
◊ The TAX TIMES ◊

Volume 16, Issue 2

Newsletter of the Brown County Taxpayers Association

December, 2000

OOPS

OOPS. I sure made a mistake when I said we would know our elected representatives by the time the letter was published. It is now 4 weeks after the election and we still don't have a clearly defined president-elect.

OOPS. The County passed the 2001 budget on November 13. It did so with a small tax increase by shifting \$2 million from the jail reserve fund into the general fund. The replacement for the reserve funds were bonded along with other moneys for the jail construction. In effect, we charged \$2 million of the current budget.

OOPS. The museum is still on budget for \$1.112 million with \$885 thousand coming from taxpayers in the form of property tax levy. Making this less dependent on the tax dollars is a must.

OOPS. The list of discretionary funds by department is still pretty much intact. The list totals about \$5.9 million and is included in the Final Report of the Budget 2001 Task Force. These items need to be reviewed by individual committees before the next budget.

OOPS. Nothing was done about the rising cost of health care for county employees. One of the best health care plans on record is still being funded 95% by taxpayers (*12,753,094 total dollars*). This has been an issue in past budgets and a serious review needs to be completed.

OOPS. Not much discussion about increasing revenue for the County. True, some fees were raised. How about finding a way to get money from the airport or the port itself. The airport brings in \$6 million a year and has expenses of \$4 million a year in round numbers. It has about 71 plots of land zoned exclusive agriculture and collects over \$200,000 in rent. Shouldn't the County which owns the land get a portion of the income? Concessions account for over \$2 million in airport revenue. Shouldn't the County get a percentage for providing the land? Time for a review?

OOPS. The Report of the County Executive's Land Commission recommended disposal of certain parcels of land currently part of the Mental Health Center. The property would be developed into housing and add tax base for future income. Not one word of selling other land to help offset the financial crisis was spoken.

OOPS. Maybe the biggest OOPS is that the same board who passed this budget will also be doing the budget next year. It may be different without a reserve fund to borrow from.

Frank S. Bennett Jr.

President - Brown County Taxpayers Association

The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government

Don't Squander the Surplus.

At the present time our Federal Government projects a budget surplus. In the 52 years since World War II there have been only 9 times that we have had a budget surplus and politicians usually see that surpluses are spent. It will be interesting to see what the politicians do this time. Government could choose to increase spending to end the surplus and apparently some of it is being spent already. Taxes could be reduced, the debt could be paid down, or a combination of many things.

Our government has an opportunity to make good use of what is left of the surplus, but will have to move forward soon before it is spent. Some politicians feel that the surplus should be returned to the people because it is the people's money. We would all like to see taxes reduced, but the national debt also belongs to the people, which is now about \$5.7 trillion and has been growing by \$123 million per day since September of 1999. (See article at bottom of page.) The interest on this amount of debt would be \$285 billion per year at 5% interest, and this amount is paid from our tax dollars for a dead horse. History shows that surpluses fuel additional spending and in the last half century only an average of about 5 cents on the dollar of surplus was returned in reduced taxes. Therefore; it makes good sense that most of the surplus be used to pay down the debt while we have that opportunity. It doesn't make sense to continue interest payments on debt that can be paid off.

Funds that were used to pay interest on the debt could be used to pump up Medicare and the Social Security trust fund. The approximate amount of \$750 billion in IO U's that were written as the Social Security trust fund was raided should be repaid and the Social Security trust fund ought to be removed from the federal budget. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, our government should work at balancing the budget as soon as possible. Without deficit spending, we should be able to prevent piling up a mountain of debt. This would free up investment funds, which would help keep interest rates down, help keep our economy healthy and lighten the burden on future generations. Is this possible or is it a pipe dream? **Jim Smith - BCTA**

Lawyers and Libraries.

Recently one of our local TV stations contacted me for a taxpayer perspective on the first year proposed budget of the Green Bay-Brown County Stadium District Board. This is the committee appointed to administer the finances and construction approved by the voters for Lambeau Field.

If you recall, while Wisconsin Act 167, (which established the rules for the Brown County Sales Tax), was being crafted in Madison by the Packers, their attorneys and an all too-willing legislature, provision was inserted towards the end for independent local administration of the project if approved. An administrative budget of \$750,000 from sales tax proceeds was established for the first year, with lesser amounts each year thereafter. We assume the \$750,000 allowance was intended for establishing an office, nominal salaries for staff and administration, and various expenses commensurate with the task at hand.



I was shown a proposed budget of \$841,000 or so, which while more than authorized, was very thorough and comprehensive. It included the usual items needed to establish an office such as furniture, copiers and typewriters, rental allowance, clerical salaries, supplies, services and the like. However, one item really stood out, and I truly doubt the legislature ever considered it when they created the document: \$500,000, or a half million dollars was budgeted for attorney fees!

This amount apparently was included to cover negotiations between the Packer Organization and the City of Green Bay to resolve a contract for use and ownership of the stadium. We acknowledge that this is probably a necessary and reasonable expense in a project of this magnitude. It is possible the amount actually spent will be less, but you know who will end-up paying the bill if it is more. Nonetheless, it is an example of an unforeseen expense to be paid by the taxpayers of Brown County. Putting the 500 grand into perspective, Brown County citizens were threatened with the closing of a library in an effort to save the county \$100,000 or so. Other popular programs have been curtailed or eliminated because our county board can't match projected revenue with proposed expenditures.



The Brown County Taxpayers Association has never believed that a sales tax for county purposes was necessary and certainly don't at this time. Taxes are high enough and expenses should be in line with the cost of living and the economy.

In any event, with the exception of the \$500,000, we had little criticism of the proposed budget for the board. They have a tough job to do and deserve the cooperation of everyone involved. If anyone at this time is looking for ways to save taxpayer money, where were they a few months ago? **Jim Frink**

"I just received the following wire from my generous Daddy-
"Dear Jack, Don't buy a single vote more than is necessary, I'll be damned if I'm going to pay for a landslide."
. . . **John F. Kennedy**

"The very aim and end of our institutions is just this: That we may think what we like and say what we think."
. . . **Oliver Wendell**

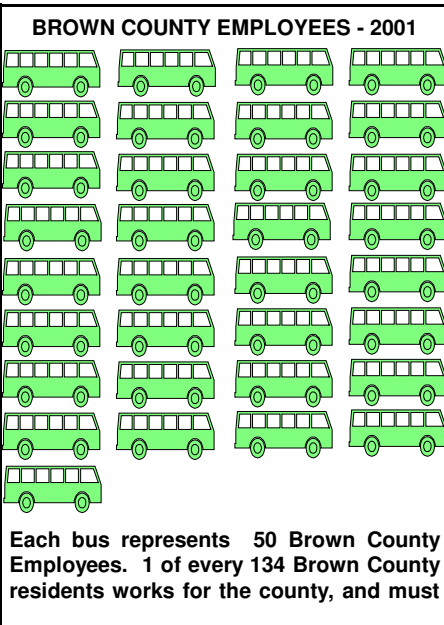
U. S. National Debt Clock Keeps Ticking Away.

As of 9:00 AM, Dec 3, 2000, the U. S. National Debt stood at **\$5,677,460,543,421.79.** It is growing at a rate of about \$123 million per day. Based on an estimated population of 276,216,893, each citizens share would be **\$20,554.36.** Where is the surplus our politicians keep talking about? You can check the balance any time at www.brillig.com/debt_clock.

How Many Employees Are Enough?

While the county board contemplates next years budget and how to match proposed spending with available income, one problem seems to be the growing number of county employees. The cost of each employees includes insurance and other benefits as well as facilities and assorted overhead items in addition to their salaries.

The 2001 budget provides for 1642 county employees, which is an increase of 112 from the 2000 budget. Most of this increase can be attributed to the new jail expected to open this year. An examination of the proposed county budget indicates that most departments are prudent with their expenditures. (See comments elsewhere in this TAX TIMES regarding the 2001 Brown County budget.



“When angry, count to ten before you speak; if very angry, a hundred.” . . . Thomas Jefferson

“This American system of ours. . . call it Americanism, call it capitalism, call it what you like, gives to each and every one of us a great opportunity if we only seize it with both hands and make the most of it.” . . . Al Capone

Discretionary Items In The Brown County Budget.

While preparing the report of the special budget task force appointed to review and develop recommendations for the 2001 County Budget, each county department was requested to list programs which could be considered discretionary. These are generally programs not mandated by state law, and in many cases added through the years to meet special needs at taxpayer expense. A number of them are unique to Brown County. Most of them will be included in the final budget. We acknowledge that many of these programs fill a vital need. However, the county cannot always be everything to everybody, and they should also be closely scrutinized on a regular basis to determine their value as a taxpayer expense.

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>PROGRAM/SERVICE</u>	<u>TAX LEVY</u>	
Aging Resource	Multi-Purpose Senior Centers	\$ 144,252	
	Adult Day Care Centers	279,510	
	Other Aging Resource	105,212	
Human Services	Teen Parent (YWCA)	209,139	
	Volunteer Services (HSD)	169,386	
	Parent Education (HSD)	152,583	
	Wraparound (Curative Workshop)	250,000	
	General Relief (ICS)	114,611	
	Positive Parenting	173,363	
	Welfare Fraud Investigations	131,644	
	Other Human Services	187,085	
	Land Conservation	Salary, Fringes and Operating Costs	173,687
		Other Land Conservation	68,074
Library		East Branch Library	292,451
		Southwest Branch Library	180,705
Museum Parks	Bookmobile	53,225	
	All Programs and Services	842,298	
Planning	Administration	177,772	
	Facilities and Grounds	954,529	
	Zoo in Full Enterprise Fund	97,955	
	Brown County Fair	41,000	
	Triangle Hill	18,000	
	Programs	76,513	
	Bay Lake Regional Planning	90,808	
	Advance	62,000	
	Other Planning	1,000	
	Port and Solid Waste	Remove All Programs	72,252
Sheriff		DARE	229,558
		Brown County Drug Task Force	290,000
		School Liaison Program	35,000
U.W. Extension Zoning	Other Sheriff Dept.	15,701	
	Various Programs	251,140	
	Various Programs	2,800	
TOTAL - Discretionary Programs		\$ 5,943,753 *	

The Brown County Budget is a very complex document designed to make each department accountable for their responsibilities and expenditure of public funds. The BCTA acknowledges that Brown County government is well managed and is not suggesting that any particular area of expenditure be eliminated. Some of the programs may not be as well known as others, but we are certain they can all be justified. It is unfortunate, however, that programs such as a library branch or drug prevention program are singled out for closer scrutiny when other discretionary items are approved without question. It is the responsibility of the Brown County Board of Supervisors to examine and approve the annual budget, and your questions should be directed to your representative.

* Budget amounts from report of 2001 Budget Task Force. August 18, 2000

TAXES THE BIGGEST (UNREPORTED) PORTION OF CPI. Fastest rising part in cost of living never mentioned...

The National Center for Policy Analysis reports that while energy, food and housing have all gone up, the fastest-rising element in our cost of living is never mentioned: our tax bill. Taxes are not mentioned in monthly Consumer Price Index announcements from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Medical expenses are 10.8 percent of income of the median two-earner family, according to the Tax Foundation. Transportation accounts for 6.9 percent, clothing 3.9 percent, and food 8.9 percent.

Federal taxes, meanwhile, (including income, employment and other) consume 25.9 percent, while state and local taxes eat up 13.1 percent.

That means that for a median two-earner family, taxes take 39 percent of income.

Whether one compares the periods 1955 to 1975, 1975 to 1995 or 1995 to 1998, the total burden of federal taxes for the median family has risen faster than the Consumer Price Index, and, more important, faster than income. While the income tax burden has basically kept pace with the rise in income over the last 43 years, the rise in the employment tax has been much faster than the increase in income or inflation.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics stopped reporting the tax information several years ago, saying it was too expensive to do so. The chart to the right illustrates the cost of taxes on a typical Wisconsin worker.

For more on Consumer Price Index, <http://www.ncpa.org/pd/economy/econ1.html>
For more on Tax Burden on Families, <http://www.ncpa.org/pi/taxes/tax32.html#3>. For more on the National Center for Policy Analysis. <http://www.ncpa.org>.

Contributed by Mike Riley

"I know no method to secure the repeal of bad or obnoxious laws so effective as their stringent execu-

Another Dumb Idea From Government.

A recent news item concerned a study by the U.S. and several state governments requiring that a special computer be installed in all motor vehicles so that mileage and destinations could be downloaded via satellite.



The announced purpose of this scheme was to enable various highway administrations to track your mileage and charge you proportionally for your highway usage. Obviously a lot of other information would be available to big brother if such an outlandish idea ever became a reality.

Doesn't the amount of gas tax you already pay compensate for the number of miles you drive and use our highway system?



As can be expected, Wisconsin is one of the states studying this technology. They wouldn't want to lose their position for innovative taxation. The real beneficiary, however, is the guy who dreamed up this idea, and probably has investors lined up ready to make a killing if they can find enough suckers to buy it.



SUPPORT THE BCTA !

Where each \$100.00 of Wisconsin Workers Wages Go. We don't claim to have all the answers, but will do our best to find them for you.

A Really Hidden Tax.

Do you know how much the new Brown County Sales Tax cost you during the first month of its existence? Probably not, but it has been noted in the media that it has had a minimal effect on retail sales. Possibly so considering the fury of Christmas shopping.

One of the rules of an effective tax, and the reason that proponents of additional sales taxes favor this method to finance their projects is that it not as likely to be noticed by those who have to pay it. For example, most excise type taxes are included as part of merchandise or services and are seldom noticed. Wisconsin has had a sales tax since 1961, and we have pretty much learned to live with it and accept it as a cost of living item. We anticipate the additional 5% when making purchases, and the tax paid is usually itemized at the bottom of our bill.

We note now, however, that Brown County businesses are including the new .5% tax with other taxes, and not itemizing it. The result is that you really don't know what the additional tax is costing you. Not that this is a major problem, but it comes as no surprise that people overlook the additional burden they are paying. Wait until they buy a new automobile, boat, jewelry or a major appliance and they will notice the difference and may start to shop around. It is anticipated that it will bring in the neighborhood of \$15 million the first year, so figure out what your share of that will be. (220,000/\$15million = ?)

Articles and views appearing in the "TAX TIMES" do not necessarily represent the official position of the Brown County Taxpayers Association. We want to 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. E-Mail - Frink@ExecPc.Com. www/BCTAxpayers.ORG

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM. How Do We Go About It?

One thing was clear from the results of the November 7, election in Wisconsin. Even though Brown County voters didn't participate, an overwhelming majority of voters in the rest of the state approved an advisory referendum calling for campaign finance reforms. Unfortunately the wording of the referendum didn't provide any clear direction to take but it certainly indicated dissatisfaction with the present system.

Calls for public financing of political campaigns may sound like a good idea but could be a gross misuse of taxpayer dollars. Presently, only a small percentage of people authorize a deduction from their income tax payments for political campaigns, indicating that this is not necessarily a popular idea.

The ongoing saga in Florida seems to indicate that election results can be manipulated over and above what you or I put on our ballots, and this can make the amount of money spent a moot issue. Campaign money is spent on other items besides advertising to solicit our votes.

This is a subject the Brown County Taxpayers Association has taken a stand on and we offer reprints from previous "TAX TIMES", offering different views on the subject.

From the July, 1999 "TAX TIMES"

Support of Resolution Calling For No Tax Money For Campaigns.

Every year Wisconsinites are polled on the question of whether tax money should be used to fund political campaigns. We're not talking here about a telephone poll which samples a few people with questions constructed to manipulate, and then projects their response across the whole population.

This poll is complete and absolute. Those questioned must respond in favor, or in opposition - you can't say "not sure" or "no opinion", and you can't refuse to answer. Each and every taxpayer responds to this poll every single year. Sound at all familiar? It should, because this poll is conducted right at

the top of the front page of every taxpayer's state income tax return - the Wisconsin Form 1. Taxpayers must either refuse to have their tax money used for political campaigns, or they may designate a one-dollar contribution to the state election campaign fund.

And, year after year, the citizens speak with unmistakable clarity as over 90% refuse to have even a single dollar of their taxes go to campaign funding. Good for them!

Why does the public so thoroughly reject tax-funded campaigns?

First, the people know that in a free society participation in political campaigning must be an individual and voluntary choice. They don't want government making that choice for them.

Second, the people understand that government-funding of campaigns will lead to government control of campaigns, and ultimately to a government which perpetuates the status quo.

Third, and most importantly, people get outraged over the notion that tax money should be seized from them, under threat of incarceration, and given to political candidates with whom they disagree. Can you think of a greater injustice?

Amazingly, despite the clear and principled arguments against tax money for campaigns, and in defiance of the annually stated will of the taxpayers, there are elected officials who are proposing tax funding of campaigns. **Michael Riley - Taxpayers Network, Inc.**

The Election.

Hopefully by the time you read this, the fiasco in Florida will have been resolved amicably and we have a president elect. This whole affair should wake everyone up to the fact of how important their vote is and why they make their voice heard at the polls. Unfortunately, just the opposite will probably happen when we hear of thousands of ballots not counting on perhaps frivolous technicalities. Busloads of partisan lawyers trying to bend the interpretation of laws to their benefit after the election doesn't help either. Someone said that in future elections we won't have to vote at all. Attorneys will decide the outcome for us. Maybe it's that way already.

Regardless of what happens to campaign finance reform, election results seem to have been taken away from the people. We have seen such a proliferation of polls leading to the November 7, elections that nobody seemed to have the power of their own convictions. We are constantly being told by the media what to believe. Political parties use sophisticated models to determine where their support is coming from, which enables them to run their campaigns the same as a manufacturer marketing a new product.

"We are constantly being told by the media"

We have seen this right here at home. For example, to assure passage of the recent Lambeau Field project, the Packers reported spending \$24,812 for polling to determine support patterns, and another \$30,850 for voter research, which can determine where and how to market and advertise your candidate or side of an issue.

In any event, we should all rally behind and support the winner. Whoever he may be or what party he represents. **JF**

Who Pays the Most Taxes?

This Percentage of Taxpayers	Pays this Percentage of Federal Income Tax.
1%	33%
5%	52%
10%	63%
25%	82%
50%	96%

"I don't know jokes. I just watch government and report the facts."
 . . . **Will Rogers**
 "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." . . . **Harry S. Truman**

“KYOTO TREATY” Has Not Been Forgotten.

Although pushed to the inside of the papers by the deficiencies of the Florida election boards, there has been a U. N. sponsored conference of environmentalists at The Hague, Netherlands trying to reach some agreements on cutting global pollution. This is a follow-up to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol setting proposed standards and limits for all nations to follow.

Apparently these latest meetings ended leavings a long way to go before there is agreement between all nations. While we all realize the dangers brought by industrialization, each nation, especially the U. S. , has concerns for their own economy, security, and standard of living. While President Clinton and Vice-President Gore are on record favoring emission restrictions, there will apparently will still be a lot of discussion before anything is implemented.

For the record, we are reprinting a couple of articles from previous “TAX TIMES” presenting views on this important subject. Watch it. It could very well effect the way we live.

From the July, 1998 “TAX TIMES”.

Hidden Costs of Kyoto Treaty Turn Up.

In the last “TAX TIMES” we reported on the Federation of Wisconsin Taxpayers Organizations concern with the possible cost of the Kyoto Global Climate Treaty on Wisconsin taxpayers. As time goes on, the cost keeps rising.

In March, a member of the President’s Council of Economic Advisors, claimed the agreement would cost the average American family no more than \$110 annually.

However, WEFA, Inc., a responsible economic forecasting firm has estimated the cost for an average American family at \$2,700 per year. A difference of \$2,590.

During debate last year over particle and ozone standards, the EPA estimated a cost estimate of \$8.5 billion, but finally admitted the true cost was

\$46 billion - after the regulations took effect.

Although the president has proposed a so-called “free-market” solution to reducing greenhouse gases, some analysts say his proposed international “cap and trade” program is no more than a stealth tax that would permanently limit U. S. economic growth, and present a major technological revolution in the energy sector. This cap could cost America trillions of dollars in the next century, and the implications of this treaty could be as disastrous as global warming..

National Center for Policy Analysis, From TNI

From the Dec. 1998, “TAX TIMES”.

What Will be The Effect of The Kyoto Treaty?

The Clinton administration recently signed the so-called Kyoto Protocol agreement, intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. Our participation must still be ratified by Congress. This treaty was negotiated in 1997 by the United States and 158 other nations with the intent of reducing greenhouse emissions. The greenhouse effect is a naturally occurring phenomenon creating gases which scientists claim are getting out of control and endangering the environment. These gases are about 97% water, and the remaining 3% consists of methane, carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons and other gases. At present, the U.S. contributes about 22% of the emissions, but it is estimated that if the treaty is imposed, by 2015 greenhouse gas emissions from developing nations will exceed those of the U.S. and all other developed nations combined. I am sure we all would agree that if the environment on our planet is endangered, logical steps should be taken for its preservation.

However, the Wisconsin Coalition for Fair Global Policy has some concern regarding this treaty and the potential effect on our economy, and issued the following release:

“Implementation of the pending international treaty, would force Wisconsin manufacturers and business

to cut 69,800 jobs (22,100 of those in manufacturing) and reduce wages by two percent or more. Unemployment rates as high as 4.7 percent could be anticipated if the Protocol is enacted, according to a recent study conducted by Wharton Econometrics Forecasting Assoc. (WEFA), one of the world's leading economic information and consulting firms.

The Protocol, which was negotiated by the Clinton Administration, attempts to deduce greenhouse gas emissions worldwide in an effort to reduce global warming. If ratified by the United States Congress, it would be an internationally legally binding agreement; however, **the treaty has two main flaws. It exempts 129 of 173 countries, including China, India, Brazil and Mexico, from the treaty's strict requirements; and it would require the United States to cut energy usage by 30 percent—drastically stunting the country’s economic growth—while leaving the door wide open for developing countries.**

Our objective is to see fair language prevail throughout the Treaty—holding developing countries, as well as industrialized nations, responsible for the future of our planet, said Patrick Stevens, director of industrial policy for the Wisconsin Manufactures & Commerce. We must keep Wisconsin jobs here and not hand them over to our international competitors.”

Some of the other findings of the Wharton study are as follows. By 2010 there could be a 3.5% potential loss of Wisconsin output, amounting to \$4.9 billion. A loss of 3.6% in manufacturing wages and 2.0% in non-manufacturing wages. An increase of 95% in natural gas prices and 105% in electricity prices. If implemented, the national economy permanently would lose \$3.3 trillion in output between 2001 and 2020. Some hardest hit industries would be agriculture, mining, chemicals, aluminum, steel, refining, pulp and paper.

Other predictions; commercial establishments including hospitals and **KYOTO TREATY, Continued** schools would see electricity prices in-

crease 60% by 2010;. Implementation of the Kyoto Protocol will impose wage and salary declines nationally, but still result in rising costs, as companies attempt to retain their competitive positions.

American farmers would face unfair competition in the world marketplace due to rising costs of production and the exemption of foreign competition. Overall, it is estimated that Wisconsin would experience a tax loss of \$928 million in tax revenues by 2010, further reducing the ability to provide social services when their need is increasing.

Obviously some of the predictions made on both sides of this argument are pure speculation for whatever reasons. However, there is little question that our economy and lifestyle would change dramatically if the restrictions in this treaty were imposed. Depleting energy resources could have an adverse effect on their own in the not too distant future. It would seem that worldwide conservation with the goal of preserving resources for all of our use would possibly be a better approach - still cutting emissions while preserving for the future. This is an extremely important issue which could be passed behind our backs. It is of taxpayer concern as government programs depend on the economy for survival. Social Security, debt repayment and even local programs are based on the assumption that taxes will flow and increase forever. What do you think? Stay tuned.

JF

"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies."

. . . Groucho Marx

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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

Mayor Jadin to Speak at December BCTA Meeting.

Green Bay Mayor Paul Jadin will be the speaker at the Dec. 21, BCTA monthly meeting.

With the recent publicity over the Packers renovation tax and county budget problems, it will be interesting to hear what the cities plans are for the coming year.

Details on the back page of this *TAX TIMES*.

BCTA News Items.

Hard to believe but another year is coming to a close and we look forward to 2001. Despite all the Y2K fears of last December, it was a good year for most of us and life goes on.

Each year the BCTA has sent a survey to our membership and other readers in an effort to pin point the areas of greatest taxpayer interest and prioritize our activities for the coming year. This year, where do we start?

Aside from the usual concerns over school spending, the county budget and high taxes in general, what are your suggestions? If you have any areas which you feel should be included in our survey, give me a call at 336-6410, drop us a message to PO Box 684, Green Bay, 54306, or E-mail me at Frink@ExecPC.com. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

With new directors selected for the following year, we still need members to serve on our various committees. These are Schools, Municipal, County, State and National, and Membership. Our organization can only be as effective as our membership makes it.

Annual membership dues notices are sent on a cyclical basis - based on the month you first became a BCTA member. It is gratifying that the vast majority of our members return their renewals promptly, as it is time consuming to send second notices. We acknowledge that we can't please everyone, but taxes in general are a problem we should all be concerned with. Thank you for your support.

Jim Frink

November Meeting Notes.

Monthly BCTA meeting held Nov. 16, 2000, at the Glory Years.

A position on the proposed audit of the Brown County budget was discussed at length. The discussion covered use of the General Fund (approximately \$9 million), Huber options for the jail, and the cost of county employees.

Considering opportunities for reduction of county government costs, it was pointed out that increasing the mileage of a county vehicle by five miles per gallon might save up to \$3.00 per day in fuel costs, but that \$3.00 is less than five percent of the total daily cost of the county employee driving the vehicle.

The bottom line is that the number of county employees is a critical factor in the size of the county budget. The county budget cannot be controlled without controlling the number of county employees. Most other cost-reduction proposals will produce relatively small savings in the total county budget.

The directors approved a resolution in support of an audit of the county budget by the Legislative Audit Bureau.

Charles Brand, George Parker, and Dick English were elected to three-year terms as BCTA directors. BCTA officers re-elected were:

President - Frank Bennett

First Vice-President - Richard Parins

Second Vice-President - Gerald Slavik

Treasurer - James Frink

Secretary - David Nelson

The next BCTA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 21, 12:00 noon at the Glory Years. We have asked Green Bay mayor Paul Jadin to address our meeting and discuss issues facing the city during 2001. Details on the back page of this *TAX TIMES*.

Dave Nelson - Secretary

"The surest way to ruin a man who doesn't know how to handle money is to give him some."

. . . George Bernard Shaw

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule.

- Thursday - December 21, 2000. BCTA Monthly Meeting.**
12:00 Noon. Glory Years, Washington St. Inn.
Speaker - Green Bay Mayor Paul Jadin.
- Monday - December 25, 2000. Merry Christmas.**
- Monday - January 1, 2001. Happy New Year.**
- Monday - January 15, 2001. Fourth quarter income tax estimates due.**
- Thursday - January 18, 2001. BCTA Regular Meeting.**
12:00 Noon. Glory Years, Washington St. Inn.
- Thursday - February 15, 2001. BCTA Regular Meeting.**
12:00 Noon. Glory Years, Washington St. Inn.

All members of the BCTA, their guests and other interested person 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, tax and tip - Payable at meeting.



Seasons Greetings

"The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all." . . . John F. Kennedy

"The White House is the finest

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The TAX TIMES

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How Many Employees Are Enough?
Discretionary Items In County Budget.
Taxes Biggest Portion of CPI.
A Really Hidden Tax.
Campaign Finance Reform.
Comments on The Election.
Kyoto Treaty Not Forgotten.o
Mayor Jadin to Speak at BCTA Meeting.
and more.