



Department of Administration
Jason Hilger, C.P.A.
County Administrator
837 Clermont Street
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September 30, 2024

RE: County Board Update

Good evening,

I hope you enjoyed the summer and are soaking up this unseasonably warm weather. Fall will soon be here with winter to follow. I am happy to report that the County is still on track with finances, services, and staffing with no major unexpected issues. Our 2023 audit report was recently issued and indicated the County is in a solid financial position.

The updated staffing report in your packet indicated we had 9 vacancies. The notes to the right of each position provided a status for each position, of which most were filled since that report was provided. We are currently recruiting for a Sheriff's Deputy and a GIS Technician/Coordinator.

The paving project on the west side of the courthouse has begun. Parking will likely be displaced for three weeks. We continue to make great improvements at the Perch Lake Campground with the brown building, the boat landing and the beach. The 2025 budget includes money to install electricity and we plan for continued success at that location. Enhancements should provide a destination for reunions, weddings and other gatherings.

The simulcast emergency response communication project made great progress the past 2 years but has slowed while we are waiting for a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and some wetland discussions.

Cirinity continues to make progress on its broadband projects. The project in the Town of Rolling is wrapping up, the project in the Towns of Peck, Summit and Vilas are starting and the project in the Town of Neva will start in 2025.

The Hope House continues to be fluid. We are currently hosting 5 Marathon County residents and 1 Langlade County resident. We are expecting 3 to graduate from the house this month but have 3 more candidates being discharged from jail or treatment shortly.

I included the proposed 2025 budget in your County Board packet. The proposal includes a tax levy increase of \$127,391 (1.07%) and a mill rate of 4.586 compared to 4.941 last year. The budget includes short-term borrowing of \$2.4M to fund over \$3.7M in capital assets and improvements.

Counties are working with the State via the WI Counties Association to reallocate more State funding for our court system. It was recently noted that Counties pay in excess of \$130M to



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fund County court systems while the State pays approximately \$28M. It was also noted that Counties collect \$130M in fines in which they turn 90% over to the State.

Please mark your calendar for the October 28th County Board meeting. It will be important to have full representation to vote on the short-term borrowing and the budget. Thank you for your support and continued community service.

Sincerely,

Jason Hilger, C.P.A.
County
Administrator
Cell 715-219-4232