
◆ The TAX TIMES ◆

Volume 15, Issue 11

Newsletter of the Brown County Taxpayers Association

October, 2000

WHAT NEXT?

The vote is in and we will have an additional 0.5% sales tax starting on November 1. The vote to have any excess dollars from the signing bonus tax to be channeled to Brown County failed. We can at least be thankful that these moneys will instead pay off the Packer Stadium bonds faster. With the potential for a naming rights deal to add to that payment we may be looking at a 13 year payoff period. Keep in mind that the Stadium Board could decide to use additional funds for stadium projects beyond the announced renovation if they decide the project is a part of the renovation. Something like parking could be added or maybe practice field work, so we need to keep our eyes open to potential additional spending

Brown County will be looking for ways to cut spending over the next few months and the budget will come to discussion and vote at a daytime meeting schedule for November 13, which is when the County Board will pass a budget for next year. We continue to hear about how spending cuts will hurt the elderly and lower income families. We do not hear about library closings or adjustments to Syble Hopp School. The Brown County 2001 Budget Task Force issued its final report on August 18. It is now time for members of the County staff and the County Board to reread that report and consider the recommendations.

The short term recommendations included:

1. Support Question 2. The minority view was to provide a referendum to allow for a cap increase. The cap increase is still an available option.
2. Educate the public on question 2. Nancy did an excellent job of getting the word out and we applaud her for her efforts. Unfortunately the Packers superseded any consideration of the counties problems.
3. The County Board should recognize the possible reductions. These are listed on pages 8 and 9 of the report and total \$5.9 million. This is a good place to start.
4. If question 1, and or question 2 failed, the County Board could enact the 0.5% sales tax or raise the operating levy through the referendum. Now is the time to look at the referendum option.

The long term recommendations for the County:

1. Investigate further outsourcing of services to control costs. This is still a good idea.
2. Review of assets and consider possible sales. The county has considerable land holdings.
3. Continue to aggressively seek to lower its health insurance costs. This is an area of discussion in the last several budgets. What is private industry doing?
4. Hold legislative forums to improve the State/County partnership. The County is an extension of the State in many programs and a common understanding of administration level is necessary.
5. Work with other local jurisdictions to improve relationships and coordination of services. This is still needed.

BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Frank S. Bennett Jr.

President

The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

ANOTHER REFERENDUM ?

When it was announced that the Brown County board decided to hold yet another Lambeau Field related referendum, to "help the taxpayers pay the debt", directors of the BCTA received a number of calls from local and state news media to find out if we were going to conduct another "Yes" or "No" vote campaign. The question is, what side would we be expected to take?

Apparently they had such a great story covering events leading to the Sept. 12, affair they were looking for a repeat. Actually, even though we fully realized that the interests of the media were largely behind the stadium renovation project all the way, the courtesy and coverage given to us and other opponents of the sales tax was greatly appreciated and we want to publicly thank all of the local and state TV stations and other news media for helping to make our presence known. We are sure that the other groups who opposed passage of the referendum as presented would agree.

Now, after the Packers ultimatum ruse has been accepted and Brown County voters have become the first in the state to vote themselves a sales tax for any purpose, it seems that perhaps there may have actually been other alternatives available. The most obvious and often mentioned was naming rights. Obtaining a corporate sponsor with a big advertising budget paying for the right to name the stadium. We realize that the format and potential is an iffy subject. Concern for the name "Lambeau" will have to be addressed with any proposal. Nonetheless, amounts in excess of \$100 million have been mentioned as possibilities. Frankly, we don't understand fully why this proposal was not put on the table for consideration along with other alternatives prior to sticking Brown County with a special sales tax. Even a committee of Green Bay aldermen had identified other potential sources such as license plate and brick sales, income tax checkoffs, surcharges, etc., and ideas from a number of sources certainly had some merit. A combination of proposals could possibly have been used in lieu of the sales tax. This could have saved the Packers a few hundred thousand bucks in advertising and had a lot more support from all concerned. Groups opposing the sales tax agreed all along that other sources of financing should have been considered and the Packers could easily have secured their revenue goals without taxpayer support. However, the referendum was initiated by the Packers and accordingly, the focus during the past few months seems to have been on imposing a sales tax to obtain public funding rather than putting all options on the table while keeping the interests of both the taxpayers and Packers in mind.

Unfortunately, the mechanism for the sales tax is in place and we will probably be paying it forever. Any scheme to use other sources of revenue to lessen the burden will be meaningless as you can be sure that whenever the Lambeau Field debt is paid there will be something else to replace it.

"unfortunately, the mechanism for the sales tax is in place and we will probably

What will the county be doing in the meantime? Will Joe Taxpayer actually notice, much less care if the Lambeau Field debt is paid in 12 or 13 rather than 15 years? In 15 years the bleacher seats will be 58 rather than 43 years old. Will the Packers then be self-sufficient assuming the NFL still exists?

For the record, the November 7, referendum would read, **"Shall naming rights of Lambeau field be sold for the purposes of reducing stadium debt, providing for public works improvements, adding revenues to further secure the Packers football team in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and ending the half-percent countywide sales tax as soon as possible?"**

This all sounds wonderful but the referendum as worded raises more questions than it gives answers. There are still details between the Packers, the stadium district board, the city, the county, the state, Ashwaubenon and Packers ticket holders to be ironed out and this sounds like putting a blank check up for grabs.

One area which could still cause concern for taxpayers is the lease agreement being negotiated between the Packers and the City of Green Bay. Although details have not yet been made available to the public, it supposedly contains 100 pages drafted by the Packers team of lawyers. They want it approved by the middle of November. Remember that Wisconsin Act #167 (enabling the Brown County sales tax referendum) which was also largely prepared by the Packers only contained 21 pages, but took several months of back and forth negotiation before it was finally pushed through the legislature.

We probably have this all wrong, but would have no problems if negotiations proceed with a potential naming rights sponsor. It will be up to public opinion to approve or disapprove the final product.

Jim Frink

BCTA Notes.

First, we want to thank our members and the many people in Brown County who stepped forth and supported our position on the recent Lambeau Field referendum. We tried to make it clear that our opposition was not to the Green Bay Packers institution, but to the imposition of a county sales tax dedicated to their purpose. We certainly do not want to be regarded as obstructive to taxes or government process. Our motto is **"Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government"**, and we believe our membership largely agrees that Wisconsin citizens should be the highest taxed in the country.

Now that the referendum is history, other issues which have been neglected somewhat are still worthy of attention. School costs will likely keep rising and the county has a number of issues which will have to be addressed in the months to come. The Brown County Taxpayers Association certainly plans on taking an active role, and will be seeking new members to become active.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for October 19, and details appear elsewhere in this **"TAX TIMES."** Thank you for your interest and support.

MORE ON THE COUNTY BUDGET.

Some additional thoughts on the County Budget. It is necessary to increase revenue while cutting spending to balance a budget. The County has counted on increasing equalized value for added income over the past years and now is the time to look for added moneys from services and/or asset sales. It is also time to review the current expenditures and cut some items that may have outgrown their effectiveness. Let me explain.

The Brown County golf course is a source of pride to the community. It is the best golf course in the area as many people will attest. The fee for 18 holes of golf is \$22.50. This is a very low rate when compared to other courses in the area. The County rate doesn't vary for weekends as most courses raise rate for Saturday and Sunday in addition to holidays. With 50,000 rounds a year, a \$5.00 increase would add \$250,000 to the general fund. This does not count any increase for week-end play.



The County made the Zoo an enterprise fund. The same should be considered for the Museum. The budget for the Museum is \$842,298. This is about \$4.00 for every Brown County resident. The displays for the museum are funded by the Museum Board and they would be able to fund the basic operation if given advance notice. There currently are no charges to attend the displays and a small fee would go a long way to make this operation self sufficient. It may be time to start to move this service to an enterprise fund.

The Airport and the Port of Green Bay also offer a source of potential revenue. The airport uses County land and returns not one dime in direct payment to the County. This needs further investigation. The Port has been merged with Solid Waste using a gradual shift approach. This leaves the Solid Waste department on the budget for \$72,752. It is commendable that the shift is in progress and could be finalized next year. The Airport income is projected to be \$6.5 million while expenses are estimated at \$4.4 million. The fund balance for the Port and Solid Waste Department is projected to be \$38,375,371. Interest in this fund is estimated to be \$1.5 million. Certainly there ought to be a way for the County to be rewarded for setting up these funds in the first place.

Health care for County employees will cost over \$11.0 million in 2001. This cost is growing at an alarming rate and needs work. Five percent of the cost is paid by County employees with the rest paid for by taxpayers. With first dollar coverage for hospitalization and surgery, this plan is better than most in the community. The City of Green Bay announced change that potentially could save them \$2 million a year. It is time the County got more aggressive in this large cost area.

Several small amounts of money will add up to large sums. Maybe it is time to close the bookmobile and save \$53,000. The Boys and Girls Club benefit from many fund

raisers and now may be the time to eliminate the \$35,000 the County give to this group. It might even be possible to have the Brown County fair pay its total cost rather than depend on the budget for \$97,000. These three items all up to \$187,000 and there are others that could be added to the list.

A recent thought to transfer money from the jail reserve to pay for the anticipated shortfall is poor public policy. Moving money that was put in reserve to save from future bonding only will cost the taxpayer double. If \$2.5 million is transferred, it will cost about \$5.0 million to repay the bond. Taxpayers deserve better. **Frank S. Bennett, Jr.**

30.5% of Eligible Voters Give Brown County An Extra Sales Tax.

While the Packers can continue to gloat over the results of the September 12, referendum whereby the citizens of Brown County become the first in the state to vote themselves a sales tax increase, we find it disappointing that there were not more voters taking the time to cast their ballot. Perhaps it was advance publicity that lines at the polls would be long, or maybe that their vote wouldn't count or be necessary but it was reported that only 57% of the eligible voters voiced their opinion. It certainly wasn't that they didn't hear about it.

The referendum passed by approval of 53.4% of the votes cast, and we have no illusions that the outcome would have been any different with 100% participation. However, if only 57% of eligible voters came to the polls, that means that the 48,788 who voted yes represented only about 30.5% of the eligible voters in Brown County. Like it or not, this 30.5% has presented Brown County citizens with an additional tax burden and probably complicated the counties budget problems for some time. Whatever the outcome, we would like to see more encouragement for people to vote in future elections. Shouldn't a majority mean a majority?
JF

BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

16th ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 19, 2000

"Glory Years", Washington St.. Inn

347 S. Washington St., Green Bay

12:00 Noon

Speaker

State Representative Frank G. Lasee,

"The Taxpayer Bill of Rights."

An overview of a proposed state constitution amendment giving taxpayers the right to approve tax increases over the rate of inflation.

Election of Officers and Directors for the Next Fiscal Year. Discussion of previous years activities and what to expect during the next year.

Price - \$6.50 per person, Payable at door.



In an effort to insert a little “fun” into an otherwise rather serious referendum debate which will likely have a long term effect on future spending priorities and taxing policies for Brown County, the BCTA, through our Political Action Committee, *Fans For A Fair Deal*, sponsored a contest inviting anyone in the community to erect their own yard sign expressing their feelings and artistic talents on the subject.

To illustrate the potential cost of a .5% sales tax on a typical family of four, first prize was a check for \$189.80, equating to the amount of additional sales tax a typical family of four would pay just during the first year using the Packers own numbers of “ONLY” .13 cents per day for the “average” Brown County resident.

Second prize was \$100.00 in pennies, which made a bigger pile than we anticipated when our contest was announced. We wanted to illustrate how a few pennies here and a few there would add up over a period of time.

While a little late in getting this contest underway, we had an excellent response with some exceptional signs entered. Also, we noticed a lot of signs urging a “NO” vote erected which were not registered to us.

Our list of winners is printed elsewhere on this page along with pictures of some of the signs. It was difficult to judge the entrants but primary consideration was given to message, originality, visibility and overall effect.

We thank everyone for their interest and making their stand known on this issue.

YARD-SIGN PRIZE WINNERS.

- 1st Place Don Kasper
- 2d Place Terry Stuckart
- 3d Place Daryl Rautekus
- 4th Place Otis Ausloos
- 5th Place Kathleen Karnopp
- 6th Place Taku Ronsman
- Hon/Mention Ray/Mary Tordeur
- Hon/Mention Betty LaBar
- Hon/Mention Keith Kramer
- Hon/Mention Sandy Widiger

**Special Thank You
Everyone who entered!**

ABOVE: Second place winner Terry Stuckart sees what a big pile \$100 in pennies will make. This is only a fraction of what the sales tax will cost him and his family. **BELOW:** BCTA directors Jim Frink and Jim Smith make prize presentation.

The Hidden Lottery Tax.

Playing the lottery is optional, and profits go to relieve property taxes. Wisconsinites rarely associate purchasing a lottery ticket with paying a tax. Nevertheless, there is a parallel.

When a dollar is spent on the lottery, 67 cents goes to lottery prizes and overhead. The remaining 33 cents, the net profit goes to state government. This is similar to buying a gallon of gas for \$1.50, when federal and state taxes are say, 45 cents. The gallon of gas costs \$1.05, the remaining 45 cents goes for taxes.

A Wisconsinite buying a \$1.00 lottery ticket is really paying 67 cents for the product—gaming entertainment—and 33 cents for taxes on that 67 cent entertainment purchase. Thus, the net tax rate is 33/67, or 49.3%. This makes the lottery one of the state's stiffest taxes. Under the gas-tax example, the combined federal and state tax rate would be 45/105, or 42.9%.

The same calculation can be done for other lotteries. Compared to Wisconsin's 49.3% lottery "tax rate," 12 states have higher rates, while 24 have lower rates. In 1999, the average state lottery tax rate was 49.6% nationally. Among Wisconsin's neighbors, only Illinois (51.5%) and Michigan (73.3%) have higher rates. Iowa (32.5%) has the lowest rate amount midwestern states. **Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance.**

"That government is best which governs the least, because its people discipline themselves."

. . . Thomas Jefferson

Articles and views appearing in the "TAX TIMES" do not necessarily represent the official position of the Brown County Taxpayers Association. We encourage discussion and input on current issues of taxpayer interest and invite your comments or articles suitable for future "TAX TIMES". Please send them to the BCTA, P. O. Box 684, Green Bay, WI 54305-0684, or call Jim Frink at 336-6410. Frink@ExecPc.Com.

Is The State Lottery Worth Keeping?

The Wisconsin lottery is not a growth industry. Despite a record-setting economy, lottery sales have declined in four of the last five years. Along with these declines has come a reduction in the level of property tax relief. Even under the most optimistic scenarios, lottery-based property tax relief will continue to fall.

Reasons for the decline of sales include fewer retailers, competition from Indian gambling, and the fact that the novelty is wearing off.

Recent legislative actions have artificially and temporarily increased lottery credits, while doing little to boost lottery sales. While these actions increase short-run tax relief, they do little to enhance the long-term effectiveness of the lottery as a tax relief program.

To halt declining sales would likely require legislative action. For example, an increase in advertising could help stem the tide.

Last year, lottery sales fell to their lowest level since 1991. In 1999, Wisconsin had per capita lottery sales of \$81.55, ranking 27th of the 37 states with lotteries. Distribution in the form of property tax relief depends on a formula based on average home values and local school tax rates. It averaged \$41.33 per capita in 1998 but varies from county to county. The average credit has dropped from \$126 in 1995, \$80 in 1997 to \$47 in 1998.

Brown county taxpayers received an average of \$37.75 per capita in 1998, which ranked 63d in the state. **From the "Wisconsin Taxpayer", Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance.**

"The best minds are not in government. If they were, business would steal them away"

. . . Ronald Reagan

"Ninety eight percent of the adults in this country are decent, hard-working, honest Americans. It's the other lousy two percent that get all the publicity. But then, we elected them." . . . Lily Tomlin

Representative Lasee To Address BCTA Annual Meeting.

The BCTA fiscal year begins on October 1, the date on which we were first organized 16 years ago. At that time, we review our activities of the previous year, as well as elect our Board of Directors and Officers for the coming year.

This meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 19, 12:00 noon at the "Glory Years" in the Washington St. Inn, 347 S. Washington St., Green Bay. This will replace our regular monthly meeting.

Our speaker will be State Representative Frank G. Lasee, who will bring us up to date on "The Taxpayers Bill of Rights", which has been proposed as a constitutional amendment to make it necessary to receive taxpayer approval before tax increases in excess of the rate of inflation can be initiated. Details are on the back cover of this "TAX TIMES."

As you are all aware, we have been very busy the past few months and thank our members for their support. We now want to focus our attention on other matters of current taxpayer interest. Your input to our directors is important in determining our priorities. There are many issues which will come to the forefront in the next few months, all of which will have an effect on the taxes we will be asked to pay. Your continued support is important.

Our dues statements are sent on a calendar basis, based on when you first became a BCTA member. It is gratifying that most of our members renew promptly. We are strictly a volunteer organization on a limited budget and appreciate your assistance.

Thank you for your continued support. **Jim Frink - Treasurer**

**SUPPORT THE BCTA
New Members are Always
Welcome.**

Call 336-6410 or 499-0768

Write us at P. O. Box 684

or visit our website

www.BCTAxpayers.Org

Things That Make Us Wonder. (And some after-thoughts.)

Although the vote on the Lambeau Field issue was not as large as anticipated, it would be nice to see as much interest in the elections for our local, state and national representatives, and certainly the President. You get what you vote (or don't vote) for.

It seems that education, better health care for everyone, and taxes are popular themes for those running for office from the local to the national level. One problem is that there is probably not much that can be done on the state level to control health care costs. Much state legislation only makes things more expensive for everyone. Better education usually means taking tax money from one group to give to another in the form of credits or grants. Calling for smaller class sizes seems to be on everyone's list of recommendations but the need for additional classroom space and more teachers to accomplish must also be addressed. Keep track of what candidates tell you now for reference when they run for re-election. If they talk lower taxes, ask them what their position was on the Lambeau Field issue.

Now that the voters have spoken, this may have been the easy part. The city of Green Bay, Brown County, Village of Ashwaubenon, State of Wisconsin, the stadium district board, the season ticket holders being asked to pay \$1,400 per seat and taxpayers of Brown County still have special interests to be addressed. Hopefully everything will be resolved shortly and things will proceed as anticipated giving Green Bay a showpiece living up to its promise.

Changing the subject, is it possible that the high prices of gasoline and heating oil is temporary? Unlikely with overall use up and production capacity limited. Would seem the strategic reserve should be for a real emergency. What happens next week or next year? What's wrong with conservation? We could probably all get by with a little

less and not challenge our life style.

The N.E.W. Zoo is a popular attraction and those who made it possible are to be commended. Wasn't it supposed to be self-supporting when it was first established? In any event, it is now another expense on the county budget but is probably one of their better investments. Now the directors have come up with a \$13 million wish list of enhancements to make this a better attraction. Hopefully supporters of the zoo will be able to continue financing of new projects as they are added each year.

Is the real reason the Packers are not including comfortable new seats in their \$295,000,000 renovation project is that they don't want to lose the revenue from renting those crummy canvas seat backs?

While the Presidential candidates are pulling out all stops to raise advertising money for the home stretch, they keep talking campaign financing reform. While some groups believe these campaigns should be "publicly" financed, the real problem seems to be all of the debts to his big donors the winner has to pay after the election.

Assuming that the Packers and supporters did spend only \$1,000,000 in legal fees and advertising for the referendum, it would relate to \$20.50 for each "Yes" vote cast. The estimated total of \$25,000 from opponents would be less than .59 cents for each "No" vote. This would make for a ratio of about 35 to 1.

~~The Northeast Wisconsin~~ Technical College, which is also supported by our property tax dollars has announced plans for expansion and improvement. This would require a referendum to gain approval for property tax increases. The NWTC has always been considered as giving a good return for money invested but they will still have to make their case to the voters.

Was it just an unfortunate coincidence or deliberately adding insult to injury that our new .5% sales tax goes into effect just in time for Christmas shopping?

Doesn't gas seem cheap now that it's down to \$1.50 again. What was it a year ago or even this spring?
Just wondering. **JF**

The Ultimate User Fee.

We don't deny they're needed, but the Lambeau Field proposal includes installation of 572 new toilets at a cost of \$11 million. This equates to \$19,230 each, or about what it would cost for an entire bathroom in a new house. One suggestion offered would be to charge .25 cents for each minute of use, which could perhaps amount to \$50.00 per game for each additional toilet, or \$286,000 per year for 10 games.

This wouldn't even pay the interest on an \$11 million loan but people would certainly learn the value of money and we are being told that every little bit helps the taxpayers. Only problem is that pay toilets were outlawed several years ago. Don't worry, they're being paid for with the sales tax anyway.

Jim Smith

"To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers. One who does not vote has no right to complain." . . . **Louis**

Best of Wishes To Mike Riley.

We received word on Sept. 21, that Mike Riley, President of Taxpayers Network, Inc., had undergone triple bypass heart surgery, and would be undergoing a period of recuperation. We understand everything is going along on schedule, and we hope to see Mike back to work as soon as possible.

Mike has contributed greatly to the success of our organization by providing us with valuable materials and information, plus spreading the word of our activities to other taxpayer groups in the state. Best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

Directors and membership of the Brown County Taxpayers Association.

OUTRAGEOUS FACTS.

Recent jury award to Florida smokers - \$145,000,000,000.
Number of hours jury spent in arriving at above amount - 5.
Lawyers' share of award (estimate) - \$50,000,000,000.
1999 Compensation of Phillip Morris Chief Operating Officer - \$5,200,000.
Total Value of largest tobacco company (Philip Morris) - \$73,052,000,000.
Total Employees of Philip Morris – 137,000.
Severance pay to CEO of Mattel after being fired - \$55,000,000.
A year of income at the US minimum wage - \$10,300.
Jury award to black woman falsely accused of shoplifting - \$1,156,000.
Percent of population of Bangladesh earning less than \$1 per day - 29%.
Jury award to Hispanic parents of child killed in car accident - \$256,000,000.
Percent of Population of Guatemala earning less than \$1 per day - 40%.
Jury award to helicopter pilot who was harassed by fellow officers - 5,000,000.
Annual compensation to US soldier who loses foot, hand, and hearing in combat - \$37,116.
Annual salary of president of the United States - \$200,000.
Minimum annual salary in National Basketball Association - \$272,500.
Amount of Kevin Garnett's NBA contract - \$125,000,000.
Amount of fee for leading American movie stars, per picture - \$20,000,000.
A year of income at the average hourly wage in US - \$24,570.
Starting salary of graduate from leading law schools - \$140,000.
Salary for US Congressman – \$36,700.

From: THE OUTRAGE moderator@theoutrage.com>

Lambeau Field Sales Tax Business Supporters.

A list of about 350 Brown County businesses and other organizations has been published as supporting the Lambeau Field renovation project. We identified at least 185 establishments, or over half of the list, that either were exempt by the nature of their status from sales tax, or for whom it would likely be of no real consequence as an expense in their business operations or otherwise affect their sales.

According to the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, there are a total of 6,645 business establishments in the county registered with the Dept. of revenue so this hardly represents a majority. Many of these will incur additional expense in collecting the tax and explaining it to their customers.

The bottom line is that the businesses on the list all took a position that your taxes should be higher. You might want to keep that in mind as you make purchase decisions.

The list of business establishments who publicly supported the Lambeau Field renovation project is available on our website, www.BCTAxpayers.Org.

Campaign Finance Reform Referendum.

An advisory referendum will appear on the ballots in 56 or so Wisconsin counties November 7, which reads, *“Do you support legislation to reform the state campaign finance system that would limit campaign spending, require stricter contribution limits and require full and prompt disclosure of election-related activities?”* Brown County apparently is not participating.

While this sounds nice, it does not seem to offer any solutions. Public financing of election campaigns is certainly not the answer, and could open the door to more abuses. Does this truly address the buying of political influence effecting the outcome of specific legislation through so-called “campaign contributions”?

SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTES.

The Aftermath Of The September 12 Referendum.

Regular monthly meeting of the BCTA conducted September 21, 2000 at the “Glory Years.”

The meeting began with an analysis of the vote on the Lambeau Field Renovation Sales Tax referendum question in the September 12 election. It was agreed that *Fans for a Fair Deal* presented the correct message to Brown County voters. Unfortunately, with the supporters of the referendum outspending the opposition by more than 30:1, the chances of defeating the sales tax were slim. The Packers management's ability to drown out questions about the specious representation of their financial situation, coupled with the hysteria generated about the threat of losing the team, aided and abetted by unwitting headline writers in the local papers, provided the 53:47 margin of victory for the stadium sales tax question.

The county administration's actions in the wake of the defeat of Question 2 for the county to share in the stadium district's sales tax were discussed. The proposal to use \$2.5 million of the jail construction fund reserve for general expenses, thus increasing the bonding for the jail by \$2.5 million, was criticized. It was agreed other options, such as the sale or lease of county assets, carefully reducing spending, and increasing the county property tax rate via referendum, should be considered first.

After deliberate debate, the directors agreed to a position on the sale of naming rights for Lambeau Field: These naming rights should be sold for as much as possible as soon as possible, with the proceeds going to reduce the taxpayers debt on the stadium.

The next BCTA meeting will be our annual meeting for the purpose of reviewing the past year and election of officers and directors for the coming fiscal year. It will be held on Thursday, October 19, 2000 at the Glory Years. The speaker for this meeting will be State Representative Frank Lasee, who will discuss the *“Taxpayer Bill of Rights”*, legislation which he is sponsoring.

Dave Nelson - Secretary

The TAX TIMES - October, 2000

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule.

Thursday - October 19, 2000 - BCTA Annual Meeting. 12:00 Noon.
 Glory Years, Washington St. Inn. 347 S. Washington St.
 Review of past years BCTA activities, election of directors.

Speaker - State representative Frank G. Lasee
 "The Taxpayers Bill of Rights"

Price - \$6.50 each, includes lunch. Meeting adjourns at 1:30.
 (Note: Reservations appreciated to assure adequate seating.
 Call and leave message.)

Tuesday - November 7, 2000 - Presidential Election Day.
BE SURE TO VOTE !

Thursday - November 16, 2000 - BCTA Monthly Meeting.
 Glory Years, 12:00 Noon. Program to be announced.

All members of the BCTA, their guests and other interested persons
 are cordially invited to attend and participate in these open meetings.
 Phone 336-6410 or 499-0768 for information or to leave message.

Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at the
 Glory Years in the Washington St. Inn. 347 S. Washington St., Green Bay

Price - \$6.50 per meeting - Includes Lunch - Payable at meeting.

October

2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**BCTA ANNUAL MEETING
 PLAN ON ATTENDING !**

"The government solution to a
 problem us usually as bad as the
 problem." . . . **Milton Friedman**

"The genius of our ruling class is
 that it has kept a majority of the
 people from ever questioning the
 inequity of a system where most
 people drudge along, paying heavy
 taxes for which they get nothing in
 return.:"

. . . **Gore Vidal**

The TAX TIMES

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