS Worker	\$ 1,680.28	Current Expense (2024)	Positive impact. Goal is to be able to hire qualified individuals.		1.07	No	
HHS/Behavioral Health Services/56.5480	Reclassification of APS/Crisis Worker	\$ 1,680.28	Current Expense (2024)	Positive impact. Goal is to be able to hire qualified individuals.		1.08	No	
HHS/Behavioral Health Services/56.5481	Elimination of APS/Crisis Worker	\$ 82,486.20	Current Expense (2022); pulled from 2023	This was a position that was added in 2021 in the hope of taking care of the overfill APS and Crisis calls. Right now one worker covers each of the programs. We have found that there is more work than one person can respond to timely. If it is not filled, the Crisis worker and the APS worker will continue to have a large caseload and this may delay response time to crisis and APS calls.	Historically HHS was able to hire leased individuals to help with the extra work that was coming in. This may be an option in the future.	1.90	No	
HHS/Behavioral Health Services/56.5520	Reallocate SOR Grant funding to Public Health to reduce Public Health Levy	\$ 20,000.00	Current Expense (2024)	This will not have an impact on services being provided. Through this re-allocation of funds, we will be able to provide additional services through the Public Health unit. This will also help their budget due to the amount of levy in the public health unit.		Not on planner	No	
HHS/Behavioral Health Services/56.5472	Clinic Restructure: One Leased CCS Service Facilitators as County Employees Reclassify Three Mental Health Therapists as Mental Health Case Managers These positions would no longer provide Crisis Services.	\$ 349,174.99	Current Expense (2024)	This has been a savings in the budget. Additionally, this reclass of positions should make the filling of positions easier as the degree expectation has lessened.		Not on planner	No	

2024		2025		2026		2027	
Directive: \$ 320,000.00		Directive: \$ 637,000.00		Directive: \$ 783,000.00		Directive: \$ 1,004,000.00	
Recommend Reduction:	Running Total Column:	Recommend Reduction:	Running Total Column:	Recommend Reduction:	Running Total Column:	Recommend Reduction:	Running Total Column:
No	\$ -	Yes	\$ 100,000.00	Yes	\$ 10,000.00	Yes	\$ 10,000.00
No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
Yes	\$ 26,882.20	Yes	\$ 26,948.33	Yes	\$ 26,983.38	Yes	\$ 28,222.86
No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
Yes	\$ 79,000.52	Yes	\$ 77,993.66	Yes	\$ 72,755.56	Yes	\$ 72,932.76

	HHS/Behavioral Health Services/56.5477 & 56.5478	Clinic Restructure: Two Contracted Mental Health Therapists - Postpone filling County positions.	\$ 198,349.09	Current Expense (2024)	There will be a decrease in the number of hours available for consumers for mental health therapy. Across the state, there is a need for mental health treatment. Making this change will continue to limit serve options in the county.		Not on planner	Yes		Yes	\$ 93,896.28	Yes	\$ 104,927.02	Yes	\$ 110,773.31	Yes	\$ 116,794.99
	HHS/Behavioral Health Services/56.5459	Children's Long-Term Support Program and Staffing	\$ 36,836.96	Current Expense (2025)	No service impact.		Not on planner	No		No	\$ -	Yes	\$ 36,836.96	Yes	\$ 36,836.96	Yes	\$ 36,836.96
	HHS/Behavioral Health Services/56.5408	Once the current Treatment Court Grant opportunity sunsets, we would not re-apply for the new round of grants.	\$ 130,000.00	Current Expense (2025)	This is a program that is fully supported by local law enforcement, the Courts, the District Attorney's office and some community members. This provides repeat offenders to have a stable treatment program. It also can keep individuals out of the jails and have the ability to remain in the community while the program ensures community safety.		1.92	Yes		No	\$ -	No	\$ -	Yes	\$ 27,103.00	Yes	\$ 27,103.00
	HHS/Behavioral Health Services/56.5462	Eliminate provision of the Coordinated Services Team (CST) programming.	\$ 72,000.00	Current Expense (2025)	Families who are struggling to keep services and supports for their children will be without this service. This service connects all those working with the children to ensure services are not duplicated and that they are connected with what supports they need in the community, either formal or informal. This is an additional support to keep families together and children safe.		Not on planner	Yes		No	\$ -	No	\$ -	Yes	\$ 12,000.00	Yes	\$ 12,000.00
	HHS/Building Operations/56.5511	Eliminate SWWDB Leased Custodian Position and create County Custodian Position	\$66,566.23	Current Expense (2024)	Eliminate leased SWWDB position will create a savings and will be a step closer to sharing maintenance staff between the Courthouse and HHS.		1.02	No		Yes	\$ 5,044.42	Yes	\$ 5,225.35	Yes	\$ 5,320.97	Yes	\$ 5,420.31
	HHS/Building Operations/56.5511	Shared Staff Savings	\$4,544.90	Current Expense (2024)	Reduction of leased cleaning staff due to the opportunity for sharing of services with courthouse custodial staff.		1.02	No		Yes	\$ 4,858.55	Yes	\$ 5,146.21	Yes	\$ 5,299.06	Yes	\$ 5,455.10
	HHS/Building Operations/56.5511	Technology Budget	\$64,177.00	Current Expense (2025)	Potential for higher costs in the future due to not upgrading technology in a timely manner.		2.02	Yes		No	\$ -	Yes	\$ 15,594.00	Yes	\$ 15,594.00	Yes	\$ 15,594.00
	HHS/Support/56.5504	Reallocate Support Staff Payroll as a direct program expense vs AMSO.	\$18,327.00	Current Savings (\$10,000 in 2024/Additional \$5,569 in 2025)	Positive impact.		Not on planner	No		Yes	\$ 10,000.00	Yes	\$ 18,327.00	Yes	\$ 18,327.00	Yes	\$ 18,327.00
	HHS/Child & Youth Services/56.5502	Implement operational changes in CYS resulting in a reduction in on-call premium pay.	\$ 13,000.00	Current Expense (2025)	Currently there are two workers on call at any given time, one line worker and one supervisor/manager. We will transition to just one individual on call. This will provide less support to the line worker. Increased chance of errors being made.		1.03	No		No	\$ -	Yes	\$ 13,000.00	Yes	\$ 13,000.00	Yes	\$ 13,000.00

	HHS/Child & Youth Services/56.5503	Implement operational changes in CYS resulting in a reduction in regular comp payout.	\$ 9,250.00	Current Expense (2025)	Currently there are two workers on call at any given time, one line worker and one supervisor/manager. We will transition to just one on call. This will provide less support to the worker. Increased chance of errors being made. Worker retention may also be a factor as they may not feel comfortable doing the job.		Not on planner	No		No	\$ -	Yes	\$ 9,250.00	Yes	\$ 9,250.00	Yes	\$ 9,250.00
	HHS/Child & Youth Services/56.5502	Reclassification of CYF Case Managers	\$ 22,324.92	Current Expense (2024)	Positive impact. Goal is to be able to hire qualified individuals.		1.09	No		No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
	HHS/Child & Youth Services/56.5502	Reclassification of CYF Youth Aide Worker	\$ 4,695.66	Current Expense (2024)	No impact, positive or negative.		1.10	No		Yes	\$ 5,024.35	Yes	\$ 5,325.81	Yes	\$ 5,485.58	Yes	\$ 5,650.36
	HHS/ADRC	Remove Nutrition Program from Public Health and have it administered under the ADRC.	\$ 35,318.00	Current Expense (2024)	This is a levy requirement that was originally in Public Health and by being allocated to the ADRC, there is more flexibility in it's use including more use of in-kind matching. There is an ask for more levy in this program. In 2021, 2022 and 2023, there was a decrease in the amount of levy in the budget due to ARPA funds being used. When they are exhausted, the pre-COVID levy amount will be needed to maintain the program as is.		Not on planner	Yes		Yes	\$ 5,033.00	Yes	\$ 25,033.00	Yes	\$ 25,033.00	Yes	\$ 25,033.00
	HHS/ADRC/63.5563.0000	Transportation Program	\$ 25,582.31	Current Expense (2025)	Less funds to provide transportation to those living with a disability or those over the age of 60.		Not on planner	Yes		No	\$ -	Yes	\$ 9,604.51	Yes	\$ 9,604.51	Yes	\$ 9,604.51
	HHS/ESS/56.5503	Request a reduction in our MOE.	\$ 153,272.00	Projected Expense (2024)			Not on planner	No		No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
	HHS/ESS/56.5486	Reduction in Tax Levy that was needed to make the WHEAP program whole due to reduced allocation by the state.	\$ 9,650.00	Current Expense (2024)	Service still provided in the community but through another agency.		Not on planner	No		Yes	\$ 9,650.00	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
	HHS/PH/Nutrition	Remove Nutrition Program from Public Health and have it administered under the ADRC.	\$ 5,033.00	Current Expense (2024)	This is displaced tax levy that would be re-allocated to the ADRC to reduce the levy needed in Public Health.		Not on planner	No		No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
	HHS/PH	Allocate a portion of SOR Grant funding to Public Health so they can assist with prevention efforts.	\$ 20,000.00	Current Expense (2024)	This will not have an impact on services being provided. Through this re-allocation of funds, we will be able to provide additional services through the Public Health unit. This will also help their budget due to the amount of levy in the public health unit.		Not on planner	No		Yes	\$ 20,000.00	Yes	\$ 20,000.00	Yes	\$ 20,000.00	Yes	\$ 20,000.00
Other Budgets																	
	Fund 44	Child Placements	\$ 700,000.00	Current Expense (2022); reduced in 2023	Move expenses from operations to Short-Term Borrowing (Epenses needed to compy with court order or judgment by Statute67.04(5)(b)). This is a displacement in operational levy, not a "reduction in overall levy on the taxbase."		1.50	Yes		Yes	\$ 20,000.00	Yes	\$ 20,000.00	Yes	\$ 160,000.00	Yes	\$ 200,000.00

	Fund 54	Adult Placements	\$ 785,000.00	Current Expense (2022); reduced in 2023	Move expenses from operations to Short-Term Borrowing (Epenses needed to compy with court order or judgment by Statute67.04(5)(b)). This is a displacement in operational levy, not a "reduction in overall levy on the taxbase."		1.50	Yes		Yes	\$ 80,000.00	Yes	\$ 80,000.00	Yes	\$ 140,000.00	Yes	\$ 200,000.00
Other Options																	
	HHS - Agency-wide	HHS will eliminate five (5) positions by the end of 2027.	\$ 170,746.45	Projected Expense (2025)		Each open position will be reviewed. We will look at job duties, can those duties be shared with another position, and is it a mandated or non-mandated position.	Not on planner	No		No	\$ -	Yes	\$ 167,052.41	Yes	\$ 171,186.74	Yes	\$ 175,445.00
										Total:	\$ 359,389.32	Total:	\$ 740,264.26	Total:	\$ 894,553.07	Total:	\$ 1,006,669.85
										Overage:	\$ 39,389.32	Overage:	\$ 103,264.26	Overage:	\$ 111,553.07	Overage:	\$ 2,669.85
										2024		2025		2026		2027	

Richland County

HHS & Veterans Standing Committee

held regarding the position, accreditation requirements, and general operations of the Veteran Services Office. Discussion was held regarding delaying the elimination of the Veteran Benefit Specialist position until the end of 2024. A motion was made by Tim Gottschall, seconded by Danielle Rudersdorf to amend the current motion and approve the Veteran Benefit Specialist position expiring at the end of 2024 instead of 2023, pending approval of the referendum. Donald Seep voiced concerns that extending the Veteran Benefit Specialist position until 2024 will undermine the authority of the County Administrator. Tim Gottschall clarified that he is thankful for the recommendation made by Administrator Langreck and is favor of the path forward, however has concerns that one year may not be enough time to implement this change. Administrator Langreck noted that this item is still being recommended for referendum and therefore the decision will ultimately be determined by the people. Kerry Severson, Francis Braithwaite, Lee Van Landuyt, Ingrid Glasbrenner, Tim Gottschall, Danielle Rudersdorf, and Dr. Jerel Berres voted in favor of the motion. Donald Seep opposed the motion. Motion carried.

Further discussion was held regarding removing the elimination of the ETK Computer System and the provision of cemetery flag holders from the list of levy reductions from the Veteran Services Office. Motion by Donald Seep, seconded by Lee Van Landuyt to remove the ETK program and the provision of cemetery flag holders from the list of levy reductions for the Veteran Services Office as presented. A motion was made by Tim Gottschall to amend the motion to remove the provision of the cemetery grave holders, the elimination of the ETK Computer program contract, decreasing the commission per diem by \$750, and decreasing the commission on mileage by \$200 from the list of levy reductions from the Veteran Services Office. Discussion was held regarding the ability to still call an emergency meeting if needed. After clarification Tim Gottschall withdrew his motion to amend. Motion by Lee Van Landuyt, seconded by Tim Gottschall to postpone voting on the motion to remove the ETK program and the provision of cemetery flag holders from the list of levy reductions for the Veteran Services Office as presented until after the Health & Human Services levy reduction list is reviewed and discussed. Motion carried.

- b. HHS Levy Reduction List & Referendum Recommendations:** Trish reviewed the list of reduction items, including the elimination of 5 positions by 2027, and noted the items that should be included on the referendum. Trish explained that due to the elimination of additional ARPA funds, an additional \$20,000 of levy is being requested for 2025 to assist with funding the Senior Nutrition Program. Trisha Clements also discussed moving the Senior Nutrition Program from the Public Health Unit to the Aging and Disability Resource Center.

Trisha Clements explained that when the list of reductions was created, reductions from the Veteran Services Office and the potential for additional revenues were not taken into consideration. Ingrid Glasbrenner questioned if there are any changes that would be suggested based on the motions that have already been made. Trisha Clements noted she would remove the elimination of the Treatment Court position or Community Services Team Coordinator from the list of proposed reductions. Background was given on both the Treatment Court and Community Services Programs, and required matches.

Donald Seep and Danielle Rudersdorf left the meeting.

Motion by Tim Gottschall, seconded by Dr. Jerel Berres to accept the list of referendum items as well as the itemized list of levy reductions for Health & Human Services, with the exception of the elimination of Community Services team programming. Motion passed.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Action Items:

- 10. 2022 VSO Budget Summary:** Agenda item not discussed.

Richland County HS and Veterans Standing Committee

Agenda Item: Approve 2024-27 Budget Levy Reductions per Resolution 22-96 Veterans Reduction List and Referendum Recommendations

Agenda Item Name:

Department	Veterans	Presented By:	CVSO Knock
Date of Meeting:	13 October 2022	Action Needed:	Vote
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Resolution 22-96
Date submitted:	12 October 2022	Referred by:	Referendum Ad Hoc Committee
Action needed by no later than (date)		Resolution	

Recommendation and/or action language:

Motion to... to approve listed options for cost savings to meet budgeting requests for the Veterans Service Office due to an unsuccessful Referendum.

Background: Richland County Departments have been tasked to create a potential list of budget cuts projecting forward five years. On October 13th the HHS & Veterans Standing Committee voted to approve the Veterans Benefits Specialist position through the year 2024 to be placed on the referendum. Initially, potentially cutting computer program ETK, Commission per diem, cemetery flag holders, Commission mileage, and Benefits Specialist were considered for potential budget cuts. The Committee voted to remove the ETK program and the provision of the cemetery flag holders from the list of levy reductions for the Veterans Service Office and presented off the table. The items Commission per Diem and Commissions mileage remain on the list of proposed items to forward to Finance & Personnel.

Requesting: *The referendum item requested is to fund the Benefits Specialist position through 2024 pending referendum.*

The following are potential levy reductions:

*Elimination of Veterans Benefits Specialist office staff

Decrease Commission per Diem

Decrease Commission Mileage

(* asterisk indicated items will be forwarded to the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee for their consideration)

Attachments and References:

see Resolution Response Number 22-96	

Financial Review: see Resolution Response Number 22-96

Veterans									2024		2025		2026		2027	
Options for Reductions:									Directive: \$ 122,000.00		Directive: \$ 243,000.00		Directive: \$ 299,000.00		Directive: \$ 383,000.00	
<u>Department/</u> <u>Budget/</u> <u>Account:</u>	<u>Function</u> <u>/Service/</u> <u>Position:</u>	<u>Dollar/Cost:</u>	<u>Year of</u> <u>first</u> <u>reduction:</u>	<u>Service</u> <u>Impact:</u>	<u>Workarou</u> <u>nd or</u> <u>alternativ</u> <u>e delivery</u> <u>or</u> <u>service:</u>	<u>Reference</u> <u>12 AUG</u> <u>2022</u> <u>Financial</u> <u>Workboo</u> <u>k</u>	<u>Request</u> <u>considera</u> <u>tion to</u> <u>add to</u> <u>Referend</u> <u>um levy</u> <u>exemptio</u> <u>n</u>		<u>Recommen</u> <u>d</u> <u>Reduction</u> <u>:</u>	<u>Running Total</u> <u>Column:</u>	<u>Recommen</u> <u>d</u> <u>Reduction</u> <u>:</u>	<u>Running Total</u> <u>Column:</u>	<u>Recommen</u> <u>d</u> <u>Reduction</u> <u>:</u>	<u>Running Total</u> <u>Column:</u>	<u>Recommen</u> <u>d</u> <u>Reduction</u> <u>:</u>	<u>Running Total</u> <u>Column:</u>
	Veterans 10.5551	decreasing Commission per diem by 750.00	\$750.00	2023	There would be no impact	/		No	Yes	\$ 750.00	Yes	\$ 750.00	Yes	\$ 750.00	Yes	\$ 750.00
	Veteran 10.5550	Eliminating Benefits Specialist position	\$ 22,738.64	2025	decrease in services, depthhead duties, and outreach	Using 2 part time employees from HHS	17.92	Yes			To be cut in 2025 if not on the referendum	\$ 22,738.64	To be cut in 2025 if not on the referendum	\$ 22,738.64	To be cut in 2025 if Not on the referendum	\$ 22,738.64
	Veterans 10.5551	Commission Mileage reduction by 200.00	\$ 200.00	2023	There would be no impact	/		No	Yes	\$ 200.00	Yes	\$ 200.00	Yes	\$ 200.00	Yes	\$ 200.00
										\$ 950.00		\$ 23,688.64		\$ 23,688.64		\$ 23,688.64

Richland County

HHS & Veterans Standing Committee

structure, however authorization would be needed before they could be filled. Motion by Lee Van Landuyt, seconded by Timothy Gottschall to approve the elimination of the Occupational Therapist and Speech and Language Pathologist county positions, and add the requirement to submit a request to the County Administrator and Finance & Personnel Committee prior to filling the thirteen long-term vacant county positions identified, and forward the recommendation onto the Finance & Personnel Committee and County Board for approval. Motion carried.

Motion by Danielle Rudersdorf seconded by Kerry Severson to forward the updated staffing levels at Health & Human Services to the Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee for public education information materials. Motion carried.

8. **Review & Discuss Possible Relocation of VSO to Community Services Building:** Trisha Clements reviewed services currently being provided to Veterans at Health and Human Services on a regular basis, ways current Health & Human Services staff can assist the Veteran Services Office, and HIPAA practices within the Community Services Building. It was noted that all Health & Human Services employees are HIPAA Compliance trained annually, and other measures could be implemented to maintain a separation between Veterans Records and/or the general public.
9. **Approve 2024-2027 Budget Levy Reductions per Resolution 22-96 Directive:** Ingrid Glasbrenner reviewed the directive given to the Health & Human Services and Veterans Standing Committee. Due to the Committee overseeing two different departments, a spreadsheet was created that outlined the total 2022 levy budget for each department, and the percentage of the total budgeted levy each department is allocated. Calculations were provided for the amount of cuts and/or increased revenues each department would need to make each year up to 2027. These calculations are based on the percentage of levy received by each department.

A number of documents that were reviewed and discussed at the last meeting, outlining the potential reduction lists and referendum recommendations for both the Veteran Services Office and Health & Human Services were reviewed again. Discussion was held regarding finalizing what recommendations should be forwarded on to the Finance and Personnel Committee, as well as items that would be recommended for referendum.

- a. **VSO Levy Reduction List & Referendum Recommendations:** A request made by Karen Knock that the Health & Human Services and Veterans Standing Committee consider placing the elimination of the Veterans Benefits Specialist position on the referendum and be funded through 2027 to allow further monitoring of the Veteran population. It was also requested that the Committee consider leaving the Veteran Services Office in the Courthouse.

The options for reductions in the Veteran Services office were reviewed and discussed in more detail, as well as which options should be recommended for referendum. Additional discussion was held regarding the potential delay of the Veterans Benefit Specialist position and how this impacts the appropriations of reductions each year between Health and Human Services and the Veteran Services Office leading up to 2027. It was highlighted that while delaying the elimination of this position would reduce the reductions planned for 2024, the reductions proposed by Health and Human Services exceeded the directed amount for 2024. Tricia Clements noted that when the list of reductions was proposed by Health & Human Services, it did not take into account any potential reductions from the Veteran Services Office. Donald Seep raised concerns with delaying the elimination of this position, and Kerry Severson asked for clarification regarding the different types of support that could and could not be offered by staff at Health & Human Services.

The elimination of the ETK Computer System utilized by the Veteran Services Office, and the provision of cemetery flag holders were discussed. Donald Seep raised concerns regarding the elimination of the ETK Computer System since it is an essential tool utilized by the office and provides efficiencies.

Motion by Donald Seep, seconded by Lee Van Landuyt approve the Veteran Benefit Specialist position expiring at the end of 2023 pending approval of the referendum. Further discussion was

Richland County

HHS & Veterans Standing Committee

held regarding the position, accreditation requirements, and general operations of the Veteran Services Office. Discussion was held regarding delaying the elimination of the Veteran Benefit Specialist position until the end of 2024. A motion was made by Tim Gottschall, seconded by Danielle Rudersdorf to amend the current motion and approve the Veteran Benefit Specialist position expiring at the end of 2024 instead of 2023, pending approval of the referendum. Donald Seep voiced concerns that extending the Veteran Benefit Specialist position until 2024 will undermine the authority of the County Administrator. Tim Gottschall clarified that he is thankful for the recommendation made by Administrator Langreck and is favor of the path forward, however has concerns that one year may not be enough time to implement this change. Administrator Langreck noted that this item is still being recommended for referendum and therefore the decision will ultimately be determined by the people. Kerry Severson, Francis Braithwaite, Lee Van Landuyt, Ingrid Glasbrenner, Tim Gottschall, Danielle Rudersdorf, and Dr. Jerel Berres voted in favor of the motion. Donald Seep opposed the motion. Motion carried.

Further discussion was held regarding removing the elimination of the ETK Computer System and the provision of cemetery flag holders from the list of levy reductions from the Veteran Services Office. Motion by Donald Seep, seconded by Lee Van Landuyt to remove the ETK program and the provision of cemetery flag holders from the list of levy reductions for the Veteran Services Office as presented. A motion was made by Tim Gottschall to amend the motion to remove the provision of the cemetery grave holders, the elimination of the ETK Computer program contract, decreasing the commission per diem by \$750, and decreasing the commission on mileage by \$200 from the list of levy reductions from the Veteran Services Office. Discussion was held regarding the ability to still call an emergency meeting if needed. After clarification Tim Gottschall withdrew his motion to amend. Motion by Lee Van Landuyt, seconded by Tim Gottschall to postpone voting on the motion to remove the ETK program and the provision of cemetery flag holders from the list of levy reductions for the Veteran Services Office as presented until after the Health & Human Services levy reduction list is reviewed and discussed. Motion carried.

- b. HHS Levy Reduction List & Referendum Recommendations:** Trish reviewed the list of reduction items, including the elimination of 5 positions by 2027, and noted the items that should be included on the referendum. Trish explained that due to the elimination of additional ARPA funds, an additional \$20,000 of levy is being requested for 2025 to assist with funding the Senior Nutrition Program. Trisha Clements also discussed moving the Senior Nutrition Program from the Public Health Unit to the Aging and Disability Resource Center.

Trisha Clements explained that when the list of reductions was created, reductions from the Veteran Services Office and the potential for additional revenues were not taken into consideration. Ingrid Glasbrenner questioned if there are any changes that would be suggested based on the motions that have already been made. Trisha Clements noted she would remove the elimination of the Treatment Court position or Community Services Team Coordinator from the list of proposed reductions. Background was given on both the Treatment Court and Community Services Programs, and required matches.

Donald Seep and Danielle Rudersdorf left the meeting.

Motion by Tim Gottschall, seconded by Dr. Jerel Berres to accept the list of referendum items as well as the itemized list of levy reductions for Health & Human Services, with the exception of the elimination of Community Services team programming. Motion passed.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Action Items:

- 10. 2022 VSO Budget Summary:** Agenda item not discussed.

Richland County

Land & Zoning Standing Committee

To: Finance & Personnel Standing Committee

Date: October 31, 2022

Re: Response to Resolution 22-95

The departments that report to the Land & Zoning Standing Committee; which include Zoning, Land Conservation and Register of Deeds, have been asked to 1) Total projected levy operational expense reduction of \$50,000 entering into 2024 and the same sustained reduction beyond; and 2) These adjustments in expenditure must account for projected increases in COLA and Compensation Policy and other employee benefits included with the financial plan.

The following adjustments are proposed to meet the above requirements for item 1):

1. Land Conservation Administrative Assistant position will be reduced to 50% time. The total 2023 cost of this position in the Land Conservation budget with benefits is \$57,725.87. Parks currently pays for 10% of this position. When the position is reduced to 50% time it will not be possible for time to be spent on Parks so the \$6,413.98 in salary currently coming from the Parks budget will not be available. The total cost of this position is \$64,139.84 and 50% is \$32,069.92. **Therefore, the total reduction to the Land Conservation budget is \$25,655.95** (\$57,725.87-\$32,069.92).
2. Increase zoning fees for private septic inspections (required once every 3 years) from \$25 to \$50 which would **increase revenues by approximately \$45,000** annually.

TOTAL = \$70,655.95

Item 2a: Land Conservation and Zoning Departments. The estimated total increases to salaries, fringe and health insurance for 2024 to 2027 are \$43,000. \$20,655.95 is covered by the items identified above. The additional \$22,344.05 will be covered by unspent funds for the open GIS position in 2023. The GIS position in the Zoning Department is currently open and has not received any qualified applicants. The Committee is currently evaluating a short-term contract option as well as long-term contract options if a qualified applicant is not found. It is likely that GIS work will be completed by a contract vendor for all of 2023 while we evaluate our options. It is expected that the contract for GIS work will be significantly less than the cost of a full-time position so the underspent budget for that salary in 2023 will more than cover future costs of salary, fringe and health insurance increases.

Item 2b: Register of Deeds Department. The estimated total increases to salaries, fringe and health insurance for 2024-2027 are \$23,000. Currently, fees associated with property transfers are split with the state. The County gets 20% and the State gets 80%. Wisconsin Counties Association, with the approval of the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association, is currently lobbying for this split to change to 50/50. Given the budget surplus at the State level and conversations with State Legislators, WCA is confident that they will be successful in passing this change. This will produce additional income of approximately \$59,000. That amount will be more than what is needed to cover the costs associated with increases in salaries, fringe and health insurance.

It should also be noted that the Land Conservation and Zoning Departments will be moving into shared space by the end of 2022. The Richland County strategic plan has tasked the Land & Zoning Standing Committee with evaluating the possibility of combining the Land Conservation and Zoning Departments in more than

Richland County

Land & Zoning Standing Committee

just shared space. It is possible that in the re-organization of the two departments, further efficiencies can be identified. There is also consideration as to what role the Register of Deeds office may offer in terms of assistance to Land Conservation and Zoning Departments (e.g. answering phones).

The committee is comfortable in making these recommendations without the need for these items to be placed on a referendum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Luck", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa Luck
Chair, Richland County Land & Zoning Standing Committee

Richland County Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name:

Response from the Fair, Recycling & Parks Standing Committee on Resolution 22-93

Department	Fair, Recycling & Parks	Presented By:	Carla Doudna
Date of Meeting:		Action Needed:	Approval
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	
Date submitted:	November 7, 2022	Referred by:	FRP Standing Committee

Recommendation and/or action language:

Motion to ...Approve recommendation by the FRP Standing Committee addressing the direction given to “explore the transfer of the fair operations to a non-profit agricultural society including research on peer counties with a non-profit fair model”.

At this time, the FRP Standing Committee would like to move forward with their recommendations before voting to participate in the referendum. Once the referendum is presented to the Richland County Residents, the committee will meet and vote regarding participation for the FRP Department.

Background: *(preferred one page or less with focus on options and decision points)*

There seems to be some confusion on how the fair is financially supported. Just to clarify, Fair Fund 68 receives \$15,000 in tax levy dollars, the other revenue that is received to support this department is generated by the fair, grounds rentals, donations and storage.

Please see the attached information....

Attachments and References:

History of Expenditures and Revenues	FRP Recommendation to the F& P as well as CB
Information regarding other Fairgrounds	

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

(summary of current and future impacts)

Approval:**Review:**

Carla Doudna

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)

RICHLAND COUNTY FAIR, RECYCLING AND PARKS STANDING COMMITTEE

PROJECT SCOPE

November 1, 2022

OVERVIEW

1. Our Goals and Mission

i *The Richland County Fair, Recycling and Parks Standing Committee that oversees the Richland County Fair, is committed to producing a successful fair which promotes and advances the interest of agriculture, community development, and provides quality entertainment. We encourage appropriate use of our facilities and strive to explore all avenues in which the fairgrounds can serve the educational and entertainment needs of our community. The Richland County Fair presents an opportunity for all members of our community, as well as neighboring communities, to exhibit their special skills and hard work. The Fair is a celebration of the special qualities of life in Richland and surrounds communities. We are happy to provide the youth of our community an event and venue to showcase their talents through 4-H, FFA, and other means. The fair board is committed to the operation of the fairgrounds facilities for both public and private events, in a reasonable manner which generates economic stimulation and tourism development in Richland County. The fair board, staff, and many volunteers are who make this all happen.*

The goal of the Richland County Fair, Recycling and Parks Standing Committee is to move forward with the consolidation of those three areas into a recreation and recycling department. By encompassing all of the county grounds, parks, and trails in one central location, would give us the ability to focus on the future needs and plans of our community property. While doing that we can start working with those neighboring communities and counties to link some areas of tourism together.

2. Project Background and Description

i *Richland County is facing some hurdles with balancing the county wide budget in the near future. The creation and adoption of Resolution 22-93 is requesting options for the future of the fairgrounds and the county fair.*

The task given to our department was to research other fairs and their operating practices. The goal is to find someone interested in forming a non-profit to take over the operations.

3. Project Scope

i *Please see the spreadsheet regarding Fair Revenues and Expenditures regarding Fair Fund 68 from 2015- 2022.*

Our goal is not to create a profit but to cover our expense and break even at the end of each calendar year without the \$15,000 provided to the fairgrounds for operating expenses. The primary source of income for this department is the Richland County Fair outside of the \$15,000 in tax levy dollars we

receive. Unlike other departments, this department is solely at the mercy of Mother Nature for every event that is held at the grounds.

- 1. If the fair is taken over by a non-profit organization all the income created follows. *See attached information**
- 2. The money generated by the fair is the operating revenue for Fair Fund 68. The operation of the grounds wouldn't be supported without that income.*

There are a few options regarding the request of Resolution 22-93 in moving the operations of the fair to a non-profit;

- Option 1- Abandoning the fairgrounds and only offering it to the non-profit to run the fair in September, moving the Recycling to another county department.
- Option 2- Offering it to the non-profit to run the fair in September and having the management of the property and all other needs out of the office fully funded by tax levy dollars.
- Option 3-**RECOMMENDED OPTION FROM FRP STANDING COMMITTEE-**
 - Combined parks with fairgrounds and recycling creating one department, a sort of recreation, trails, parks and camping department that would incorporate recycling into the program of "Keeping Richland County Beautiful".
 - Use parks funding along with fairgrounds revenue to manage all the properties while focusing on tourism, development and applying for grants to assist in those areas (currently working with Cory updating the Outdoor Recreation Plan).
 - Continuing the \$15,000 in tax levy money through 2025, allowing us time to move the plan into action, starting in 2024.
 - Continued support with capital expenditure projects funded by the county. Those projects would be supported in full and would include grant money covering a portion or all of the expenditures when able and working with the Meat Animal Sale Committee, Youth Groups and FIC (Fairgrounds Improvement Committee) on building projects, as we currently do. The projects would be prioritized by the Fairgrounds Director and FRP Standing Committee on the importance of need.
 - Continuing the funding for the limited administrative office staff that parks has and changing it to an LTE position or contracted, non-benefit position. Look at moving the current part-time Department Head position to fulltime (currently working those hours), updating that job description to meet the department restructure.
 - Change the camping at the fairgrounds to "Morris Valley Campground" and transition all county parks camping to the online RoverPass booking system.
 - Move forward with #4 Requested Department Changes, as well.
 - Create a non-lapsing fund for funds left over at the end of year for capital expenditure projects

4. Requested Department Changes

i *Merging the Park, Fairgrounds and Recycling into one department forming a sort of recreation and recycling department.*

The structure would include the following as of 2023 and into 2024;

- Create one County Fund account to cover the fairgrounds and parks as one operating department, working with Clerk Kalish in creating all appropriate revenue and expenditure lines to manage it as needed.
- Transition the current Parks clerical position to this department with the funding support that's in place. The need to create that position in 2023 is critical to move the plan forward to meet the 2024 transition. In addition, a request to formally change the Department Head from 28hrs to fulltime, noting those hours are worked and budgeted for, one person cannot fulfill all the additional duties and the increase of duties as we start marketing the grounds, planning and hosting events.
- Ability to apply for grants that could assist in covering properties under the department.
- Manage and market the department as one, pooling resources and capitalizing on any grants or funding that is available.
- Work with Economic Develop and establish goals with Cory Ritterbusch in updating the Outdoor Recreation Plan for the department.
- Work with Gray Media and Richland Tourism to establish advertising campaign for all the properties.
- Change the name, only in regards to the camping at the fairgrounds to "Morris Valley Campground".

5. Deliverables

i *Impacted by this transition would be Richland County Departments, Economic Development, Richland Tourism, local and surrounds business. However, the examples listed will be the view point from the FRP Department.*

Some examples of impact;

- Ability to increased tourism numbers, people and dollars.
- Ability to increase the recognition of what the County and this department has to offer via department marketing. We would use the target marketing and social media marketing that Gray Media offers.
- Ability to increase revenue with added venue rentals for the fairgrounds, camping and overall use of county property.

6. Affected Parties

i *Richland County as a whole would be touched, however, the focus below will be from the view point of the FRP Department. The Parks, Trails and other properties can be easily looped in to these steps.*

- Value Creation- Discovering what people need or want, then creating it.
- Marketing- Attracting attention and building demand for what we've created with the property we have.
- Sales- Turing those interested parties into paying customers of the grounds and bringing in revenue dollars that impact the county as a whole.
- Value Delivery- Giving our customers what we promised and ensuring they are satisfied so they return and promote us to others.
- Finance- Bringing in enough money to keep this department running with and carry over to improve the grounds.

7. Specific Exclusions from Scope

i *The implementation of this plan would happen in steps starting with our vision of all ways the property can be used and marketing to multiple outlets and target areas of interest. Creating a vision so others can see the potential the property and facilities has to offer. This would also reach outward to the parks and trails we have within the county unless the County Board would choose to have that excluded.*

8. Implementation Plan

i *The implementation is based off of the recommendation from the FRP Standing Committee in #3 Project Scope- Option 3 and #4 Requested Department Changes. Those recommendations will assist the department in attaining the goal of the County Board that this department would no longer receive \$15,000 in tax levy money that typically assisted us in operation of the property and the fair.*

9. Timeline/Schedule

i *In order to meet the projected levy operating expense reduction of \$15,000 for the fairgrounds it will be imperative to start moving forward with our plans, as we have, and to continue them as of January 1, 2023 with the transition of the Parks as of January 1, 2024. We have the potential to generate additional revenue in 2023, however, a more conservative goal is 2025.*

We've started implementing our plans for generating revenue with 3 events in 2023 hosted by the fairgrounds. Following with a partnership to implement a target marketing campaign 2023 with Gray Media. Our next critical step in 2022 is to purchase a domain creating a grounds rental website that isn't cluttered with fair information or other fairgrounds event activity. This is still in the discussion stage but hope to have it finalized and completed before Christmas.

This would be an ongoing project from year to year; growing, exploring and expanding.

Having a centralized department in 2024 is key so revenue can be created to support its growth and development of the County Fairgrounds, Parks, Trails and other property.

<u>Topic Items</u>	<u>Richland</u>	<u>Crawford</u>	<u>Vernon</u>	<u>Sauk</u>	<u>Grant</u>
County or Ag Society	County	County	Ag Society	Ag Society	County
Year Established	1950's - prior to that was an Ag Society established in 1857	1859	1856	1855, 2008 transistions from Stock Owned to Ag	
Society 501C3			Still forming, been 12 months	Yes	
Society 501C5			Yes	Initially	
Property owned by	County	County	Ag Society	Ag Society	County
County Funds	\$15k	\$150k	\$5k	\$25k	\$80-\$130K
Property Maintained By	County & Donations	County	Ag Society	Ag Society	County
Fundraise	X			X	X
Fair Profits only			X		
Off Fair Events	X	X		X	X
Winter Storage	X	X	X	X	
Sub Committees outside of Fair Board			X	X	
<u>Information as of 2020</u>					
Population	17,408	16,155	30,759	64,152	51,570
Median Household Income	\$52,052	\$51,218	\$54,549	\$62,808	\$54,144
Poverty Rate	13.40%	13.80%	15%	8.94%	15.10%
Employed Poplution	8,153	7,229	13,747	34,197	25,940

<u>Monroe</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Lacrosse</u>	<u>Green Lake</u>	<u>Sawyer</u>	<u>St. Croix</u>
Ag Society	Ag Society	Ag Society	Ag Society	Ag Society	Incorporated
1976	1850's	1858	1857	1907	1994
Yes	As of 2021 - took two years	Yes- in 1986 LaCrosse County Ag Society almost folded, worked out agreement with the grounds owner, the La Crosse Interstate Fair Association and then in 1989 it took complete control of the	Yes	501C9 or 4	Yes
	Initially				
City	Ag Society	Ag Society	County- on County Highway Property	County with 50 yr lease, County maintains the grounds	City & County
\$2,500	\$10K	\$2,500	Fair	\$30-\$35k	\$60-\$80K
	Ag Society	Ag Society	Ag Society	County	Both but the buildings are owned by the county
X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X
	X	X	X		X
46,155	36,790	118,168	18,807	16,477	89,702
\$60,595	\$66,212	\$60,307	\$57,339	\$52,022	\$84,985
9.81%	9.65%	12.20%	10.60%	14.90%	5.18%
22,063	19,951	61,864	8,897	7,428	49,384

[illegible]



Building ID	Building Description	Year Built	Size	Value	Content Value	Winter Storage
1NW	NW Art Hall aka Clean Span Steel Arts Hall	1961	24' x 28'	\$75,628.00		Yes
1NE	NE Art Hall aka Clean Span Steel Arts Hall	1961	24' x 54'			Yes
1N	North Connection Building	1991	50' x 57'	\$177,622.00		Yes
1S	South 4-H Youth Building aka Exhibit Building	1968	40' x 58'	\$93,275.00		Yes
2N	Office/Conference Room & Single Stall Restroom	2000	54' x 73'	\$693,474.00	\$36,400.00	
2S	Public bathrooms/showers					
3	4-H Cattle Barn aka Junior Dairy Barn	1972	78' x 120'	\$236,024.00		Yes
4	Beef & Cattle Show Barn aka Show Barn	1972	116' x 60'	\$181,509.00		Yes
5	Livestock Barn aka Beef & Swine Barn	1988	135' x 104'	\$370,160.00		Yes
6	Milking Parlor & Barn Bathroom/showers	1985	27' x 47'	\$83,191.00		
7	AV Marshall Building aka Rabbit/Poultry Barn	1997	60' x 160'	\$214,281.00		Yes
8	Open Dairy Barn aka Russell Bernstein Barn	1970	60' x 120'	\$211,760.00		Yes
9	American Legion Food Stand		27' x 33'			
10	4-H Junior Dept Building/Office aka Building 10	1960	26' x 42'	\$66,805.00		
11	Kiwanis Food Stand		27' x 53'			
12	Lions Food Stand		26' x 41'			
13	VFW Food Stand aka 4-H Food Stand	1970	24' x 43'	\$55,000.00	\$25,000.00	

14	AV Miller Memorial Building	1959	48' x 62'	\$96,846.00		Yes
15	Conservation Building	1984	27' x 43'	\$81,931.00		
16	Horse Area Building	1990	15' x 17'	\$31,196.00		
17	Badgerland Financial Horse Barnd	2011	48' x 85'	\$101,678.00		Yes
18	Jessica Dull Memorial Building aka The Pit Building	2011	45' x 60'	\$94,536.00		
19	Racetrack Announcers Stand aka Portable Crow's Nest	2021	11' x 15'	\$8,718.00		
20A	West Well House	1981				
20B	East Well House					
21	Round Pen Arena	2016				
21B	Large Arena					
22	Grandstand	2005	51' x 126'			
22A	East Bleachers					
22B	West Bleachers	2005				
23	Pavilion					
24	Pavilion					
	Roads					
	Lightings					
	Track lighting					

[illegible]

[illegible]

FIC Contributions to Richland County Fair 1-1-97 to 9-23-22		
Project	Amount	For
Connection Building	\$ 32,000.00	Construction
AEM Building	\$ 62,883.81	Construction
Exhibit Halls	\$ 17,807.98	Cabinets, Dry Well, paint, etc.
Shelter on CTH AA	\$ 10,507.21	Construction & materials
Tables, Chairs & chair holder	\$ 4,517.08	Tables, chairs, holder
Refrigerators and freezer	\$ 1,568.00	3 Refrigerators, 1 freezer
Rabbit Cages	\$ 650.00	
Poultry Cages	\$ 4,862.92	
Milkhouse Bathrooms	\$ 560.26	BK Construction
Manure Pits & Milkhouse bath	\$ 8,436.00	Cement
Livestock Building	\$ 1,400.00	Cement
Cement pad	\$ 4,400.00	outside by exhibit halls
Screenings	\$ 253.00	Manure pits, AEM bldg.
Horse Arena/Crow's Nest	\$ 7,295.00	Donated to Horse Project
Ceiling Fans	\$ 640.25	For exhibit halls
Signage for sheep barn	\$ 420.00	Russell Bernstein
Signage for fair bldgs.	\$ 1,440.00	signs
Harness Horse Barn	\$ 6,500.00	Garage doors, etc.
150th Anniversary of fair	\$ 2,300.00	Misc. items, road sign
Carletta Heide Sign	\$ 284.60	sign in connection building
Swine Chute	\$ 2,817.93	Cement, construction, screenings
Show Barn Fans	\$ 18,920.00	Ceiling Fans
Melissa Sprecher	\$ 483.19	Show Ring in Show Barn
Sunshade	\$ 541.00	for livestock barn
Paint	\$ 300.00	for livestock barns
Electrical Box	\$ 789.91	for 4-H Foodstand
Doesn't include 1991-1996	\$ 192,578.14	
except to Connection Bldg.		
Boaz Park - used to raise funds for fairgrounds		
Park Shelter add. & roof	\$ 3,723.26	
Doors - Concession Stand	\$ 700.00	
Repairs to Concession Stand	\$ 690.00	
Electrical work	\$ 948.14	
	\$ 6,061.40	
Grand Total	\$ 198,639.54	

<p>In 25 years, FIC donated and managed funds for various projects amounting to \$198,639.54. We incorporated in 1991 and started using Quicken software in 1997. I would have to look back on paper records to see what other projects there were and their costs. I know we have donated and managed funds for other projects, such as bleachers, cement work, benches and more.</p>		
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History of the Richland County Fair 1857 - 1996

The Richland County Agricultural Society was organized on May 15, 1857. A.H. Bush was president and three vice presidents were C.D. Turner, H. Wait, and M. Langdon. The Executive Committee consisted of D.L. Downs, J.S. Scott, and R.C. Fields. The secretary was L.D. Gage. The membership into the society was a cost of \$1.00 per year or \$5.00 for a lifetime membership. The stockholders were to meet at the fair each year to elect officers and transact any other business for the ensuing year.

The first cattle show was held in Thompson's Hall, located on a lot opposite the Union Block (the 200 block of West Court Street) - in Richland Center on September 22 and 23, 1857.

The 1858 Fair was held on October 12-13, but in 1859 the date was moved up to late September. That year a resolution was passed to consult persons with land contiguous to Richland Center so land could be purchased for a permanent location for the fair.

There are no minutes on file recorded after 1858, until the May 30, 1867 meeting.

On September 14, 1861, in a local newspaper (The Zouave) there appears the following:

"The 5th Annual Fair is postponed in consequence of the general dearrangement of business caused by the disturbed country, it being deemed advisable by the friends of the society that no Fair be held this year. Therefore the County Fair is adjourned one year."

Evidently the fair was dropped throughout the Civil War years, and rescheduled in 1867.

A resolution was made at the June 22, 1867 meeting that the county fair that year was to be held either in Sextonville or Richland Center, to be determined by the amounts raised for and donated to the society. The place raising the most would be entitled to the fair. Evidently, Richland

Center won the donation contest, since the fair was held there on September 24-25, 1867.

The fair was held in the courthouse square, with Main Street serving as a racetrack.

It was decided at the 1869 meeting to acquire a fairground and buildings belonging exclusively to the society.

In August of 1869 an offer was accepted. Public records show that C. Waggoner and wife, Nancy, deeded to the Richland County Agricultural Society a location for \$400. The tract of land was 20 rods by 30 rods in size. This location was on the north side of Haseltine Street in the proximity of what is now the 600 block. It was fenced and temporary buildings erected "at no little expense".

The gate fees at the first fair at the new grounds reached the sum of \$165. Fairs were held on those grounds for 5 years, by which time the society had again outgrown its quarters.

At the 1873 meeting of the society, they resolved to change the fairgrounds location, and a committee was appointed to report on offers. The old grounds were sold for a profit, and on April 12, 1873, approximately 20 acres were purchased from Aaron and Polly Thompson for \$700. This is a portion of the current fairgrounds in Section 9 of Richland Township, along the west side of County Highway "AA".

The 1874 Premium Book announced that year was the 8th Annual Fair. Letters indicate that J.H. Carswell and F.P. Lincoln were aware of the error and an old fair secretary's book confirmed the fact that the 1979 fair was the 117th Annual Fair. The 1874 admission rates were: one person - \$.025, riding horse - \$.015, horse and carriage - \$.025, and two horses and carriage - \$.035.

In 1875, the society purchased between 5 and 6 acres along the west edge of the fairgrounds from Aaron and Polly Thompson on December 15, 1875 for \$200. The parcel was 30 rods by 30 rods. The original legal description of this parcel is incorrect. The beginning point should be 50 rods west of the NE corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, this parcel should run along the east-west and north-south 40 line and along the west edge of the original 20 acre parcel of 1873.

In 1877, there was a resolution to procure 2000 feet of lumber to erect

an open shed to shelter vehicles, machines, poultry, etc.

In 1880, J.W. Smith was granted permission to erect an amphitheater in front of the racing course, the society reserving the right to buy it at any time. The amphitheater was to be built strong and substantial and was to be a great accommodation to the people who are compelled to stand for hours for the purpose of seeing the races. A charge not to exceed \$0.10 per seat was allowed.

The Richland Observer speaks of the 1882 fair as a great success, the largest attendance ever assembled on the grounds. At that time, Thursday was the "big day," and there was no Sunday fair.

The 1895 fair featured a bicycle race. It was a one-mile dash, best two of three, for a purse of \$25.

The society purchased approximately 9 acres from F.P. Bowen and J.A. Bowen on May 28, 1904 for \$600. The legal description on this deed is incorrect. It appears that the incorrect description of the 1875 deed carried over into this description. The starting point of this parcel should be commencing 80 rods west and 30 rods south of the NE corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9. This change would locate this parcel between the original 1873 purchase and the north-south 40 line near the Pine River.

In 1905, the fair featured a floral parade and football, with players from Richland Center against a squad from Madison. On May 5, 1905, a deed was given from the Richland County Agricultural Society to the Richland County Agricultural Society, Incorporated for the purpose of obtaining a mortgage of \$3,500. The mortgage holder was W.H. Pier. This parcel was about 80 rods by 70 rods lying west along Highway "AA".

Also on May 5, 1905, Articles of Incorporation were recorded on the index file of the Register of Deeds but no record can be found and it is not recorded with the Secretary of State. The index file also indicates Articles of Incorporation were recorded in 1907, but no record can be found.

The society purchased another 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre parcel of land on February 28, 1919, from Georgiana L. James for \$500. This parcel was west of the northwest corner of the fairgrounds, going west to the Pine River and along the east-west 40 line in the NE corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9. It appears that at some point, before the county acquired the fairgrounds in 1956, two acres of this parcel were sold to someone.

A large crew hurried to construct a new grandstand to seat approximately 3,000 persons. This was to be completed in time for the 1921 fair which was scheduled to be held during the second week of September.

In 1922, a parcel of land 50 rods long by 4 rods wide (1.25 acres) was purchased for \$1.00 from Ella Lybrand. It was along the north edge of the fairgrounds to be used to build a new race track. Also a .14 acre parcel of the fairgrounds was exchanged with Perry Moser to form the northeast corner of the racetrack. There was a correction deed filed on this parcel on February 24, 1941.

In the early years, oxen and horse teams were the common mode of travel and they were parked inside the racetrack. Then came the automobiles, and they disrupted the countryside. Horses were frightened, and at one time automobiles were prohibited from entering the fairgrounds for it was feared there might be a mass runaway staged by the horses.

1924 found the fair being held in early August; most activities were rained out. The seventh was a nice day and the first marriage ever at the fair was performed by Judge Lincoln. The parties were Fred Anderson, Highland, and Lorena Borchardt, Loyd. The ceremony was held in front of the grandstand on a platform directly across the track. Mrs. Anderson served as a superintendent of foods and nutrition for a number of years.

Entertainment for the 1927 Fair included the Richland Center High School Band which held concerts each day. The band was five time champion out of seven contests at state tournaments. The band was composed of 50 trained school boys, "only boys." A historical pageant was presented two evenings during the August 1927 Fair. Among the pageant executives were Francis Brewer, Mrs. A.P. Andrews, and Mary Barns. The pageant told a story of the hopes, ambitions, ideals, and endless endeavor for the betterment of a people.

During the 1930s, A.V. Miller, Richland County's first extension agent, started organizing 4-H Clubs for farm youth. As the clubs and membership grew, their influence became more pronounced

Times have changed rapidly. The Richland County Fair has grown from a \$35. paid gate receipt, to many thousands annually.

In 1948, the fair secretary, H.J. Gochenaur, revealed that the fair showed an operational profit of about \$3,500. The profit from that year's operation

made it possible for the fair to wipe out all existing indebtedness and enter the 1949 year in excellent financial condition.

The 1950 era must have had lean years as the fair society, in 1955, approached the Richland County Board with a proposal of deeding and conveying all of its rights, title and interest in and to the premises in Richland Center, known as the Richland County Fair Grounds, to the county.

The Richland County Board resolved that it was willing and would accept a deed of conveyance of all the "Richland County Agricultural Society's" rights, title and interest in and to the premises in Richland County known as the Richland County Fair Grounds, in the event said society ultimately decides to make such conveyance. (November 1955 (65) Resolution). This resolution was signed by the agricultural committee members: Estel Hoffman, Alva E. Miller, George Smart, Cecil Wanless, and Fred Pauls.

In 1956, the Richland County Agricultural Society stockholders voted unanimously to give the fairgrounds to the Richland County Board.

On April 18, 1956, the county's district attorney, Mr. Kennedy, discussed the proposed resolution and new state statutes regarding county owned fairs and their operations.

By Resolution 1955(1) Richland County accepted the fairgrounds in accordance with Section 59.69(1) of the Wisconsin Statutes as a gift.

The Richland County Board granted the "Richland County Agricultural Society" the use of said grounds for the year of 1956 in accordance with the powers, privileges, and conditions incident thereto as provided for in said Section 59.69(1) of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

By Resolution 1956(2), the Richland County Board appropriated \$3,971.89 to the Richland County Agricultural Society in connection with holding its 1956 fair,

"and being understood that this amount so appropriated shall not exceed the amount of the actual cash turned over to the County Treasurer for said Society and the sum of \$1,400, such monies to be expended and accounted for in accordance with Section 59.69(2) of Wisconsin Statutes.

Any unexpended funds to be turned over to the County Treasurer."

By Resolution 1956(3) the Richland County Board approved having a referendum at the November election as required by Wisconsin Statutes Section 59.69(3) 1955.

Resolution 1956(46) redrafted.

The power to provide for and conduct County Fairs and exhibitions and for such purpose acquire by deed of lease real estate and make improvements thereon; to appropriate funds for the adequate equipment and the proper management and control of such fair or exhibition; to adopt rules and regulations for the management and control of such property and of such fair or exhibition and for the appointment and salaries of persons necessary therefore, as provided in Section 59.69(3) Wisconsin Statutes 1955.

Being that the Richland County Board had no experience in operating a fair, a Fair Committee was to be created and three persons were to be elected. The committee was to investigate and report to the Board at its next regular meeting the manner in which other counties exercise such authority.

It was also stated that said County Fair Committee shall have the management and control of such fairs and exhibitions, and of the appointment and wages of persons necessary therefore, and until further action by the Board. The elected committee was Homer Madsen, Clarence Donner, and Fred Pauls.

By Resolution 1956(57) the county board appropriated \$1,400.00 in the county budget for the 1957 fair, and whatever balance of the \$3,971.89 was left after holding the 1956 fair and funds paid to the county treasurer, be paid into and carried over into the 1957 county fair budget. This policy of carrying over any unexpended money in the county fair account into the following year is still the practice today. Each August the county fair received a sum to be returned to the County Treasurer within 90 days after the fair.

In 1959, a donation was given to build a 48" x 64' commercial exhibit hall in the memory of A.V. Miller. The Art Hall and 4-H Youth Buildings were built in 1963 for a sum of \$7,500. by Resolution 1963(55).

In 1963, there was an "option to purchase" put on the county fair grounds' deed dated September 20, 1963, Volume 30, pages 369-400 by Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Hunt for 24.6 acres for \$5,000.

~~Resolution 63-14 The construction of a rest station, was built in the summer of 1963 for the amount of \$675. (pit toilets).~~

The Open Dairy Barn was built in 1964 for a sum of \$7,500. - Resolution 1964(5).

In 1970, the county board appropriated \$9,000 to purchase approximately 20 acres from James T. Barto along the south edge of the existing fair grounds for a parking lot. It appears from existing deeds, dated December 28, 1970, and a correction deed dated February 2, 1974, that there were only approximately 11 acres acquired for \$1.00 and other valuable considerations.

In 1971, Resolution 1971 (39) approval was given for \$20,000 to build a 120' x 60' Show Barn with other organizations to share one-half the costs. The records also show that the interior roads were blacktopped in 1971.

Prior to 1972, the fairgrounds had been served by metered electricity in some areas and unmetered in other areas. The county had been charged for the unmetered portion a sum of \$40.00 at rodeo time, and \$125.00 at fair time. The county hired the Richland Center City Utility to do the maintenance work on the secondary wiring on the grounds. On May 16, 1972, the county was notified by the city utility a single primary meter was installed for the entire grounds.

Resolution 1973(13) gave approval for \$24,000 to build a 120' x 78' 4-H Dairy Barn and to use revenue sharing funds.

In 1980, a milking parlor with a 1,000 gallon septic tank was donated to the fairgrounds by the Richland County Holstein Association at an estimated cost of \$15,000. There was an updated agreement regarding the use and maintenance of the milking parlor signed by the Fair Committee and the Holstein Association dated April 22, 1987.

The monies derived from the sale of milk accumulated during any event at the fairgrounds is to be used as needed to pay any expenses incurred for repairs, maintenance, upgrading, etc. to the milking parlor building and

its contents (including restrooms and showers), and to the electrical system throughout the building. If a major bill occurs and there aren't funds available in the Holstein Association's account, the fair committee agrees to assume responsibility for any cost not covered by the county's insurance.

In Resolution 1981 (31) dated July 21, 1981, a new west well and well house was donated. The well, costing \$4,387.73 was donated by the Richland County Holstein Association, and the well house was donated by the Richland County Beef Producers at a cost of \$675. In 1983, the showers on the west side of the Milking Parlor were donated. The cost was \$6,000.

The Conservation Building was built in 1984 and donated by the Richland County Conservation Club which has since disbanded. The stream bank was cleaned out and straightened.

On September 24, 1984, the grandstand which was built in 1921, was severely damaged by a storm, and debris from the grandstand damaged the Open Dairy Barn, Art Hall, and electrical wires. The estimated cost to make repairs was \$197,000. The fair committee decided to have a new grandstand built to seat approximately 1,500 people at a cost of \$200,859. The county's insurance paid the \$197,000 toward the new grandstand. The new grandstand is approximately 125' x 62'. This project was approved by Resolution 1984 (108). This grandstand was completed in time for the 1985 fair.

The secretary's office, which had been under the old grandstand, was moved to the south end of the 4-H Cultural Arts Building.

For many years the buildings being used for housing beef, swine and sheep were in poor repair. The livestock organizations formed a committee to obtain bids for a new building with a showring in the center. In 1988 a 136' x 104' Livestock Building was built at a cost of \$37,000. The county paid \$15,000 by County Resolution 88(7), and the balance of \$22,000 was acquired by donations.

In 1988, the Fair Committee negotiated with the Wisconsin State High School Rodeo Committee and agreed to a contract which was acceptable to all parties for the 1989 State High School Rodeo Finals to return to the Richland County Fairgrounds after leaving Richland County in the 1970s. The agreement called for the Rodeo Committee to pay the Fair \$500 rent and actual electrical usage. There was to be an inspection of the grounds,

by both parties before and after the rodeo, with any damages to be paid by the rodeo committee. (Resolution 1989(46)).

In January of 1995, the rent for the rodeo was increased to \$600, with the rodeo being allowed to use the A.V. Miller Building for commercial vendor spaces.

In 1991, the Fair Grounds Improvement Committee asked the County Fair Committee for permission to build a multipurpose building between the Art Hall and the 4-H Youth Building. The proposed building was to be 58' x 53' with sliding doors, cement floor and a stage. The total cost of the building was \$32,000. The fair committee paid \$7,500 by Resolution 91 (93) with the remainder paid by donations.

During the 1992 rodeo, the State Department of Health and Social Services inspected the fairgrounds and observed many campers and tents set up on the grounds for use as temporary dwellings. Any owner of any parcel of land that is used as a campground must obtain a campground license under Wisconsin Statute 140.05(3)(17). Because the fairgrounds are in the floodway, an approval from the DNR was needed. Due to the fact that the fairgrounds had been used as a campground prior to the floodplain ordinance, permission was granted as long as the fairgrounds are never advertised as a campground. If it is advertised, the fair will be given a citation.

A "Flood Warning and Evacuation Procedure" for the fairgrounds was prepared and approved by the county sheriff and the emergency government director.

During 1992, the metal roofs of the Art Hall and Open Dairy Barn were painted at a cost of \$2,822. On September 13 and 14, 1992, the fairgrounds had an estimated "80 Year" flood. The first flood came on Sunday night AFTER the exhibits had been released and another flood came the second night. There was evidence that the water was 18 inches high in the milk house and 4 inches deep on the office floor. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimated the damages at \$2,923.50. This amount was granted to the fair committee. Most of the damage was loss of screenings from the floors of the livestock buildings. Due to volunteer help, the fair committee was able to complete the repairs for less than the granted amount. Any savings were granted to the fair committee account. The savings was \$1,453.64.

In 1993, the fair committee was given permission to demolish two old

horse barns by Resolution 93 (14). The middle horse barn was demolished and the debris was burned by the Richland Center Fire Department. The old 4-H Horse Barn has not been demolished as of yet.

In 1993, Resolution 93(16) authorizing the annexation by the City of Richland Center was approved by the county board. This annexation included a parcel about 20 rods wide along the western edge of the fairgrounds to connect the city limits with their Industrial Park-North.

During the 1993 fair, the east well pump stopped working. A new pump was installed the next morning at 6:30 A.M. at the cost of \$900.

In 1994, the 4-H Dairy Barn was resided by Templen Agri-Builders, Inc. at a cost of \$10,428 (Resolution 94(21)). The existing siding was badly rusted due to the salt treated lumber used as a fire retardant, as per code, when the building was originally constructed.

In 1995, new cement was poured for the south wash rack, an apron on the west side of the Connection Building, and an apron and sidewalk at a the north end of the Art Hall at a cost of \$3,996.

A new 400 seat bleacher was added to the west end of the grandstand at a cost of \$14,713. in 1996. The Fairgrounds Improvement Committee donated \$5,000. The total cost slightly exceeded \$22,000. The bleachers were elevated to be level with the existing grandstand for easy walking between both structures. These bleachers were erected in time for the Wisconsin High School Rodeo Finals held in mid-June of 1996.

During the summer of 1996, the Richland Electric Cooperative donated its labor and equipment to make some major electrical improvements, replacement of poles, wiring and an additional transformer. The fair committee paid for the materials.

The DNR made a study of the fairgrounds' area floodplain. The DNR established a shallow depth area for approximately the eastern one-half of the fairgrounds. This was to make the obtaining of permits for improvements in that area much easier.

During recent years, many different entertainments have been featured at the Richland County Fair: 4x4 truck pulls, clowns and magic acts, mini-garden tractor pull, demolition derby, horse pulls, harness racing, country western shows, and mud bog races have been some main attractions. The demolition derby has made more money than any other event. Twice the

grandstand was at capacity, and many people had to be turned away. Tip Top Shows, Inc. has been the contracted carnival ride company used by the fair for over 30 years.

I would like to thank two people who helped in the gathering of the information needed for this history.

TWYLA KEPLER for supplying information and statistics from the early fair years.

SUE TRIGGS, Register of Deeds, for her help in finding the original deeds so I could put together the parcels to form the original fair grounds.

Compiled by:

James Lewis
Richland County Board Member
Fair Committee Member 1990-96

SOURCES:

Brewer Library - History Room
History of Richland County Fair by Twyla Kepler
Richland County Register of Deeds
Richland County Board Proceedings
Richland County Fair Committee Records

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Compilation listing of dates and buildings	12
B. List of Fair Committee Members: 1956-1998	13
C. A drawing of the fairgrounds and the parcels as they were purchased, and from whom, prior to 1956	15-20
D. A drawing of the fairgrounds as it was at the time of acquisition in 1956 and the addition of the 1970 purchase	21-22

FAIR HISTORY SYNOPSIS

1857	First Fair in Richland County
1956	Fairgrounds given to County for \$1.00
1959	A.V. Miller Building built - gift
1963	Resolution #55: Art Hall & 4-H Youth Building built for \$7,500
1964	Resolution #5: Cattle Barn (Open Dairy Barn) built for \$7,500
1970	Fairgrounds given a parking lot for \$1.00
1971	Resolution #39: Show barn built for \$20,000 to share one-half with other organizations
1973	Resolution #13: 4-H Barn (4-H Dairy Barn) built for \$24,000 with money to come from revenue sharing
1980	Milking Parlor donated with 1000 gallon septic tank
1981	Resolution #31: New West Well and Well House with some money coming from donations
1983	Showers donated
1984	New Conservation Building and Improvement of stream bank gifted
1985	Resolution #84-108: New Grandstand built after old grandstand blew down. Insurance paid in full for total of \$200,859.
1988	Resolution #7: New Livestock Building built for \$32,000 with \$22,000 from donations and the rest from the county
1989	Resolution #46: First year the Wisconsin State High School Rodeo came back to Richland Center
1991	Resolution #93: Project Connection Building built for \$32,000 with \$24,500 from donations and the rest from the county
1994	Resolution #21: New siding on the 4-H Dairy Barn for \$10,428
1995	New cement for Washracks, South end of Dairy Barn, West side of Project Connection Building, and North side of Art Hall for \$3,996
1996	Resolution #42: Bleacher Addition built for \$14,713

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD FAIR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

During the first years of county ownership, the committee was an elected position for one year.

1956 to 1957 H.R. Madsen Clarence Donner Fred Pauls	Two year terms began in 1966	1983 (Appointed) Arland McKittrick
1958 H.R. Madsen Clarence Donner Fred Pauls	1966 to 1968 Clarence Donner Thomas Dray George Smart	1984 to 1986 Ann Greenheck Arland McKittrick Delbert Whiteis
1959 Robert Holtz Clarence Donner Fred Pauls	1968 to 1970 Fred Pauls James Landen Ted Allain, Jr.	1986 to 1988 Arland McKittrick Merlyn Merry Delbert Whiteis
1960 Robert Holtz Clarence Donner Raymond Babb	1970 to 1972 Fred Pauls Don Weeden John Chandler	1988 to 1990 Arland McKittrick Merlyn Merry Delbert Whiteis
1961 Raymond Babb Clarence Donner Fred Pauls	1972 to 1974 Fred Pauls Don Weeden Bernard Stadele	1990 to 1992 Merlyn Merry James Lewis William Duhr
1962 Raymond Babb Clarence Donner Fred Pauls	1974 to 1976 Fred Pauls Don Weeden John Chandler	1992 to 1994 James Lewis William Duhr Owen Ewers
1963 Raymond Babb Clarence Donner Tom Dray	1976 to 1978 Fred Pauls Don Weeden Bernard Stadele	1994 to 1996 James Lewis Owen Ewers Donald Kellogg
1964 Raymond Babb Clarence Donner Tom Dray	1978 to 1980 Bernard Stadele Ken Barry Bernard Coy	1996 to 1998 Owen Ewers Donald Kellogg Kenneth Duncan
1965 Clarence Donner Georgie Wallace George Smart	1980 to 1982 Ken Barry Ann Greenheck Durward Merry (died: April 1983)	

Education Standing Committee report for Finance and the Referendum Committees
Linda Gentes
Mon 10/31/2022 11:31 AM

To:

Marty Brewer;
Clinton Langreck;
Shaun Murphy-Lopez;

Cc:

Barbara Voyce;
Marc Couey;
Shaun Murphy-Lopez;
Chad M. Cosgrove;
Melvin Frank;
Daniel McGuire;
Ingrid Glasbrenner;

The Education Standing committee has followed the guidelines of the resolution passed on August 16, 2022. They have worked with the Food Service and hired a new director who is developing a plan to increase revenues with new initiatives. The committee cut Extension funding by \$37,000 by reducing the part time staff and reducing the 4H appointment to 85%. For the Richland Campus they are making plans to remove East Hall from the UW-system contract and have it available for rent or sale. The Richland County Campus Foundation has agreed to contribute \$100,000 for capital improvements. With UW Platteville, the committee is at a stalemate with establishing a dedicated recruiter. The Committee will be working on many other initiatives and will hopefully then have a meeting with UW Platteville Administration to work on solving the enrollment situation.

Linda Gentes
Richland District 12
County Board

Richland County Finance and Personnel Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: *Response from Symons Natatorium Board on resolution 22-91*

Department	Symons Rec. Complex	Presented By:	Tracy Gobin
Date of Meeting:		Action Needed:	
Disclosure:	Open	Authority:	Committee Structure E +O
Date submitted:	10/26/2022	Referred by:	Symons Natatorium Board

Recommendation and/or action language: *(summarize action/s sought by committee, e.g. present a resolution, present an ordinance, receive and file information, approve expense or grant, etc.)*

Symons Natatorium board made a motion to respond to the Finance and Personnel Committee on the resolution 22-91 to encourage the Symons Natatorium board and Symons staff to explore the transfer of Symons to a non-profit organization including research of similar non-profit models and return to the Finance & Personnel Committee.

Background: *(preferred one page or less with focus on options and decision points)*

Symons Recreation Complex director Tracy Gobin and the Symons Natatorium Board researched what Symons Recreation Complex would look like as a non-profit. The attached four-page document shows the options that were researched during the last couple of months.

Attachments and References:

Minutes from October 24, 2022 Natatorium board meeting	
Document Response from the Symons Natatorium Board	

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

(summary of current and future impacts)

Action results in some reduction s in expenditures:

Approval:

Tracy Gobin

Review:

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)

Symons Recreation Complex Natatorium Board Minutes October 24th, 2022

The Natatorium Board met virtually via Zoom on October 24, 2022 at 6:00 pm. The following people were in attendance: Melony Walters, Marty Brewer, John Cler, Chad Cosgrove, and Tim Gottschall. Tracy Gobin was also present.

1. Call to Order- Walters called the meeting to order at 6:17pm.
2. Proof of Notification- Proof of Notification was met, per Gobin.
3. Approve Agenda- *Chad Cosgrove made a motion to approve the agenda. Marty Brewer seconded. The motion carried.*

Consent Items:

4. Approve Minutes

Marty Brewer made a motion to approve the consent items: Approve minutes from September 12, 2022 meeting. Melony Walters seconded. The motion carried.

Action Items:

5. Symons 2023 Budget and Capital Improvements – Gobin presented the 2023 budget that will be presented at the County Board Meeting tomorrow night. Gobin presented the 2023 Capital Improvements that have been approved by Richland County. The City of Richland Center still has to approve the budget and the Capital Improvements. *John Cler made a motion to approve the 2023 budget and capital improvement projects for Symons Recreation Complex. Marty Brewer seconded. The motion carried.*
6. Symons Recreation Complex as a Non-Profit - Gobin shared the Symons as a non-profit document that was prepared for the Symons Natatorium Board. Included in the document is information that was discussed in the September Meeting: YMCA's, Symons Natatorium Board running a non-profit, Symons Recreation Complex Foundation running Symons and how easy it is for non-profits to fundraise. Document also includes information on other items that were discussed that didn't have to do with a non-profit status: Wisconsin state mandate for lifeguards on duty and what options there would be if SRC had a gymnasium. Additional items requested to be added from the September meeting was more details on the Just A Game Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells and information about Symons revenue and what happens if the membership rates go to high. *John Cler made a motion to present the document presented to finance and personnel in response to resolution 22-91 to encourage the Symons Natatorium board and Symons staff to explore the transfer of Symons to a non-profit organization including research of similar non-profit models and return to the Finance & Personnel Committee by October 31, 2022. Melony Walters seconded. The motion carried.*

Closing:

7. Future Agenda Items – No items.
8. Schedule Next Meeting- November 14, 2022 at 6:00pm in person at the UWP-Richland campus and virtually via Zoom.
9. Adjourn—*Melony Walters made a motion to adjourn at 6:47pm. Marty Brewer seconded. The motion carried.*

Symons Natatorium Board research on Symons Recreation Complex (SRC) operated as a non-profit:

YMCA's are the most successful non-profit fitness facility. There is not a lot of detailed information available on how a facility can become a YMCA as they only provide that information to organizations that are very serious about becoming a YMCA. Information gathered about YMCA's:

- YMCA's are non-profits whose mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.
- Facilities would need at least \$30,000.00 to pay for the franchise fee, this is an estimate given on the internet, however that was not quoted by the YMCA franchise. It is not exact and the cost could be more.
- Facility would need a lawyer who is well versed with franchising.
- Facility would need well detailed business plans.
- Facility would need financing plan.

The Symons Natatorium Board didn't see this as being an affordable answer, as one board member stated when I was a child I lived near a YMCA but I couldn't go there as it wasn't affordable.

Symons Recreation Complex as a non-profit run by the Symons Natatorium Committee:

This was a proposed idea from a member who suggested that the current natatorium board become the non-profit board that operates Symons Recreation Complex. Grants would cover the \$70,000.00 that the City of Richland Center and the County of Richland provide through the tax levy.

A non-profit 501 ©3 cannot be a government body so this option as proposed wouldn't be possible.

Symons Recreation Complex Foundation is a non-profit:

The Symons Recreation Complex Foundation (SRCF) is a non-profit 501©3 organization that supports SRC. Tracy Gobin, Director of Symons Recreation Complex asked the Symons Recreation Complex Foundation board members what their thoughts were on operating the facility. SRCF board members are not interested in operating SRC, they are retired or work full time jobs already and are not looking to take on the responsibility of running the facility. The SRCF is willing to help with fundraising or writing grants for programs at SRC to help the facility. Currently the SRCF is used to purchase new equipment for the facility as with budget cuts new equipment was an item on the budget that has been cut. The SRCF also helps to fundraise for Symons sharks swim team, every child a swimmer program, purchased four solar

panels, built an outdoor patio, and installed UV light systems for the pool and whirlpool at Symons Recreation Complex as well as many other projects throughout the years.

The other concern with becoming a non-profit would mean that the amount to raise would increase to an estimated \$120,000.00 difference. Right now as a county department there is some benefits to the SRC budget:

- Health insurance cost would increase. As SRC on its own there are only three staff with health insurance so the employees would be in a smaller group and the cost of health insurance would increase.
- Payroll person would need to be hired or outsourced. Currently payroll is processed through the county and checks are cut by the county as a non-profit someone would need to do these tasks.
- Insurance – Property, Liability, Workman’s Compensation are all through the County and receiving a government discount. As a non-profit there would be no government discount.
- Information Technology (IT) costs would increase as right now software, computers and upgrades are handled by Richland County IT department who can get government discounts and quantity discounts when you add in all the computers or phones across the many county departments. Prices would increase and any IT support would need to be outsourced.
- Paper products (paper towels and toilet paper) and cleaning chemicals will cost more without the government rate.
- Attorney costs will increase as there won’t be access to corporation council. Corporation Council is not used on a regular basis but is helpful in situations when legal advice is needed.

Easy to fundraise for non-profits with grant funding:

Grants are available to non-profits but they are usually available for programs or events. Grants that fund operational expenses are hard to find. Applying for a grant doesn’t guarantee that you will receive a grant. Every year the non-profit would need to fundraise for at least \$120,000 in addition to what it already funds for equipment and programs.

The Symons Natatorium Board has found that SRC as a non-profit is not a good fit for Symons Recreation Complex. While the focus of the resolution was to research SRC as a non-profit there were other ideas that came about that don’t pertain to non-profit status but would make an impact on the SRC budget.

State of Wisconsin Lifeguard mandate:

It would be helpful to Symons Recreation Complex budget if the State of Wisconsin were to make an exception to the SRC swimming pool rule in regards to a lifeguard on duty. There is the potential for a decrease in expenses and an increase in revenue by acquiring this exception. Currently the state requires SRC to have a lifeguard on duty at all times due to the size of the swimming pool. If an exception is made, during times when adults were swimming laps, water

walking or taking water fitness classes that a lifeguard is not required to be on duty. Then the pool would be available for longer times during the week for adults to lap swim or water walk. Doing so could save \$10,000.00 in payroll expenses in a year. While this doesn't cover the \$70,000 that is needed, it brings it down to \$60,000 and potentially increase revenues at the facility as well due to the flexibility in times for adults to swim throughout the day.

Adding amenities to the facility:

Additional idea of bringing in more revenue for Richland County, would be if Symons Recreation Complex had access to the UWP-Richland Gymnasium. Symons Recreation Complex has contacted the campus about the possibility of using the gymnasium. Nothing is final or even been promised to happen, this is still in the beginning research phase. At this time, it is just an idea. Exact details of how this would look has not been discussed. Symons Recreation Complex has not seen any bills for the gym to know what the yearly cost of owning the gym would cost. The other unknown is will the revenue exceed the cost to operate. Due to this idea being known to the Richland County Educational Committee and the Symons Natatorium Board, Supervisor Brewer has requested research to be completed about Just A game Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells, WI.

Wisconsin Dells Just A Game Fieldhouse is owned by a family of four who are full time staff members at the facility.

Facility Amenities:

- 6 Full Length Basketball Courts
- 10 Full Length Volleyball Courts
- Four Locker Rooms
- Fully stocked Concession Stand
- Sports Impressions Sporting goods store
- Court of Champions (seating for 1700+)
- There is the option for live events to be streamed online.

Basketball Camps on Wednesdays & Thursdays called Games and Gains:

- 13 & Under 5:45-7:15pm \$30.00 per day for 1 hour and 30 minutes (discounted rates for packages)
- 14-17 7:25pm-8:55pm \$30.00 per day for 1 hour and 30 minutes (discounted rates for packages)

The facility has their own girls' volleyball traveling team that has tryouts at the facility as well.

Daily Use – Individual Open Gym costs: Students \$3.00; Adults \$5.00

Court Rental: \$50.00/court per hour

Gaining access to the UWP-Richland gymnasium would not be comparable to the Just a Game Fieldhouse as it is much smaller, however it does give an idea of possible options that Symons

Recreation Complex would be interested in doing if there was more access to the UWP-Richland gymnasium.

SRC Revenue:

The main revenue for Symons Recreation Complex is through membership fees.

Richland County residents are lower income households compared to counties around the state. Keeping the facility affordable for residents to be able to come and learn to swim or to be able to move is vital. In 2022 and again for 2023 Symons Recreation Complex is increasing the membership rates by 5%. With inflation increases in rates and prices this seem to be more acceptable. However, being aware that people do need essentials like milk, eggs and gas. The price of “essentials” are increasing as well. Wages have not all increased at the rate of inflation. So items that are considered essentials to eat and get to work each day do take preference over a pool/fitness membership. Not all see a fitness membership as an insurance plan for living a longer and higher quality of life as they age. Keeping the facility at an affordable rate for all who live in the community, including the underserved populations is very important for the health and wellness of the community. Programs at Symons Recreation Complex like *Every Child a Swimmer* program help with providing swim lessons to children at a reduced cost through donations from local community members and businesses to ensure that all children are able to learn how to swim and be safe around water.

Looking at the population of Richland County and seeing that it is an older population. According to Wisconsin Institute for Healthy aging Wisconsin has the highest death rate due to falls for older adults of any state in the country. The population of Richland County is older and falls are a major contributor to deaths for seniors in the state of Wisconsin. While it is not the only thing seniors can do but an important step of preventing falls is engage in balance and strength exercises that are proven to reduce falls. Symons Recreation Complex in partnership with the ADRC of eagle country provide fall prevention classes to the public. Keeping memberships and classes affordable to all the older adults many of whom have a set monthly income that doesn't increase every year is important to the residents of Richland County.

SRC is a place that teaches children to swim and be safe around water, gives swimming skills to teenagers for jobs as lifeguard and a healthy place for kids and teenagers to hang out together while being active and moving. A place for families to spend time together have fun while moving. A place for seniors to take steps to prevent falls and make friends. The facility does so many wonderful things for the members of the community and beyond. While the Symons Natatorium Board is understanding that Richland County is in the position of budget cuts that must be made. The \$36,000 from the SRC budget, will affect many people in this county and beyond and is only a very small amount of the large numbers that need to be cut from the county budget. \$36,000 is really a very good investment of the health and wellbeing of Richland County residents and a very good reason for folks to move to Richland County area as you don't find an indoor swimming pool in every small town in the country.

Richland County:	Response to Resolution No. 22-26	Committee:	Finance and Personnel Standing Committee
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A Resolution Directing The Various Richland County Standing Committees To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

Be it further resolved, that the Finance and Personnel Standing Committee is specifically tasked with the following:
Regarding Services Provided through County Administrator, County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Board and ancillary budgets

"Develop a recommended list of proposed projected levy reductions (in comparing to the 2022 budget) of \$122,000 in 2024, \$243,000 in 2025, \$299,000 in 2026, and \$383,000 in 2027, including but not limited to lines 6.01 through 6.91, 13.01 through 14.91, and 21.01 through 22.91 in the 5-year financial plan"

Options for Reductions:

Department/ Budget/ Account:	Function /Service/ Position:	Dollar/Cost:	Year of first reduction:	Service Impact:	Workaround or alternative delivery or service:	Reference 12 AUG 2022 Financial Workbook	Request consideration to add to Referendum levy exemption
Administration 10.5115	Creation of HR + Finance Department Combined [Strategic Plan] Addition of 1FTE Finance and HR Coordinator	\$ 105,116.60	Projected Expense (2024)	Reduces ability to meet strategic goals of bridging to a more robust HR and Financial services.	Make future efforts to enhance functions following financial stabilization.	21.02b	Yes
Administration 10.5115	Creation of Finance Department [Strategic Plan] Addition of 1FTE Finance Officer	\$100,842.82	Projected Expense (2027)	Reduces ability to meet strategic goals of more robust Financial services.	Make future efforts to enhance functions following financial stabilization.	21.01	Yes
Administration 10.5115	Creation of HR Department [Strategic Plan] Addition of 1FTE HR Coordinator	\$ 89,351.00	Projected Expense (2027)	Reduces ability to meet strategic goals of more robust Financial services.	Make future efforts to enhance functions following financial stabilization.	21.02	Yes
Administration 10.5115	Reduction of funds for staff training and professional development	\$ 3,500.00	Current Expense (2024) if not pulled for 2023	Reduces funding for staff training and conference attendance	Continue to reach out through free training opportunities and collaboration with local workgroups	21.03	Yes
Administration 10.5115	Administrator	\$ 101,902.05	Current Expense (2024)	Reduces support to for committees and meetings, policy development, day-today policy implementation, budgeting, planning, etc....	Revert to an Administrative Coordinator position assigned to other employee or elected official. Consider a part-time Administrator shared with the City.	21.92	No
Administration 10.5115	Assistant to the Administrator	\$ 85,258.89	Current Expense (2024)	Reduces support for committees and meetings, reduces policy development and responsiveness to issues.	Reduce expectation on projects and strategic initiatives.	21.93	No
Administration 10.5115	Accounting Supervisor	\$ 95,670.63	Current Expense (2024)	Reduced Accounting Capacity. Our Ability to maintain the General Ledger would be significantly impacted.	Add to a different position. Functions of this position are a full FTE	not on planner	No
Administration 10.5115	Benefits Specialist	\$ 70,581.87	Current Expense (2024)	Reduced our ability for centralized payroll and benefits management.	Add to a different position. Functions of the position are a full FTE	not on planner	No
County Clerk 10.5141	Digitization of resolutions	\$10,000	Current Expense (2024)	Reduces contract and software support for expediting accessible electronic storage of resolutions	Possibly use our Municode software to workaround and continue self review and posting	6.02	No
County Clerk 10.5142	Part-Time Deputy County Clerk	\$27,000	Current Expense (2024)	Reduces WISVOTE, reduces availability of Clerk to fulfil with Finance Officer Duties	Deputize Accounting Supervisor with reduced accounting	not on planner	No

2024		2025		2026		2027	
Directive: \$ 122,000.00		Directive: \$ 243,000.00		Directive: \$ 299,000.00		Directive: \$ 383,000.00	
Recommend Reduction:	Running Total Column:	Recommend Reduction:	Running Total Column:	Recommend Reduction:	Running Total Column:	Recommend Reduction:	Running Total Column:
Yes	\$ 105,116.60	Yes	\$ 105,116.60	Yes	\$ 105,116.60	Was a planned reduction for 2027	\$ -
Yes	\$ -	Yes	\$ -	Yes	\$ -	Yes	\$ 100,842.82
Yes	\$ -	Yes	\$ -	Yes	\$ -	Yes	\$ 89,351.00
Yes	\$ 3,500.00	Yes	\$ 3,500.00	Yes	\$ 3,500.00	Yes	\$ 3,500.00
No	0	No	0	No	0	No	0
No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
No	0	No	0	No	0	No	0
No	0	No	0	No	0	No	0
Yes	\$ 10,000.00	Yes	\$ 10,000.00	Yes	\$ 10,000.00	Yes	\$ 10,000.00
No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -

County Treasurer 10.5156	Eliminate Property Lister and merge duties amongst Treasurer, Deputy and GIS	\$ 69,000.00	Current Expense (2024)	Reduces centralized function on property transfers and legal description issues, and interface with property assessors. Reductions in review of tax bills.	Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer and GIS Tech would have to parcel the duties.	not on planner	No	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
County Treasurer 10.5156 and others	Borrow for GCS/LandNav Software	\$ 28,000.00	Current Expense (2024)	Displaces operational expenses to debt service / Short-term borrowing.		not on planner	No	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
Other Budgets															
10.5181	Southwest Regional Planning	\$ 17,562.58	Current Expense (2024)	Reduction in regional coordination, planning initiatives, grant procurement and grant administration.	Watch action publicly and respond with internal resources to local needs.	34.01	Yes	No	\$ -	Yes	\$ 17,562.58	Yes	\$ 17,562.58	Yes	\$ 17,562.58
10.5195, 10.5198	Short Term Borrowing for Property, W/C and Liability Insurance (State Statute 67.04(5)(b)1	\$ 461,000.00	Current Expense (2024)	Move expenses from operations to Short-Term Borrowing (Worker's compensation, Liability Insurance, Risk Management Services, Property Insurance by Statute 67.04(5)(b)1 and 611.11(4)(b). W/C=\$327,609; Liability =\$55,000; Property=\$75,248; Commercial Crime=\$3,200. <u>This is a displacement in operational levy, not a "reduction in overall levy on the taxbase."</u>	This circumvents levy limits as allowable by 67.04(5), but will require 3/4 vote from County Board and will increase or displace short-term borrowing against the levy.	not on planner	Yes	Yes	\$ 50,000.00	Yes	\$ 100,000.00	Yes	\$ 160,000.00	Yes	\$ 160,000.00
Fund 29	Video Conferencing Fund	\$ 6,000.00	Current Expense (2024)	Move expense to short-term borrowing when court needs arrive.	Anticipate and plan future court audio visual needs	not on planner	No	No	\$ -	Yes	\$ 6,000.00	Yes	\$ 6,000.00	Yes	\$ 6,000.00
Other Options															
Amin, Clerk and Treasurer	Reduction in Hours to 4/9hour days	\$ 39,724.90	Current Expense (2024)	Reduction to Office Hours to 4/9 hours. This is a 10% reduction in productivity. Challenges in completing payrolls and managing daily finances, impacts on availability to public.	Bolster payroll processing to ensure completion. Inform public of reduced office hours. (Closed on Friday)	not on planner	No	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
Amin, Clerk and Treasurer	Reduction in Hours to 4/8 hour days	\$ 79,449.79	Current Expense (2024)	Reduction to Office Hours to 4/9 hours. This is a 20% reduction in productivity. Challenges in completing payrolls and managing daily finances, impacts on availability to public.	Bolster payroll processing to ensure completion. Inform public of reduced office hours. (Closed on Friday)	not on planner	No	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
Amin, Clerk and Treasurer	Phased Reduction in hours	\$ -	Current Expense (2024)	Method of phasing in hour reductions to keep employees at annual income with annual reduction in hours. Curb future projected if planning on wage increases.	Bolster payroll processing to ensure completion. Inform public of reduced office hours. (Closed on Friday)	not on planner	No	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -	No	\$ -
Total in options \$ 1,389,961.13								Total:	\$ 168,616.60	Total:	\$ 242,179.18	Total:	\$ 302,179.18	Total:	\$ 387,256.40
Note: Not all options can be exercised at once and many options are not a reduction in current, existing services.								Overage:	\$ 46,616.60	Overage:	\$ (820.82)	Overage:	\$ 3,179.18	Overage:	\$ 4,256.40
								2024		2025		2026		2027	



Response to County Board Resolution No. 22-91 Seeking Funding Options for Richland Economic Development

September 28th, 2022

Resolution No. 22-91 - A Resolution Notifying The Symons Natatorium And Richland Economic Development Department Of Future Funding Reductions And Directing The Symons Natatorium Board And Richland Economic Development Board To Consider Services, Develop Options And Propose A Recommendation On Future Operations.

The Richland Economic Development Board hereby submits this document in response to County Board Resolution No. 22-91 which provided the following direction;

"2. Encourage the RED board to explore a public private partnership where public sources make up half and private sources make up half of the Economic Development budget; and return to Finance and Personnel Committee with a report by October 31st 2022."



Summary

9/28/2022

The RED Board has conducted research and assembled information regarding four possible funding models for Richland Economic Development. For reasons outlined throughout this document, the **Unanimous Recommendation** of the Richland Economic Development Board is to retain the current model of funding with **RED funded 50% by the County and 50% by the City**. While the actual budget documents for this model shows the County funding (60%) and the City (40%), the City provides office space and other amenities which, when factored, are intended to equally spread the cost of operations at 50% / 50%.

Past economic development efforts, and now Richland Economic Development have yielded substantial positive and measurable contributions to the County's economic position. These contributions come in ways that are both direct (increased property tax base, injection of grant money) and indirect (additional sales tax, more jobs, more students in our schools, new community amenities, and a positive outlook for the future).

There must be deep consideration of the fact that if the County and the City are not engaged in economic development then they are falling behind all counties and municipalities that are. This is almost universally understood, by governments, municipal and regional planning professionals, academia, and private industry alike.

Throughout the past year and a half, through numerous strategic planning efforts that have been conducted by Richland County and facilitated by Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, it has been clearly communicated that governments cannot solve their budgetary dilemmas through cuts alone. A complete action plan requires allocation of resources to economic growth. Richland Economic Development is, in fact, the primary entity that spurs on and facilitates growth for the County.

It is also critical to note that Richland Economic Development is one of the few county departments that has the capacity to generate revenues that cover all of the associated cost of the department. Once departmental costs are covered, the Economic Development Office produces profit. The RED Board has discussed and reviewed data and believes that it is reasonable to postulate that Richland Economic Development, approximately 2 years and 5 months into its current structure, has already generated enough new repeat yearly revenue for the County and City to pay 100% of its operating costs (See Exhibit B). This means that all future revenues that are generated from projects that Richland Economic Development helps facilitate should be understood to be 100% profit. These profits can now be used to fund other departments and services that are unable to produce revenue streams through their operations.

Cutting funding and jeopardizing the stability of Richland Economic Development is likely to increase the property tax burden on every land owner in the County, not reduce it.

Thank you for your thorough review and consideration of this recommendation and the documentation that is provided.



A Letter from the RED Board

August 8, 2022

RE: General Statement - Alternative Funding for Richland Economic Development

The Richland Economic Development Board, ("RED Board"), is aware of Richland County's difficult budget considerations, we understand the complexity of the situation, and we appreciate the restrictive nature of state law with regards to municipal funding for rural communities.

We understand the County is in the process of searching for funding options, and considering possible cuts across multiple departments and services, we realize the need for difficult choices, and we offer our support to everyone involved.

This letter is our direct response to any consideration of defunding the Economic Development Director position.

"Strongly Opposed."

Since the creation of this position, a joint effort between Richland County and the City of Richland Center, our community has added the new dialysis center/pharmacy building, the TechCom Building, multiple new homes, the Lone Rock Village Center Park, and the addition of an elevator to the Richland Center City Auditorium.

These projects have provided the County with increased property tax revenue, increased sales tax revenue, increased local employment opportunities, and a much-needed psychological boost for local residents, following an extended period of stagnation.

Jasen Glasbrenner, our current Economic Development Director, has been a critical player in every one of these positive developments. His expertise and experience have helped move each of these possibilities from simple ideas to tangible realities. We believe a decision by Richland County to remove support for this position would not only send a harshly negative message to worried friends and neighbors; it would also lead our community backwards, as we saw when economic development was defunded at both the city and county levels.

The RED Board strongly encourages Richland County to maintain financial support for the critically important Economic Development Director position.

Sincerely,
The RED Board



Richland Economic Development Board Report to Richland County Board and Committees on Funding Alternatives

Date: September 12, 2022

Re: Report from RED Board regarding restructuring and funding alternatives

Following are four potential models for the funding of Richland Economic Development as we move forward. The County Board requested RED to evaluate models that might work instead of the existing model. The profile for each model includes a brief description of the model, the governance, and the financing. The pros and cons of the model are stated and then a recommendation from the RED Board is included.

The four funding models below are ranked in the order of most desirable to least desirable and are as follows;

Models:

- 1) **Recommended** - RED is funded 50% by the County and 50% by the City. (This is the Current Model) - The actual budget documents for this model shows the County funding (60%) and the City (40%). However, the City provides office space and other amenities which, when factored, are intended to equalized the cost at 50% / 50%.
- 2) RED is funded 100% by the City. This models assumes that the City decision makers would agree to this concept and that funding could be identified within the City budget.
- 3) RED is funded 50% by the County and City (The Public Sector) and 50% by Private Businesses (The Commerce Sector). This model assumes businesses will be willing to give large donations and that there is a large enough pool of businesses to raise the money from.
- 4) RED becomes a Self-Funded Private Non-Profit Entity having to raise 100% of the funds necessary to operate. This model requires RED to approach all local government entities and businesses on a one on one basis to try to gain the necessary funding of operate. This model presents the highest level of risk and uncertainty to the success of RED and economic development in Richland County.

Qualifying Statement regarding the Models:

1. With regard to Model #2 - The City has not agreed to fund RED entirely if the County dropped out as a funding partner.
2. With regard to Model #3 and #4 - No private (commerce sector) businesses have been approached regarding soliciting contributions.
3. With regard to Model #4 - There have been no efforts to incorporate or file for an IRS 501(C)(3) tax exempt status.



Model #1 - Maintain the Current Model of Shared County and City Funding

Governance

At the present time the RED board has four (4) permanent representatives from government, two (2) from the City of Richland Center and two (2) from Richland County. In addition, there are 5 citizen members representing different economic sectors. There would be no change to government representation or the board structure.

Funding

There would be no change from the current funding model.

Considerations

Pros

1. The County and City would continue to fund their contributions to RED as in the past which would provide continuity. This is a role proper to government. There would not be favoritism, real or perceived, shown to any private entity or municipality.
2. The structural document will not have to be changed and approved by the Richland Center City Council and the Richland County Board of Supervisors.
3. Sector representation will remain the same.
4. The working relationship between the city and county is better than it has been for a very long time. It is important to recognize, nurture and support this improving relationship.

Cons

1. The County will have to find other areas of the budget to cut.
2. If Richland County chooses to not support RED, the lack of monetary (visible) county government support may have a negative psychological impact on businesses who wish to expand, relocate to Richland County, or start up.

Commentary

An example of the power and potential of economic development is the Bear Creek Solar Project which will provide Richland County with \$116,667 of unrestricted funds on an annual basis. It is important to note that this project is the direct result of a part-time citizen driven economic development effort which made the solar farm a reality at no cost to the taxpayers. It was completed prior to the creation of RED. This revenue stream is scheduled to start in 2023 and is expected to continue for 30 years. The revenue from this economic development effort alone exceeds the county contribution to RED with the current Richland County contribution at \$73,859.54.



The document "Net New Construction by County" (Exhibit A) indicates that Richland County has lagged all other identified counties in a 5-year average in net new construction. Iowa county leads at 1.59%. Richland County is lowest at 0.83%. This demonstrates the importance of investment in Economic Development for Richland County.

There has been noticeable new construction activity in the City of Richland Center. A positive attitude is beginning to embrace the community. The Mayor is receiving regular contacts from businesses expressing interest in the community. Much of this has started since the creation of RED. It is important for the county to recognize the importance of RED and provide financial support.

Fiber optic cable throughout rural Richland County is going to enhance lives for current residents. It will also make the area more attractive for those considering relocating. RED has played a significant role to foster installation of fiber optic cable. In addition, recent utilization of CDBG Close grants (\approx \$1.2 million) to enhance the City Auditorium and the Village of Lone Rock would not have taken place without RED.

It is critical to recognize that many economic development efforts have a cumulative effect. Stated another way, once a building is constructed and goes on the property tax rolls, the revenue generated is recurring year after year for as long as the building is in existence. This means that revenues from economic development efforts are always sustained and increasing. An economic development department is one of the few governmental departments that can operate at a consistent profit with the ability to support other departments that are unable to generate a profit.

Please see (Exhibit B) below for a brief overview of the financial involvement that RED has already had for Richland County and Richland Center. It appears that the revenues generated through economic development activity and projects are already in excess of what the County and City have invested since the inception of the department. At this point, yearly costs could be considered 100% covered by the yearly revenues that economic development efforts and RED have been substantially involved in securing. In any business model, this department would be considered for additional funding, not less.

Recommendation

The RED Board strongly recommends maintaining the current funding, governance structure and sector representation of RED.



Model #2 – RED is Funded 100% by the City

Governance

As dictated by the adopted Structural Document, the RED Board contains four seats for governmental representatives. Both the County and the City are assigned two seats each. If financial contributions were withdrawn from the County, the composition of the RED Board may change in the following ways:

1. As the County's representatives, the County Administrator and County Board Chair may be removed from their seats and lose voting authority. City representatives may fill the vacancies.
2. As the County may still have a vested interest in the work of the RED Board, their representatives may remain on the board with or without voting power.
3. The RED Board may alter their structure by reducing their size, eligibility requirements for representatives (E.g., city residents only), or disband entirely.

As the structure, composition, authority and purpose of the RED Board are set forth by the Structural Document requiring adoption by both the City and County, any significant alteration, such as the County withdrawing from the agreement, necessitates significant modifications to the Structural Document and readoption. At such time the County extricates itself, the City would set forth the prescribed governance or dissolution.

Funding

The current departmental budget for Economic Development is approximately \$130,000 per year of which the City is currently responsible for 40% or about \$56,000. The City has and will continue to provide office space and other amenities for the department.

To absorb the full cost of the Economic Development Department, the City would need to allocate approximately \$75,000 additional dollars for the first year. This would be an ongoing annual cost subject to a variable increase based on several economic factors (E.g., wage increases, inflationary impact to the cost of goods, equipment replacement, etc).

The City does not have a funding source identified for this additional expense. However, several options are available for consideration such as: reallocating funding from other department budgets, increasing fees, terminating current contributions to Symons (to be considered if funding is withdrawn by the County), requiring the Economic Development Director to seek and obtain grants allowing for administrative costs to be recovered, and so on. Given the revenue generated by the Economic Development Director has largely exceeded the actual expense of the department, all-potential funding options available to the City will be explored to ensure economic development continues within the City.

Considerations

Pros

City continues to vigorously pursue economic development without a loss of momentum.

1. Full dedication to pursuing economic development interests within the City.
2. Ongoing projects will be seen to completion.
3. The Director's time is spent on high value projects rather than fundraising.
4. Streamlined reporting process for the Director.
5. Scope of work is narrowed and strategically focused as determined by the City.
6. The County continues to receive benefit of city based economic development as about 1/3 of tax revenue generated within the City is received by the County.

Cons

1. The County may lose representation and influence on the RED Board.
2. Ongoing and future economic development projects/initiatives within the County would be at the full expense of the County. On a case-by-case basis, the City may elect to contract out the Economic Development Director to the County at an hourly rate. This may prove to be cost prohibitive depending on the scope of work contracted.
3. Independent from the County, a town or village may be compelled to utilize the services of the Economic Development Director. If so, they would be subject to paying the hourly contract rate which may be cost prohibitive.
4. Without a collaborative approach as is in effect now, the potential for relationship building and strategic planning in collaboration with the County may be impeded. Unintended side effects or inefficiencies may present themselves.
5. With less access to County officials and department heads, the exchange of information and opportunity for knowledge sharing may be diminished. Although the director's focus would be city-centric, preserving a communication pathway would be essential.
6. Potential risk of alienating entrepreneurs outside of the City.
7. Towns and villages routinely struggle gaining access to the vast number of resources that may be available to them given their part-time or volunteer status. Additionally, without the necessary technical expertise and adequate time/staffing, managing grants and other programs can be quite challenging for a part-time or volunteer staff. Removing economic development from the County may prevent towns and villages from much needed assistance and support thus impeding their goals as well as the County's.
8. Self-imposed regulation like local ordinances have a tremendous impact on economic development within a community. Without an Economic Development Director on staff, the ability to address regulatory barriers and create an environment favorable to economic development would be severely impeded within the County.



Recommendation

The RED Board does not recommend this Model. While the City would experience several benefits from a city-centric approach to economic development, the cost the County would be tremendous. The Economic Development Director has a proven track record of success within the City and County. This success has allowed the department to generate more revenue than expenses. The department provides both direct and indirect financial value and it creates no burden to the County's overall budget.

Given the importance of continued economic development throughout the entire County, and great challenges a separation would create, it is the recommendation of the RED Board to maintain the current structure and organization of the Economic Development Department. Any proposed change would create an undue burden to the entire County at large.

Model #3 – RED is funded 50% by the County and City (The Public Sector) and 50% by Private Businesses (The Commerce Sector)

Governance

The private and public governance model will include representatives from the government sector and the commerce sector. Presently the RED Board has four permanent representatives from government, two from the City and two from the County. That representation would not change unless the County discontinues funding RED. In such a case, the County may lose their seats on the RED Board and those seats could be redistributed to the City and Commerce sectors. For the sake of the commerce sector contributors, RED would likely need to be organized under a non-profit 501(C)(3) corporation.

Funding

Equalized funding would mean the RED budget of approximately \$130,000 per year would have one-half of the contributions from the government sector (\$65,000) and one-half from the commerce sector (\$65,000). This split would mean the City would be responsible for approximately \$32,500 and the County for approximately \$32,500. Each year the funds would need to be reallocated from the government sector and the commerce sector. There is also the matter of office space and equipment. This model presumes the City would continue to grant usage of office space and equipment.

Considerations

Pros

1. The County and City would significantly reduce their contributions to RED.
2. There would be greater participation financially by the commerce sector in RED. This may tend to increase the buy-in from the commerce sector.
3. RED could operate as a 501(C)(3), which has some benefits in receiving grants.
4. The operations of a 501(C)(3) would be more nimble and less encumbered by governmental regulations.

Cons

1. Funding through the commerce sector takes considerable time and resources to raise and maintain. The scarce resources of time that already tax the Economic Development Director (EDD) would be used for fundraising instead of bringing new commerce into the area.
2. The City and County would significantly decrease their investment in RED which may translate into less concern for economic development.
3. The EDD will have less opportunity to create relationships with governmental offices that will help them to streamline projects.
4. The EDD will have less capacity to influence governmental bodies and government regulations to become favorable to growth and development.
5. The potential for not raising enough funds from the commerce sector could be a reality, especially in economic downturns. In this case, there may be a struggle to continue full operations of economic development in the county.

Recommendations

The RED Board does not recommend this model. While this model of ED structure is used in some counties, and has some measure of success, it also has several limiting factors. It takes a substantial amount of time to raise and maintain funding from the commerce sector and there is a real potential that funding efforts fall short. This creates uncertainty and a potential for failure.

Model #4 - RED becomes a Self-Funded Private Non-Profit Entity having to raise 100% of the funds necessary to operate.

Governance

The Richland Economic Development Board would essentially reorganize to a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and form a board of directors. The board of directors would be responsible for overseeing the operations and control of the newly formed non-profit.



This option will restructure the current make-up of the members and the size of the RED Board.

Funding

Funding for a non-profit economic development organization would come from private donations from local industries or individuals or from grant monies applied for and received from local, state or federal entities.

Considerations

Pros:

1. The benefit from adopting a privately funded RED Board would potentially eliminate the funding coming from the City and County funds.

Cons:

1. This type of board structure would require either the board of directors, volunteers, or the economic director to spend time generating the funding. The time spent trying to find funding sources would take away from essential time being used to cultivate and develop working relationships that directly impact economic development within our community.
2. The community tried this type of structure in the past and the experience had was a disconnect between the Economic Development and their board, the City Council, and the County Board. The ideas and visions between the 3 groups could not align and ultimately the Economic Development Board dissolved.
3. There's also a risk that funding this type of model with private donations from local industry will not succeed within our smaller community as we have fewer resources from industry than in larger communities. There's concern that either smaller businesses may not have the ability to provide funding and/or may not fully understand or have the 'buy in' to the idea of being a long-term funding source since the financial benefits are not always obtained immediately; they are gained over time as our community grows. There is a concern of a lack of long-term sustainability with this model.

Recommendation

The RED Board does not recommend this model. The RED Board's recommendation is to continue having both the county and city fund 100% of economic development to maintain the collaboration between the 3 groups and continue to build upon the successes that have develop over the past couple of years. Our current model, having the Economic Director as a liaison between the RED Board, the City, and County, has shown to have the most success in our smaller community with our current financial situation.

Exhibit A

Net New Construction by County - Increase in Richland, surrounding, and similar counties by percent.

Grant	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
	1.06	1.06	0.82	1.47	1.71	5-year average 1.16%

Lafayette	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
	1.35	1.35	0.91	1.16	1.93	5-year average 1.34%

Vernon	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
	1.70	1.42	1.04	1.03	1.47	5-year average 1.33%

Sauk	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
	1.29	0.95	1.33	1.47	1.37	5-year average 1.28%

Iowa	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
	2.24	1.27	1.34	1.56	1.56	5-year average 1.59%

Crawford	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
	1.13	0.96	0.74	0.73	1.16	5-year average 0.94%

Richland	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
	0.94	0.67	0.83	0.69	1.00	5-year average 0.83%

Exhibit A – (continued)

Net New Construction in dollars by municipal entity in Richland County, as a percent of the total, and 5-year average.

	2022		2021		2020		2019		2018	
Townships	8,560,000	70%	7,160,100	90%	6,136,000	61%	5,701,400	71%	6,952,200	61%
Villages	418,400	3%	271,700	3%	773,400	8%	(120,200)	-1%	456,400	4%
City	3,337,000	27%	525,400	7%	3,071,800	31%	2,398,100	30%	3,913,400	35%
Total	12,315,400		7,957,200		9,981,200		7,979,300		11,322,000	

5-year average NNC

Townships	6,901,960	70%
Villages	359,940	3%
City	2,649,140	27%
Total	9,911,040	

Exhibit B - Richland Economic Development Impact Tracker

Project	Total Project Value	Direct & Indirect Benefits	
CDBG Close Grant – Lone Rock Park and RC Auditorium	\$1,200,000	Increase in Sales Tax, tourism, removal of blight so property values and community attractiveness increase.	
		New Renter @ Auditorium	≈ \$3,000 / month
		2 to 5 New Jobs	
Dialysis and Pharmacy in RC	\$1,210,000	Repeat Property Tax Income every Year	≈ \$34,800
		One time Sale of Land	\$100,000
		New and retained jobs, sales tax,	
Tech Com Building	\$585,900	Repeat Property Tax Income every Year	≈ \$35,090
		One time Sale of Land	\$25,000
		New and retained jobs, sales tax	
Phoenix Center Covid Relief Grant – made aware and assisted in pursuit	\$200,000	Retained and expanded businesses and economy	
Richland Locker Grant – assisted in pursuit	\$200,000	Retained and expanded businesses and economy	
Richland Locker RLF – assisted in pursuit	\$200,000	Retained and expanded businesses and economy	
Starlite Theaters Grant – assisted in pursuit	\$43,800	Retained and expanded businesses and economy	
TIF Extension for Affordable Housing - facilitated capture of dollars for fund that can be used to improve housing in the City	≈ \$115,000	Dollars to be invested in Richland Center	\$115,000

Exhibit B – Richland Economic Development Impact Tracker (Continued)

Project / Fund	Total Project Value	Direct & Indirect Benefits	
Wedgewood Development Lots – 2 Duplexes and 1 Home	≈ \$1,000,000		
		Facilitated receipt of land by donation and then sale of land	\$63,500
		Development Agreements for Net New Construction value of ≈ \$900,000. Repeat Property Tax income every year	≈ \$35,100
WEDC Idle Sites Grant for Rockbridge Childcare Facility	≈ \$150,000	Supports families and work force / provided jobs	
Facilitated Sunshine and Giggles Childcare arrival in RC		Supports families and work force / provided jobs	
		Repeat Property Tax income every year	≈ \$7,800
Main St. Bounce Back Grants	≈ \$150,000	Facilitated the application and receipt of grants to approx. 15 businesses in Richland County.	
County Housing Authority – Lost Fund Recovery Effort	≈ \$80,000	Assisted Administrator in identifying and working to recover lost / idle funds that were defederalized	\$80,000
Bear Creek / Savion / Alliant Energy Solar Field -	\$116,000 / Year for 30+ years	This project was not developed under RED. However, revenue streams are just coming on line and this project is a direct result of focused economic development efforts of the community members on behalf of the county.	

Exhibit B – Richland Economic Development Impact Tracker (Continued)

Project / Fund	Total Project Value	Direct & Indirect Benefits	
New Dollar Tree	\$800,000	Repeat Property Tax income every year	\$23,200
		Job creation retention and sales tax revenue	
New Dunkin Donuts / ATT Store	\$750,000	Repeat Property Tax income every year	\$21,750
Panorama Building #2	\$4,500,000	Repeat Property Tax Revenue is deferred to TIF for approx. 15 years	\$145,000
Facilitation of Richland Center Stori Field Development of new housing units	\$2,400,000	Projected Repeat Property Tax income every year	\$93,600
Los Amigos – WEDC – CDI Grant effort	\$200,000	Effort is in progress	
Projects / Efforts that are in Progress that will bolster the Economy			
City Website Rebuild for Marketing and public ease of use			
City Ordinance Recodification and Rewrite for growth and planning			
City / County Tax Deed Lot Program for redevelopment and new homes			
New Single Family Home Subdivision			
Facilitated transfer of vacant lot to Cazenovia for future redevelopment			
City Redevelopment Authority Revitalization			
City Industrial Park Revitalization Project			
Several Sales leads for Industrial Park			

Exhibit B – Richland Economic Development Impact Tracker (Continued)

Projects that are in Progress that will bolster the Economy		
Facilitating USED Grant implementation with Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission - Comprehensive plans in Richland Center, Lone Rock, Boaz, Richland County Strategic Plan, Richland Center and Richland County rebranding for Workforce Retention and Attraction		
Assisting Richland Center in planning around the construction of the New Richland Center Hospital		
Environmental Protection Agency and DNR Technical Assistance Program to clear brownfields in Richland Center and Richland County for redevelopment		
Regional involvement on model for immigrant and migrant workforces of alleviate extreme workforce shortage in the county		
Assisting Richland Center in overhauling the City Planning and Zoning departments and efforts.		

Economic Impact Summary - Since the Inception of RED:

- RED has secured over \$1,700,000 in Grant dollars.
- RED is currently facilitating the process to secure over \$300,000 more in grants.
- RED has assisted in the development of projects (either complete or under construction) valued at \$5,545,900.
- RED is currently working to secure development projects valued at more than \$7,000,000
- RED has significantly contributed to the realized, or soon to be realized, year after year property tax revenues of more than \$150,000.



Exhibit B – Richland Economic Development Impact Tracker (Continued)

- RED is working to secure development projects that, if completed, will have year after year property tax revenue streams that are in excess of \$240,000.
- RED was instrumental in acquisition and or sale of land for the City that resulted in one-time revenue streams that would not have been realized otherwise; \$163,500.
- The dollar values and contributions listed above are trackable and objective. There are numerous indirect economic and financial impacts that are more difficult to quantify, but never the less very real. Examples are jobs or businesses created or saved, increased sales tax revenues, and the overall positive social and economic environment that is created when we are actively and progressively working to develop our economy.



November 21st, 2022

**From: The Richland Economic Development Board - Pursuant to discussion and action taken by the RED Board at their meeting held on Monday, November 21st at 9am
(This document was prepared by Director Glasbrenner)**

RE: Response to the information request from the Richland County Referendum Committee

On Monday, October 10th, 2022 the Richland County Referendum Committee met and reviewed the Richland Economic Development Board report that is dated *September 28th, 2022* and is titled *"Response to County Board Resolution No. 22-91 Seeking Funding Options for Richland Economic Development"*.

After reviewing that document, the Referendum Committee requested the following information.

Richland Economic Development (RED) Board

- *Research from other counties that have private funding for economic development (e.g., Vernon, Green), including the amount of time it takes to raise funds and how the governing board is represented by private contributors.*
- *Resolution 22-91 directs the RED Board to explore half of its budget coming from private sources, which amounts to approximately \$37,000 per year. We are seeking information about how much of that amount the RED Board would like to have placed on a referendum versus a permanent reduction in the RED budget.*
- *Identify the private businesses that are supporting Economic Development in other counties such as Vernon and Green.*

Research from other Counties –

10/13/2022 – Green County Research

Call with Olivia Otte – Executive Director

Green County Economic Development Corporation - 501(c)3

Green County Population = 36,988

Approximately 69 Industrial related businesses

Richland County Population = 17,212

Approximately 24 Industrial related businesses

Green County Economic Development is funded by Contributions ≈\$200,000 budget

- Green County ≈ \$60,440 /yr



- City of Monroe (Population 10,537) \approx \$29,000 /yr
- City of Broadhead (Population 3,249) \approx \$8,700 /yr
- Village of Belleville (Population 2,559) \approx \$6,320 /yr
- Village of New Glarus (Population 2,234) \approx \$5,760 /yr
- Village of Monticello (Population 1,187) \approx \$3,220 /yr

- Total Government Contribution (6) = \$113,440 /yr
- Total Private Partners (16) \approx \$53,000 /yr
- A rough estimate of the number of hours spent working to secure the funding would be 260 hours per year.

Other details of Green County Economic Development:

- Payroll is run through the County
- Benefits of the County
- County Provides Office Space
- County Provides IT Support
- They have the assistance of a UW Extension Agent
- They have a Project / Marketing Manager
- They are visiting every financial partner at least once per year
- They run leadership training every year that all participants can send people to
- They have an Executive Committee with 5 members that are the policy/directive setters and employers – Meetings every month
- They have a Board of Directors with around 25 people – Investor Representatives – Round Table update every month but this group does not set directives

10/14/2022 – Vernon County Research

Call with Christina Dollhausen – Economic Development & Tourism Coordinator

Vernon County, WI – Contract Employee

Vernon County Population = 30,915

3 Cities & 9 Villages

Richland County Population = 17,212

Approximately 24 Industrial related businesses

- Year by Year contract – No Insurance Benefits
- County Budget for the Department is \$75,000 and there is no other funding source at this time.
- Wage on Contract is \$55,000
- She was hired in 2018



- Vernon County receives money from the Hochunk Nation and uses it to help fund Economic Development.

Other details of Vernon County Economic Development:

- Acts as a liaison between Communities and the County
- Monitors grant that are available and possibly usable in the County or Municipalities.
- Tracks open buildings that are available for lease or rent.
- Works on Childcare
- Works on Workforce Housing
- Runs a tourism website for the County
- Works with Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to try to secure funding and business expansion.
- Tracks tourism visitor numbers and has promoted events in their City and County.
- Works to quantify and report tourism dollars spent in the County.
- She works with the Viroqua City Administrator to try to promote development

Regarding the referendum question –

“Resolution 22-91 directs the RED Board to explore half of its budget coming from private sources, which amounts to approximately \$37,000 per year. We are seeking information about how much of that amount the RED Board would like to have placed on a referendum versus a permanent reduction in the RED budget.”

The Richland Economic Development Board asks that all funding necessary for the continued operation of the Economic Development Office be included in the referendum discussion and question.

What Does the Richland County Budget Look Like?

Every year, Richland County must put together a budget outlining what revenues and expenses the county will have for the coming year. We are just finishing out 2022, so let's look at the budget for this year.

The county's total budget for 2022 is about \$36 million and it is balanced, meaning that there are about \$36 million in revenues and \$36 million in expenses showing.

The county gets revenues from a number of sources.

Most County budget revenues come from other governments, typically at the federal and state levels. Some departments bring in significant amounts of revenue to offset County expenses. For example,

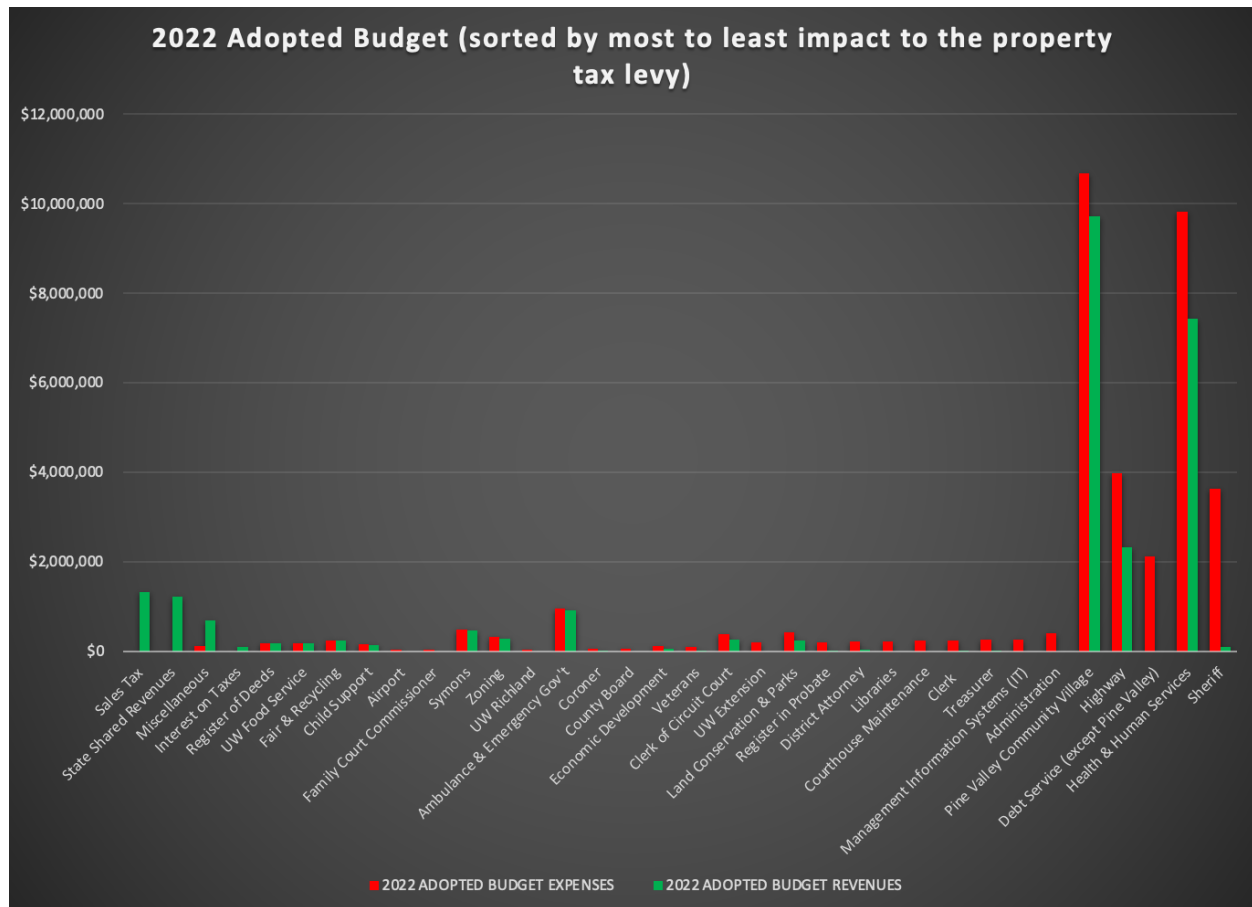
- The **federal government** pays for patient care at **Pine Valley Community Village**
- The **federal and state governments** pay for programming in the **Health & Human Services Department** (i.e., mental health, economic support, aging and disability resources, child protection, public health)
- The **state government** pays the **Highway Department** to maintain state-owned highways (e.g., US Highway 14, Wisconsin Highway 60)

Some of these outside revenues are reliant on matching monies from Richland County.

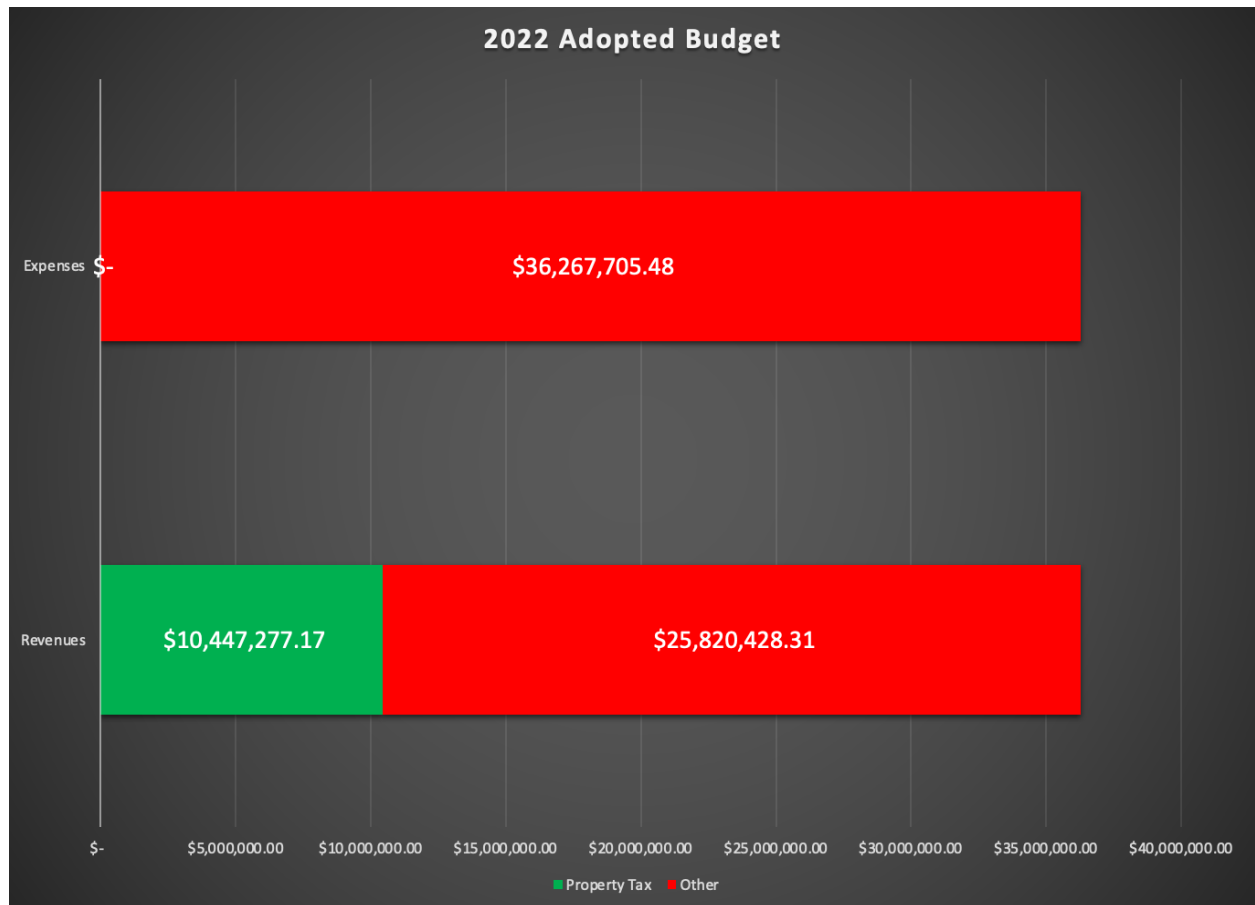
This chart shows how much revenue is generated in each county department (in green) and what the expenses are for each department (in red). Richland County spends the most money on Pine Valley Community Village, but it also produces the most revenue. After Pine Valley, the largest total expenditure is Health and Human Services which also has significant revenues. The Highway Department has the third largest budget, but also significant revenue. The Sheriff's Department has the next highest level of spending, but not much in revenue, just by its nature. Departments that do not have outside revenue sources have to rely on the property tax to fund their operations.

You can see the other departments of county government listed, such as Fair and Recycling, Ambulance and Emergency Government, Clerk of Court and so on. Each of them represents a much smaller portion of the county's total budget than the four departments we mentioned earlier. Some of the other departments also have revenue sources, but some like Administration, MIS and Courthouse Maintenance rely almost exclusively on property taxes.

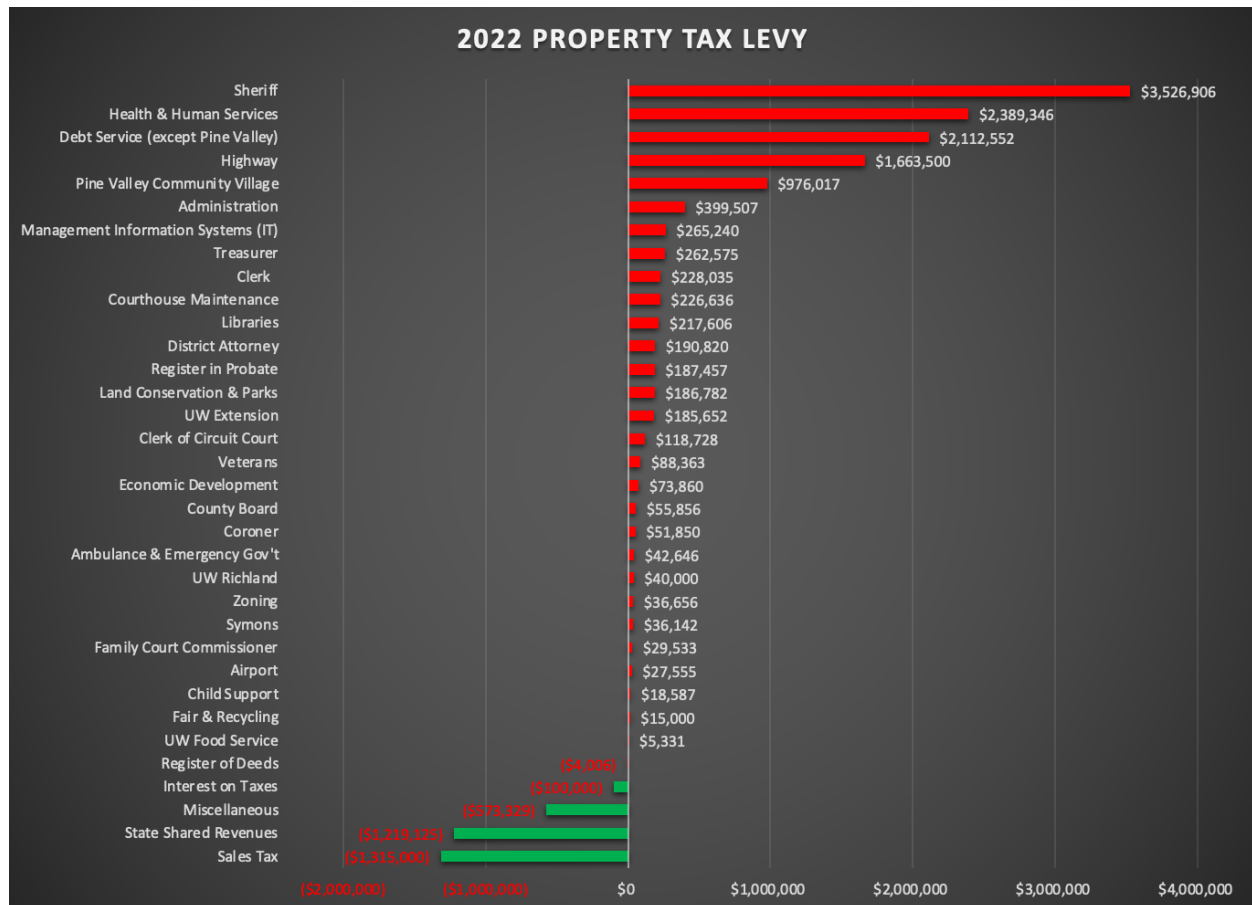
Just looking at the overall chart, you can see there is more red than green. Richland County needs more money to run county government than the revenues we bring in from other sources. That's where the property tax comes in.



To make up the difference between outside revenue sources and the total cost of running county government, Richland County levies a property tax. For 2022, the total tax levy was about \$10.45 million, or about 29% of the county's total budget, as you can see on this chart.



So, where do the property tax dollars go? Here is a breakdown of how much each department in Richland County government uses of that \$10.45 million,



Almost all departments use at least some property tax levy money for their operations. The Sheriff's department uses the largest portion, followed by Health and Human Services. Other departments use very little, with the Register of Deeds actually producing enough revenues to not rely on any property tax funding.

In future videos, we'll look more deeply into the budgets of the 4 largest departments. Hopefully you found this overview of Richland County's budget revenues and expenses helpful in understanding Richland County's finances.

Pine Valley Community Village

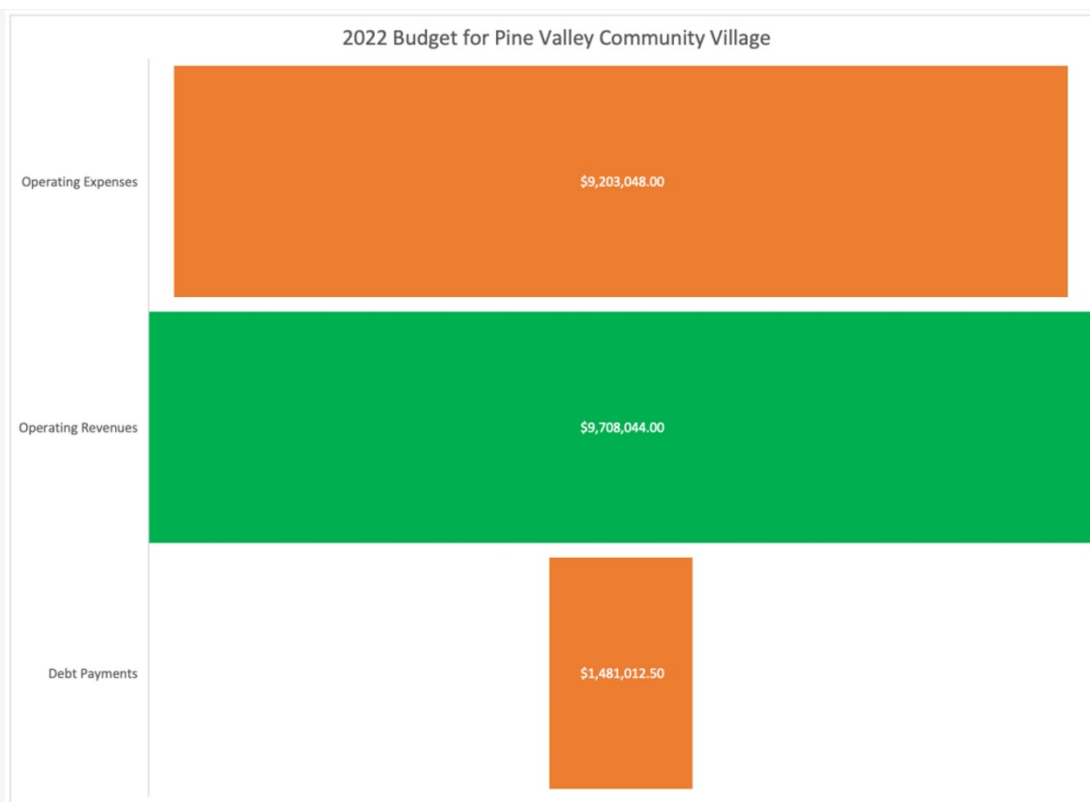
Pine Valley provides a critical service to people in need of skilled healthcare, assisted living and rehab services. It has more employees than any other county department and brings in over \$9.7 million in revenue to the county.

As we consider Richland County's budget situation, we have heard it said that Pine Valley Community Village:

1. Makes a profit for the County
2. Doesn't pay its debt

Which is true?

There is some truth to both statements, but neither is totally accurate. Because of the state laws regarding how the county can levy taxes, the County keeps track of Pine Valley's budget in two categories – operating and debt payments.

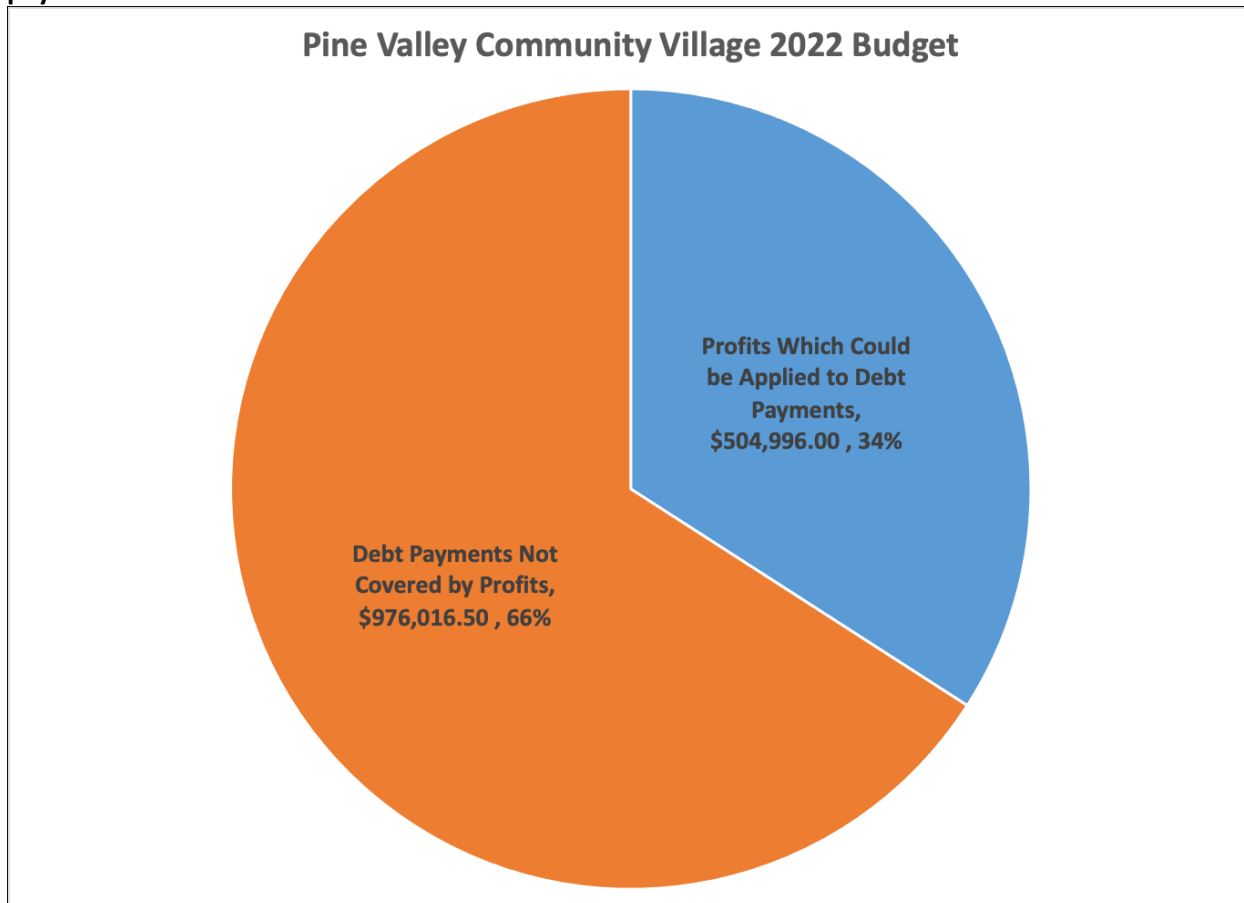


This chart shows that Pine Valley brings in more revenue than its operating expenses, but not enough to pay all the debt payments from the construction of the facility.

Statement #1 would be more accurate if it said, **"Pine Valley makes an operating profit for the County."**

Since the construction of the new facility, Pine Valley's operating revenues have exceeded operating expenses. In recent years, the County Board has chosen to apply operating profit from Pine Valley to offset the operating expenses of other departments in the County. While that helps give the county additional flexibility in its operating budget, it means that all of the debt payments for Pine Valley are applied to the debt service property tax levy each year.

If that operating profit was instead applied to debt payments, it would cover one-third of annual debt payments.



So, statement #2 would be more accurate if it said, **“Pine Valley’s operating profits could cover one third of its debt payments, if those profits were not used by the County Board to offset the operating expenses of other County departments.”**

Of course, that would mean that operational costs covered by that profit would have to be reduced or paid in some other way.

So, Pine Valley Community Village represents both the largest departmental expenditure budget and the largest source of outside revenues. While its operating revenues exceed its operating expenses, it is not enough to cover all the debt payments for the facility. Debt payments are allowed by state law to be put on the property tax levy and that is what Richland County has chosen to do in order to maximize operating budget flexibility.

WPR



The City of Whitewater is asking voters to approve a \$1.1 million dollar November 8 referendum that will help hire 17 full-time firefighters/EMS staff to replace a volunteer staff.
Photo Courtesy of the City of Whitewater

Voters support 85 percent of municipal public safety referendums in Tuesday election

Referendums in cities, villages, towns and counties sought additional property tax revenues to pay for police officers, firefighters and emergency medical staff

By Rich Kremer

Published: Thursday, November 10, 2022, 5:40pm

Voters in cities, villages and counties around Wisconsin approved 85 percent of public safety referendums Tuesday. Such referendums are becoming more common in the face of rising costs, stagnant state support and limits imposed by the Wisconsin Legislature on property tax increases.

There were 20 public safety referendums on ballots in municipalities around Wisconsin. Voters approved 17 of them. The referendums asked voters for permission to raise property taxes to pay for a wide variety of government services like additional police officers, firefighters and emergency medical staff.

Chippewa Falls Voters approved a \$1.2 million annual property tax increase to hire three additional firefighters and one police officer. Chippewa Falls Police Chief Matthew Kelm told Wisconsin Public Radio the additional officer will be on call for what the department calls a "power shift."

"So, that officer is going to be an extra person between 3 p.m. and 3 a.m., which is our busiest call volume for number of calls and for the severity of calls," said Kelm.

Kelm said the additional revenue will also let the department increase wages for officers, which he hopes will attract more applicants from a dwindling labor pool.

Voters in the City of Whitewater approved a \$1.1 million referendum to allow the city to move to a full-time fire and EMS department. Common Council President Lisa Dawsey Smith said the city had relied for more than 100 years on volunteers for fire and EMS, but they've been harder to come by in recent years.

"I am grateful and humbled that when people went to the polls, they made that decision to support this referendum," said Dawsey Smith. "It really does show that they prioritize the level of care that the community needs and deserves."

Referendums have become common for school districts seeking additional money for things like new buildings. But referendum questions posed by cities, villages, counties and towns to pay for government services have historically been far less common. Jerry Deschane is the executive director for the League of Wisconsin Municipalities advocacy group. He said there have been 37 public safety referendums in the state this year, a number the league describes as "staggering."

"The fact that we're going to referendum over and over again means the system of finances is unsustainable," said Deschane. "Bottom line: the system we use is broken. It needs to be reformulated."

Aside from property taxes, local governments receive a share of income and sales tax revenues collected by the state. Deschane said over the past 30 years, that shared revenue has declined in real dollars while state collections have increased.

"We think it's time to look at additional revenue sources, not so much to increase spending, but to reconnect local government services to the economy and also, quite frankly, to diversify the local revenue sources," said Deschane.

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How it Works: Holmen's public safety referendum

Posted: October 27, 2022 6:46 PM

Updated: October 28, 2022 8:52 AM by [Ken Kosirowski](#)

HOLMEN, Wis. (WKBT) — On November 8, the Village of Holmen and Town of Holland are asking residents to approve a public safety referendum to fund police and fire-EMS.

In this segment of “How it Works,” News 8 Now’s Ken Kosirowski explores the budgetary constraints that make municipalities turn to the ballot to maintain critical services.

When they look down at their ballots, voters in the Village of Holmen and Town of Holland will see referendum questions asking permission to increase their municipal tax levy to enhance public safety.

“The levy is the portion of the budget that isn’t paid for by external resources,” said Karl Green, UW Extension and local government educator.

A levy is an amount municipalities can place upon their residents via property taxes. Under current state law, there are caps in place to keep towns from raising property taxes too much. A town by law can only increase its levy amount based on yearly new construction.

“Whatever your net new construction percentage is, that’s the percentage you can increase your levy by,” said Green.

But Department of Revenue data shows new construction rates fluctuate quite a bit. Holmen has seen its population skyrocket and overall property value has doubled in the last ten years, but net new construction percentages aren't enough for Holmen to keep pace with its growth.

And since other forms of revenue distributed by the state to the local level have been declining, a place like Holmen turns to the only other legal way to increase a levy: referendum.

"What it's ultimately doing is pitting municipal services between each other," said Green.

The Village of Holmen's \$1.3 million levy increase is to hire more full-time police and full-time firefighters. Holmen police and firefighters say current resources push staffing levels to the limit.

"We have more emergencies to cover with less people to cover them," said Jeremy Cook, a firefighter with Holmen Area Fire Department. For the fire district covering the Village of Holmen and Town of Holland.

"We currently have six full-time people, working two people per shift on three shifts to provide 24/7 coverage," said Cook.

Cook says it's a dangerous number, because OSHA laws include a two-in, two-out rule. Two firefighters can only go inside a building to save lives if there are two other firefighters outside.

"If we show up to somebody's house that's on fire, we can't go inside to make an aggressive interior attack on a fire or try to rescue somebody trapped inside," said Cook.

With a passed referendum, the fire district could avoid that.

“Go from two people per shift to four people per shift,” Cook said. Just down the road at Holmen Police—
“We currently employ 13 full-time officers,” Lieutenant Cody Spears said. “Most communities our size will have 20-some officers.”

Those 13 officers are on six-days on, three-days off shifts, but only a couple are on the same shift to patrol the village.

“Unfortunately we’re one of those resources that you don’t really need us until you really need us. When that time comes, you hope we’re available,” said Spears.

As populations grow, so do the number of emergency calls—problematic when staff size is already minimal.

“We’re running into more and more overlapping calls where we get called out for one emergency, and while we’re tied up with that emergency, we’re getting another call somewhere else,” said Cook. It happened just last week.

“We had one patrol unit working second shift working a car fire with Holmen Fire Department, and during that car fire, a shots fired call came out, and they had to respond to that,” said Spears. “And they actually had to call in the third shift patrol officer early.”

Holmen Village President Patrick Barlow has spearheaded informational sessions for voters to make the issues clear.

“I don’t think any leader in any community loves the chance to go out and say we want to raise your taxes,” said Barlow. “At the same point in

time, we're obligated to provide the services residents need. We would not be asking this unless we really felt we need it."

And if the voters agree it's needed—

"It's going to be a game-changer for us in law enforcement, where maybe we can be more proactive instead of constantly reactive," Spears said.

Officials say personnel cuts would likely have to be made if the referendum fails.

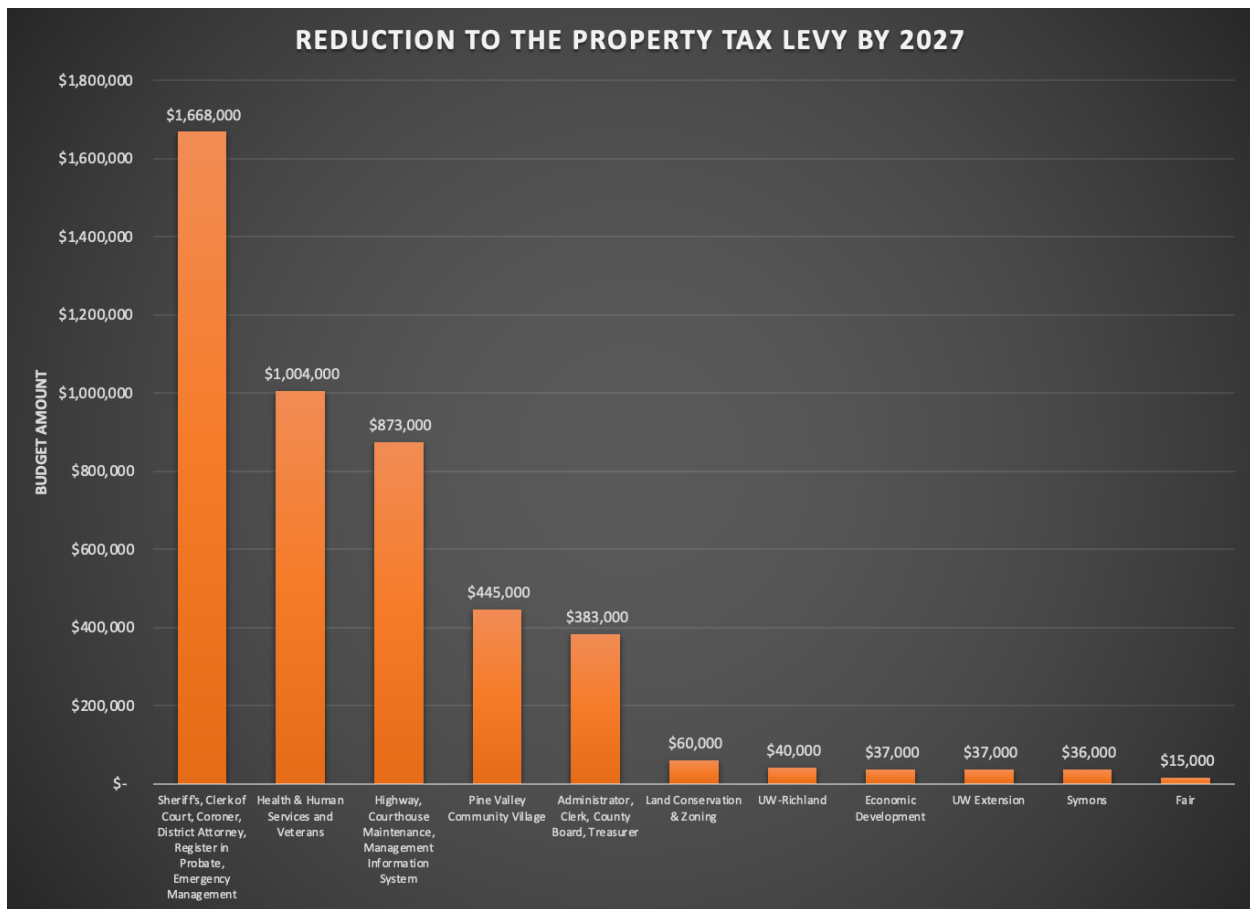
Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

Agenda Item Name: County Board Survey

Department	County Board	Presented By:	Shaun Murphy-Lopez
Date of Meeting:	11/21/22	Action Needed:	Motion
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Resolution 22-74
Date submitted:	11/21/22	Referred by:	Multiple, see below

Recommendation and/or action language: A motion to approve a framework to guide the development of a County Board survey to be considered at the next Referendum Committee meeting.

Background: Resolution 22-74 directs the Referendum Ad Hoc Committee to develop a referendum question or questions, including cost estimates. The dollar amounts in the chart below summarize the reductions needed to the property tax levy by 2027. These amounts total \$4,598,000. The most recent version of the 5-year financial plan estimates \$700,000 is available to reduce the amounts below.



These dollar amounts will already be decreased based on reductions that will not be placed on a referendum. For example, the Land & Zoning Committee has not asked for any reductions to be placed on a referendum, eliminating \$60,000. To keep track of these items, the Administration Department will need to account for a detailed list of items by year (2023 – 2027).

A few key pieces of information from County Board members may be helpful in developing a referendum question:

- **What percent increase in property taxes are County Board members comfortable with?** The annual amount could be up to \$4.6 million, although we know the amount will be decreased based on the previous

Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

paragraph. The current property tax levy is approximately \$10.5 million. Through 2027, are County Board members comfortable with an annual increase of 0%, 2.5%, 5%, 7.5%, 10%, etc.? The chart below illustrates some scenarios.

Annual Tax Levy Change	0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10%
2023	\$ 10,500,000.00	\$ 10,500,000.00	\$ 10,500,000.00	\$ 10,500,000.00	\$ 10,500,000.00
2024	\$ 10,500,000.00	\$ 10,762,500.00	\$ 11,025,000.00	\$ 11,287,500.00	\$ 11,550,000.00
2025	\$ 10,500,000.00	\$ 11,031,562.50	\$ 11,576,250.00	\$ 12,134,062.50	\$ 12,705,000.00
2026	\$ 10,500,000.00	\$ 11,307,351.56	\$ 12,155,062.50	\$ 13,044,117.19	\$ 13,975,500.00
2027	\$ 10,500,000.00	\$ 11,590,035.35	\$ 12,762,815.63	\$ 14,022,425.98	\$ 15,373,050.00
Difference between 2023 and 2027	\$ -	\$ 1,090,035.35	\$ 2,262,815.63	\$ 3,522,425.98	\$ 4,873,050.00

- What are the priorities of the County Board for funding?** For example, let's assume the County Board is comfortable with a referendum question that annually increases the levy by 5%. Under the current scenario where \$700,000 is available for reducing cuts, an additional \$2.3 million could be placed on the referendum. This results in \$3 million. We have \$4.6 million in identified reductions. If the County Board prioritizes one department/committee/service as the #1 priority and it costs \$700,000, that item would not be placed on the referendum. The next set of priorities up to \$2.3 million could be placed on the referendum, and the lowest priorities would not be placed on a referendum (i.e., permanently cut).

A similar survey was administered to the County Board for the 2021 budget setting process, with the following results:

Ave Board:	Proposed Adjustment:	Adjustment	Running Total
2.57 C	Pine Valley	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
4.14 A	MGMT Info Systems	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 220,000.00
7.00 L	Zoning	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
9.14 D	Health and Humans Services	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 420,000.00
9.86 G	Fair and Recycling	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 435,000.00
10.21 M	Courthouse Repair	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 455,000.00
10.29 P	Zoning	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 505,000.00
11.43 E	Child Support	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 535,000.00
12.00 K	Land Conservation		\$ 535,000.00
12.71 N	UW-Richland Outlay	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 555,000.00
13.14 B	Register of Deeds	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 575,000.00
13.79 I	UW-Extension		\$ 575,000.00
13.86 F	Highway	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 725,000.00
14.86 O	Pine Valley	\$ 142,000.00	\$ 867,000.00
16.86 J	UW-Food Services		\$ 867,000.00
17.00 T	Resolution 19-89	\$ 242,000.00	\$ 1,109,000.00
17.14 Z	General Fund Use	\$ 391,238.00	\$ 1,500,238.00
17.71 BB	Proposed increase to FT general employee premium share	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 1,550,238.00
18.14 H	Symons	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 1,570,238.00
18.14 Y	Register of Deeds	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,580,238.00
19.57 R	Highway Department	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,680,238.00
19.57 CC	Option #1: Incorporate a 4th tier to prescription plan and raise prescription deductible.	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 1,683,438.00
20.43 DD	Option # 2: Increased annual deductible/max out of pocket	\$ 103,600.00	\$ 1,787,038.00
20.57 EE	Option # 3: Combine both options #1 and 2	\$ 106,800.00	\$ 1,893,838.00
20.86 Q	Health and Human Services	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,993,838.00
21.14 AA	Furlough	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 2,213,838.00
21.29 S	Sheriff's Office	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 2,313,838.00
21.71 V	Tri-County Airport	\$ 14,591.50	\$ 2,328,429.50
23.71 U	Southwest Regional Planning	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 2,340,929.50
26.86 X	Economic Development	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 2,405,929.50
30.29 W	Administrator	\$ 129,975.60	\$ 2,535,905.10

Richland County Referendum Ad Hoc Committee

- **Is the County Board comfortable with raising taxes through additional short-term borrowing for capital projects and court ordered placements?** If so, the amount of a referendum could be reduced or totally eliminated. Let's still say the County Board is comfortable with a 5% annual levy increase. If they are comfortable with increasing the levy by up to 2.5% without a referendum, they may be able to do that through short-term borrowing for asphalt and court ordered placements, depending upon the amounts of those items.

Adopting a set of questions as a framework for developing a County Board survey will allow for a draft survey to be developed for the next Referendum Committee meeting.

Attachments and References:

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

Approval:

Review:

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)
