



Office of the County Executive

Bob Ziegelbauer, County Executive

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November 23, 2009

RE: Partial Veto of 2010 budget action

Honorable Members of the Manitowoc County Board of Supervisors:

As we work to finalize the Manitowoc County budget for next year we cannot ignore the economic reality that everyone in our community faces. To raise property taxes would be a gross insult to virtually every person who is personally struggling with the impact of this recession, and a complete slap in the face to the several thousand people right here in our immediate area who have lost their jobs. Now more than ever we simply must do all we can to fulfill our responsibility to the taxpayers to not add even more demands for their money. We are not here to increase their burden, but to work tirelessly to minimize it and be particularly sensitive to how difficult it is right now for so many to make ends meet. This partial veto is submitted to you in view of our duty.

I am signing and partially vetoing the budget you passed, and returning it to you with a reduced tax levy by \$800,360.21, the amount of reduction necessary so that the typical taxpayer will see no increase in the tax burden attributable to the cost of Manitowoc County government.

The impact of this is that the general fund balance will be drawn down by a similar amount slightly more than what was included in my original budget proposal to you. This moderate use of these reserves for our budget is appropriate and a conservative use of these funds, and I might add, exactly the type of situation this fund is designed for - extremely tough times.

Early in 2009 we recognized that we were entering an economic calamity the likes of which most of us had not witnessed in our lifetimes. We began early to draw attention to the need to adjust the cost of our operations in recognition of our primary responsibility to the people of our community, that we would not simply push an additional and crushing tax burden onto their shoulders just to protect the status quo and County government from the pain of the current economy.

It was clear early this year that the current economic conditions would have direct impact on County operations. Revenues are dramatically down in a number of diverse areas ranging from interest earned, prisoner board, and transportation revenues, to areas associated with our relationship with state government. At the same time while inflation is virtually zero or negative, many of our operating expenses continue to grow, especially the personnel costs of salaries and fringe benefits at a pace far

outpacing our friends and neighbors in the private sector.

To hold the line for taxpayers we took early preemptive action, and made very difficult decisions to pare back our expenditures to the level of available revenues. In doing that we have generated savings in some areas to help fund others. Those efforts continue. The impact is that there are sufficient resources available in the general fund to help with our budget in order to spare taxpayers from an increased burden.

Raising taxes now would be the worst thing we could do. Frankly it is unthinkable and would be insulting to those who elected us and trust us. We should always keep in mind that every dollar raised in taxes that is not needed is a dollar irresponsibly taken away that could have been better used by the taxpayer who originally earned it. It should stay with him or her not us, and most certainly not build unnecessary reserves, while many families are barely staying above water, if at all.

As a result of my veto, the projected tax increase for the typical county taxpayer will be ZERO, demonstrating our desire to fulfill our responsibility to them at this financially dangerous time. The taxpayers have a right to expect that we "get it" and are doing our best to continue to provide high quality services in a responsible way, while equally importantly, understanding what they are going through.

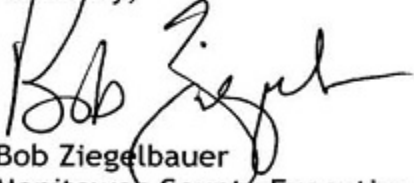
I ask you to support this important extra effort as we all strive to do our best for the people of Manitowoc County in this time of acute economic turmoil.

I am signing and partially vetoing Resolution No. 2009/2010-92, the 2010 Manitowoc County Budget, as follows and placing it on file with the County Clerk. This action is taken pursuant to the authority granted me by the Wisconsin Constitution, art. IV, sec. 23(a) and Wis. Stat. §§ 59.17(5) and (6).

The new tax levy will be \$28,212,603.27. The new property tax rate will be \$5.3687940 per thousand of equalized value. For the 2010 budget the tax levy is up \$471,597.10 or 1.7%, the same percentage increase as the increase in new construction or new growth in the County. Compared to 2009 the tax rate would decrease \$0.0988560 per \$1000 of equalized valuation or decrease 1.81%.

As always, call on me anytime I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Bob Ziegelbauer
Manitowoc County Executive

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2010 BUDGET AND PROPERTY TAX LEVY RESOLUTION
ADOPTING 2003 BUDGET AND PROPERTY TAX LEVY**

TO THE MANITOWOC COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1 WHEREAS, a detailed copy of the County Executive’s Proposed 2010 Annual Budget has been
2 made available to each county supervisor and to the general public; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the proposed budget was presented and explained to the County Board at its meeting
5 on October 15, 2009; and
6

7 WHEREAS, formal publication of a budget summary and announcement of a public hearing was
8 made in the Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 65.90 and Wis. Stat. Ch.
9 985; and
10

11 WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed budget was held and the proposed budget was
12 reviewed by the County Board at its Annual Meeting on October 26, 2009; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the Finance Committee reviewed the proposed budget at its November 9, 2009
15 meeting, made certain adjustments, and has recommended a 2010 Annual Budget for Manitowoc County
16 operations;
17

18 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitowoc County Board of Supervisors hereby
19 adopts a Governmental Funds Budget and a service delivery Proprietary Funds Budget for the calendar
20 year beginning January 1, 2010 as indicated in the attached 2010 Annual Budget for Manitowoc County
21 and any attachments or addenda thereto; and
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Manitowoc County Board of Supervisors hereby
24 authorizes that the following sums of money be raised for the ensuing year:
25

26	State Special Charges – Charitable & Penal	\$	945.27	
27	County Aid Bridges (Wis. Stat. § 82.08)		206,157.20	
28	Illegal Real Estate Taxes Charged Back (Prior Year)		268.97	
29	All Other County Taxes	\$28,005.031.83	28,256,762.04	\$28,805,592.04
30	Gross County Tax Levy	\$28,212,603.27	\$28,464,133.48	\$29,012,963.48

31
32 and

33
34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County shall apportion the tax for Bridges under Wis. Stat.
35 § 82.08 on the taxable property of the participating districts; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County shall enter the amount of \$938,729.60 in the Tax
38 Apportionment, State Taxes for Forestry Mill Tax; and

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County shall enter the following amounts in the Tax
40 Apportionment, State Special Charges for Charitable and Penal Purposes:

41		
42	County Mental Hospitals Winnebago Co. Proceeding	\$90.00
43	<u>State Institutions, Dane County Proceeding</u>	<u>\$855.27</u>
44	Total State Special Charge	\$945.27;
45		

46 and

47
48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the County Officials are hereby directed to reapportion the illegal
49 real estate taxes charged back in the amount of \$268.97; and

50
51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the budget in detail is made a part of the Tax Levy; and

52
53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Comptroller/Auditor is authorized to make any technical
54 corrections to the budget that are necessary.

Dated this 17th day of November 2009.

Respectfully submitted by the
Finance Committee

Mary Muench, Chair

FISCAL NOTE: Requires a composite tax levy and rate, based upon the budget book as printed,
as follows:

Tax Levy of ~~\$28,464,133.48~~ ~~\$29,012,963.48~~ **\$28,212,603.27**
Composite Tax Rate of ~~\$5.416659~~ per \$1,000 of equalized value.
~~\$5.5211000~~ **\$5.3687940**

FISCAL NOTE: Reviewed and approved by Comptroller. _____

LEGAL NOTE: Reviewed and approved as to form by Corporation Counsel. _____

APPROVED:

Bob Ziegelbauer, County Executive Date

