
◆ The TAX TIMES ◆

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Newsletter of the Brown County Taxpayers Association

February, 2003

Higher Fees & Higher Taxes or Lower Spending?

Given these two options which do we choose? If it were your own family budget which would you choose? The first trial balloons floated this new year seem to indicate higher fees and taxes. It's a struggle to know which form of taxation is more damaging at this or at anytime. The news warns that higher taxes will drive more business from the State as is evidenced by recent plant closings and business relocations. In light of the need for new jobs another option is a more positive tax policy that supports commerce and families ability to pay taxes. Fair taxation, as a goal, is necessary to give a civil society the protection we all desire.

Even now as Brown County communities face the choice of a common, or maybe not so common, water authority, these costs represent the tacit affirmation for taxation. The community chooses higher fees for services. I share the question that many have: Do we need all this service now or can we take care of our immediate problems while planning for future expansion? I am leery of these massive undertakings; costs go awry, resources end up where less needed, and the end does not justify the means.

Take or pay is what we have in front of us. **Take** the City of Green Bay's offer or suburbs **pay** on their own. The plans as presented don't offer alternative solutions or a modified pace. Commitments are far into the future and the costs are not transparent. Little regarding the water authority is transparent at this time, negotiations remain in hiding and cost structures as they appear are not complete. The fees for this project may not appear until end of negotiations in the form of a take it or leave it option. The community at large deserves better. It may be better to put the project as it presently appears on hold again. Remember, acceptance is taxation with taxpayer authorization.

We are told hunting and fishing license fees may go up. We are told fees of all varieties may go up. These fees are then characterized as increases required for future expenses. Why not put new capital expenditure on hold. What doublespeak we get from these agencies. Had the State of Wisconsin held spending to twice the rate of inflation this past decade we wouldn't have a budget problem. We have a spending problem, period. Budgets need to be frozen across the board, projects need to be put on hold or proceed at a modified pace. When we can't afford something we examine the situation, determine its necessity, and plan to reach our goal at a later date.

The upcoming Spring elections (Feb. 18 – primary, April 1, General) demand our utmost attention. Do we elect those willing to put their political careers behind doing the right thing, like the good stewards we need? Or do we elect political Santa Clauses who fulfill our wants and ignore our needs, who play to our hopes and neglect fiscal realities?

We need to support candidates who walk and talk spending restraint. Come to the BCTA County Executive Candidate Forum and find out who they are. Dare to ask: More taxes or less spending?

Richard Parins,
President.

**TAXPAYER SURVEY
ENCLOSED**

**The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government**

The Way The System Works.

Suppose that every day, ten men go out for dinner. The bill for all ten comes to \$100. If they paid their bill the way we pay our taxes, it would go something like this:

- The first four men -- the poorest -- would pay nothing;
- The fifth would pay \$1,
- The sixth would pay \$3,
- The seventh \$7,
- The eighth \$12,
- The ninth \$18,
- And the tenth man -- the richest -- would pay \$59.

That's what they decided to do. The ten men ate dinner in the restaurant every day and seemed quite happy with the arrangement until one day -- the owner threw them a curve (in tax language, a tax cut).

"Since you are all such good customers," he said, "I'm going to reduce the cost of your daily meal by \$20." So now dinner for the ten only cost \$80.00.

The group still wanted to pay their bill the way we pay our taxes. So the first four men were unaffected. They would still eat for free. But what about the other six -- the paying customers? How could they divvy up the \$20 windfall so that everyone would get his "fair share?" The six men realized that \$20 divided by six is \$3.33. But if they subtracted that from everybody's share, then the fifth man and the sixth man would end up being PAID to eat their meal. So the restaurant owner suggested that it would be fair to reduce each man's bill by roughly the same amount, and he proceeded to work out the amounts each should pay. And so the fifth man paid nothing, the sixth pitched in \$2, the seventh paid \$5, the eighth paid \$9, the ninth paid \$12, leaving the tenth man with a bill of \$52 instead of his earlier \$59.

Each of the six was better off than before. And the first four continued to eat for free. But once outside the restaurant, the men began to compare their savings. "I only got a dollar out of the \$20," declared the sixth man, but he, (pointing to the tenth) got \$7!" "Yeah, that's right," exclaimed the fifth man, "I only saved a dollar, too, ...it's unfair that he got seven times more than me!" "That's true!" shouted the seventh man, "why should he get \$7 back when I got only \$2? The wealthy get all the breaks!" Wait a minute," yelled the first four men in unison, "We didn't get anything at all. The system exploits the poor!" The nine men surrounded the tenth and beat him up.

The next night he didn't show up, so the nine sat down and ate without him. But when it came time to pay the bill, they discovered (a little late) what was very important. They were FIFTY-TWO DOLLARS short of paying the bill! Imagine that!

And that, boys and girls, journalists and college instructors, is how the tax system works. The people who pay the highest taxes get the most benefit from a tax reduction. Tax them too much, attack them for being wealthy, and they just may not show up at the table anymore. Where would that leave the rest?

Unfortunately, most of the liberal taxing authorities anywhere cannot seem to grasp this rather straight-forward logic!

T. Davies, Professor Division of Accounting and Business Law
The University of South Dakota.School of Business

Raising Taxes Means Losing Jobs.

While it is still too early to determine where the State of Wisconsin will go with its budget problem, it appears that so far options are limited to the following choices and consequences.

- Borrow from the \$52 billion state retirement fund. The balance in this fund has already been reduced from \$64 billion in 1999 due to investment losses and increased benefits to retirees. Loans would have to be repaid causing problems down the line for all of us.
- Cut state spending. This will probably be necessary under any circumstances, as projections have the deficit getting worse in coming years. Suggested cuts made so far will not solve the problem. Unfortunately, if significant spending cuts were proposed, there would likely be an increase in public sentiment for tax increases.
- Tax increases. As it now stands, it would take an increase in the state sales tax from 5.0 to 7.4%, or an increase by 2 percentage points in all brackets of the state income tax to cover the present deficit. Wisconsin already has the nations third highest taxes.

What would be the consequence of raising sales or income taxes? The Wisconsin Policy Research Institute has made a comprehensive study of what would happen if taxes were to be raised. They thoroughly examined all aspects of the states economy and concluded that if the sales tax were increased to 7.4%, there would be a loss of 55,500 jobs in the state. This would be largely attributed to the loss of the \$1.6 billion in disposable income being spent.

However, raising state income tax levels two percentage points to a high of 8.5% would be even more devastating, resulting in a loss of more than 84,000 jobs. This higher number would be the result of less purchasing power resulting in smaller sales tax revenues. The cost of hiring labor would be even higher for Wisconsin employers, and in addition to people moving out of the state for more favorable economic conditions, new people would be reluctant to move in. It would seem that passing the states problems back to the counties and municipalities to pay with property taxes could cause even greater problems.

Unemployment is a national concern due to the economy, and we are seeing our share in Wisconsin. Much of our problem, however, seems to be consolidation of existing facilities in other parts of the country. In other words, jobs moving out due to the high costs of doing business here. The January 25, *Press-Gazette* carried a detailed report that our paper industry, the backbone of the economy is this part of the state, could be facing problems in the near future. There were a number of reasons given, but one of them was the high taxes and an unfavorable business climate in Wisconsin. This is most likely a consideration when any business or individual thinks of locating here.

"When I make a joke, nobody's injured; when Congress makes a joke, it's the law." . . . Will Rogers

What Is The Cost of Public Employees Health Insurance to Taxpayers?

Probably the largest single factor driving the cost of our state income and local property taxes is the cost of providing health insurance as a benefit to our public employees.

To find what these costs are locally, we checked with the business offices of Brown County, the cities of Green Bay and DePere, and the Green Bay and DePere School Districts, to find what they are paying for their insurance coverage, and the cost to their employees. The balance would be a taxpayer supported cost

We acknowledge these numbers would contain many variables, and could vary from employee to employee. Also the cost to the employees varies from 5% in the City of Green Bay and Brown County to 15% in the City of DePere which also offers more expensive coverage than the others. In most cases, the employee payment and coverage offered is determined by a bargaining agreement.

The problem affecting all of us is that the cost of medical insurance coverage has been rising at an average of 12% or more annually for the past decade or so, and prospects are that it will keep rising at that pace. This is a major problem facing private employers trying to keep their costs in line and remain profitable while providing benefits for their employees and citizens who must provide their own coverage on what is often a very limited income. In the case of government employees, however, this cost can be simply passed on to the taxpayer. While we appreciate that government employers are well aware of this problem, any efforts at correction by reducing benefits or more cost sharing meet with strong resistance.

As it now stands this single factor will continue to impact our tax bills dramatically in the next few years. As an illustration, we have taken the average of the five largest public employee jurisdictions in Brown County, and increased this cost of insurance premiums by an average of 12% annually.

We assumed a salary of \$30,000 which would be the low end of the scale and increased it by an average of 3.5% each year. Also that insurance costs will rise 12% yearly. For comparison, we used an employee cost of 5% and 15% as their cost of insurance, with the balance passed to the taxpayers.

It appears that in only a few years the cost of providing medical insurance for public employees and their families will exceed their listed salaries. (Before other benefits such as sick leave, holidays and vacations pay, etc.) While it is difficult to compare one plan with another, or with plans offered by private employers, it is obvious that this is a problem which should be addressed with viable solutions presented.

Jim Frink and Jim Smith BCTA

BCTA To Sponsor County Executive Candidate Forum.

The BCTA is sponsoring a forum between Brown County Executive candidates **Len Teresinski**, **Roy Leyendecker**, and **Carol Kelso**. This will be held at 7:30 A. M, Friday at the Glory Years (Astor Room), 347 Washington St. Admission will be free. All BCTA members, their guests and any interested parties are cordially invited to attend. The primary election will be held on February 18. Details on last page of this "TAX TIMES."

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.BCTAxpayers.Org

Is There Such A Thing As Fair Taxes?

A recent "study" by the Washington based "Institute of Taxation and Economic Study" criticizes Wisconsin's tax system. Not because we are consistently among the highest in the nation in just about all categories of measurement however.

Their problem was the "fairness" of the system as relates to the percentage of income paid by individuals in state and local taxes. They indicate the bottom 20% of wage earners only pay 10.2% of their earnings to state and local taxes, while the top 1% only pay 8.1%. Not fair, they claim.

A chart in the January 9, *Press-Gazette* illustrates their conclusions and rationale. While the lowest wage earners pay virtually no state income taxes, they do pay as large a percentage of their earnings to sales and property taxes as other income groups. That is the system that has been established through the years, and it should be safely assumed that lower income groups spends proportionately as much of their income on items subject to sales tax as any other income group. This includes items such as clothing, household furnishings, and other necessities of life plus discretionary items such as cigarettes, liquor, expensive automobiles and trucks, entertainment which we all want and consume. The more you make the more you spend. The property tax is an onerous burden we all live with, but a persons taxable real estate is quite often in proportion to their earnings and wealth.

One common thread in the study, however, was that higher income people paid a greater proportion of income taxes. Even though the top income tax bracket in Wisconsin is "only" 6.75%, the top federal bracket is 38.6% and this makes many top wage earners paying a greater proportion of their income to taxes than most people could imagine. The state department of revenue has estimated that 25% of Wisconsin taxpayers pay 75% of the taxes, or explained otherwise, the bottom 75% of wage earners pay only 25%. Some groups could say that's not fair.

What studies such as this are

attempting to promote or prove is difficult to understand. Nonetheless the media always gives them first class coverage. Are they suggesting a system whereby lower income people would be entitled a lower sales tax rate on their purchases? Higher rates and fewer exempt items have already been suggested in Wisconsin because that is what other states are doing. Should property taxes be indexed to a person's income or wealth? Probably some groups would suggest this, but the economy would be turned around. Raise taxes on higher incomes doesn't seem like a good idea either. Personal and corporate income taxes in Wisconsin are already among the highest in the nation both in percentage of income and ability to pay.

Meanwhile, a group called the "Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools" has proposed increasing the sales tax from 5 to 6.2% to finance increased states aids. They then claim it would be possible to reduce local property taxes for school purposes. If we recall, the county sales tax was also supposed to reduce property taxes. The net result by most surveys, however, has been that additional spending has quickly filled the void, leaving another burdensome level of taxes to contend with. In addition, since the "Institutes" study focuses on fairness and clearly indicates that sales taxes effect lower income groups the most, this would undoubtedly impact them with an even larger burden.

If anyone or group gets any ideas, we must remember that Wisconsin is a leader in losing wealthy retirees to states with more attractive tax systems, and corporate income, property and all of our other taxes are still a major deterrent to attracting new industry and expansion. **JF**

WISCONSIN MAKES NEW TOP 10 LIST.

Wisconsin's taxes on its citizens have been among the top 5 or 10 in the nation for many years. This includes local and state taxes per capita, ability of people to pay taxes based on percentage of their personal income, and the various types of taxes imposed, such as personal income, personal property, sales and the various excise taxes and user fees including tobacco and gasoline taxes.

A new survey by the American Legislative Exchange Council of Washington DC, www.ALEC.org, indicates that our budget deficit is **8th highest in the nation**. Just about all states have budget problems related to the economy, and steps to make corrections range from raising taxes to tapping special funds as Wisconsin did with the tobacco settlement. Some states are also cutting back on education support and other major budget items.

Total state budget deficits for fiscal years 2003-04 now approach \$90 billion nationwide. "These figures are simply staggering," said Michael Flynn, of ALEC. "But what's more alarming is that few states have yet to responsibly address this self-inflicted crisis, a decade in the making, which finally hit home well over a year ago."

The top-ten states experiencing massive budget deficits include:

1	California	\$34.8 billion
2	New York	\$12.5 billion
3	Texas	\$9.9 billion
4	New Jersey	\$5 billion
5	Minnesota	\$4.6 billion
6	Ohio	\$4 billion
7	Wisconsin	\$3.2 billion
8	Massachusetts	\$3 billion
9	Illinois	\$2.25 billion
10	Michigan	\$2.1 billion

The really bad news is that the deficit for Wisconsin could be \$4 billion or more when the final figures are in.

"No activity in a government agency is given as high a priority as securing and enlarging its Budget."
 . . . Leonard Reed

"Most (tax revisions) didn't improve the system, they made it more like Washington itself; complicated, unfair, cluttered with gobbledygook and loopholes designed for those with the power and influence to hire high-priced legal and tax advisers."
 . . . Ronald Reagan

The 2003 Taxpayer Survey.

Enclosed with this *TAX TIMES* is the BCTA Year 2003 Taxpayers Survey. Thanks to the states budget situation, Wisconsin taxpayers will likely face more challenges than in previous years. We have tried to include all major issues of local concern, and apologize if we missed anything or if some questions are not clear. Many issues could be further elaborated if space permitted.

Any comments you may make are helpful and the complete report will appear in the April *TAX TIMES*. These surveys are beneficial to us as an organization representing taxpayers of Brown County, both in establishing the views of our members and items to be addressed.

It should only take a few minutes to complete and send back to us. **We would like 100% participation** to show that we are concerned and involved. Please call Jim Frink 336- 6410 with any question. Thank you.

Dick English and Jim Frink -

The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION Presents A County Executive CANDIDATES FORUM

Carol Kelso
Roy Leyendecker
Len Teresinski

Friday, February 14, 2003
Mark Your Calendars

Place: **The GLORY YEARS** (Astor Room)
321 S. Washington St. Green Bay

7:30 A.M.

FREE ADMISSION
Call 336-6410 for information.

Remember to **VOTE!** Primary Election Feb. 18, General Election April 1.

Taxpayers Pool Would Be Smaller Under Bush Plan.

While President Bush's tax cut plan draws criticism for claims of helping only the rich, it is estimated that an additional 3.8 million tax filers would have a zero federal tax liability if this proposal was enacted. This would make an estimated total of 39.5 million tax filers, representing 82 million citizens who would have no federal tax liability.

This is largely due to the expansion of the child credit from \$600 to \$1,000 per child, and the larger numbers of dependent children claimed on these lower income tax returns.

The bottom line is that it is impossible to give income tax relief or tax refunds to people who do not pay income taxes.

Contributed by Mike Riley

"A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore."
... Yogi Berra

"The presidency has many problems, but boredom is the least of them."
... Richard Nixon

County Website Contains Useful Information.

The official Brown County website: www.co.brown.wi.us contains just about all the information you need to know about Brown County government.

Included are the names and addresses of county supervisors, committee schedules and minutes, department heads, phone numbers, historical information and links, and even the county budget. It is well laid out and easy to use. Give it a try.

National Debt Clock Update.

As President Bush prepared to deliver his State of The Union address at 8:00 P.M., January 28, 2003, the balance on the national debt clock was **\$6,392,966,002,491.00**. This equates to \$101,813 for every family in the country.

The federal government manages to spend about a million dollars every seventeen seconds.

Legislators Propose Super-majority Amendment to Raise Taxes.

Rep. Scott Suder and Sen. Robert Welch have proposed a Wisconsin constitutional amendment requiring a 2/3ds "supermajority" vote from both houses of the legislature in order to raise sales, income or franchise taxes.

They note that 15 other states have some sort of taxpayer protection in order to raise taxes, while Wisconsin only requires a simple majority vote by both houses of the legislature. Wisconsin's tax burden is 3d highest in the country and the state is facing enormous deficit problems.

"We need to make it just as hard for politicians to raise your taxes as it is for taxpayers to pay them," Senator Welch said.

Although similar legislation has been proposed in the past, it is hoped that present circumstances including the mood of the taxpaying public will be more favorable for its consideration.

THINGS THAT MAKE US WONDER.

We heard of a comment recently made by one of the leaders of a Green Bay neighborhood association when told by one of our members about the BCTA. Her reply was that she thought our group was "too political." This is rather difficult to understand, insofar as we always believed one of the functions of these neighborhood associations was to improve the property values of the areas they represent. One of the side effects of improving the physical condition of the neighborhood, however, is raising the value of real estate on which property taxes are assessed. These neighborhood areas are located in older sections of the city, and contain a higher proportion of minorities and elderly who are even more concerned with high property taxes than anyone else. Many of the elderly residents have lived there for many years, continually finding it more difficult to pay their taxes with fixed incomes. The BCTA has never opposed against any worthwhile government program which has proven to be beneficial, cost effective, and fulfilling its stated mission. We do promote "Fiscal responsibility in Government", which boils down to providing good government services and standard of living while getting our moneys worth for the taxes we pay. This should be to the interests of everyone, property taxpayers in particular.

Has anyone noticed how little we hear about "campaign finance reform" now that the fall elections are history? Maybe for the time being the winners are content with the present system, and the losers can't do much about it.

Governor Doyle has hit the ground running with his new cabinet appointments. One problem however, is that he proposes giving some of them pay raises of 10% or more than their predecessors. His main justification was that these appointees were lawyers accepting substantial pay cuts with the state. We acknowledge that these are important jobs with a lot of responsibility. Nonetheless performance results

will be in providing state services without raising taxes as the governor has promised, regardless of the background of the cabinet member. Giving salary increases to anyone on the state payroll certainly will set a poor example for the rest of the states employees, and to taxpayers fearful of another round of state tax increases.

While Gov. Doyle exercises his authority to appoint a new cabinet and other key positions, we hope his goals and decisions are being based on what is necessary for the State of Wisconsin over political philosophy.

The DNR has already proposed substantial fee increases for hunting and fishing licenses. This was probably to be expected due to a 10% dropoff in deer hunters attributed to the CWD scare. Now they find many areas supposedly have too many deer causing excessive crop damage to farmers and auto accidents on the highways. Maybe they should actually lower license fees to encourage more people to hunt help the local economy in the process.

Meanwhile, plans are still in the works for a new \$5.3 million regional headquarters for the DNR in Green Bay, with an "ecologically friendly" (expensive) design.

While the governor ponders the budget problem, construction is proceeding on a \$17.9 million remodeling at the UWGB lab-science building and a 15,000 sq. ft. addition for \$3.2 million at the DOT in Ashwaubenton DOT. This is \$213.33 per sq. ft., and seems rather high. If the state is having financial problems, holding back on some of these grandiose construction projects should have top priority. Approval should be based on necessity and cost to taxpayers rather than aesthetic design and political pay-offs. It doesn't make sense to continue spending millions on new buildings for its employees when the state can't come up with meaningful ways to reduce their budget.

The Packers have initiated a commemorative "brick and tile" sale to

raise money and "offset the county sales tax" for their Lambeau Field project. It is apparently of to a good state and we wish them success. While every source of income is being maximized, we still wonder if the \$2,000 seat license potential for the 4,000 or so seats *not* assigned to the 50,000 or more people on their season ticket waiting list is being utilized? This was the number of new seats assigned to Brown County residents on a lottery basis as an incentive for approving the .5% sales tax. We realize this plan possibly hasn't been formalized, but 4,000 seats at \$2,000 per amounts to \$8 million, and that is a lot of license plates, bricks and tax write-offs which could help pay the sales tax.

Incidentally, it would take **\$1.6 billion** in taxable purchases by residents and visitors of Brown County to realize \$8 million dollars with the .5% Packer tax. Figure it out for yourself. That's a lot of few cents here and there for our businessmen to keep track of.

While the federal government carries on party lines debate on which is the fairest and most beneficial way to give us citizens a tax cut, it was announced that the deficit for the present biennium was already estimated to be \$300 billion and climbing. This was before the 2002 income tax returns start to come in, and certainly the low interest and dividend income, lack of capital gains on investments, and unemployment will be negative factors. Could the government possibly be more helpful with their money by encouraging small business more? This could readily produce more jobs benefiting all aspects of the economy. Any plan to boost the stock market should be looked at.

We will see more units of government adding and increasing user fees to help balance their budgets. Most people probably agree as long as these fees are related to the services provided. This criteria should mean that fees be imposed for a specific purpose or service benefiting the users, at a cost to the user not exceeding the actual cost or value, and not imposed to finance some project lacking funding through other means.

Apparently enrollment in the SeniorCare prescription drug assistance program has been less than anticipated and could fact cuts as Gov. Doyle works on the state budget. There is no question the high cost of prescription drugs is a burden to many of our senior citizens, and some assistance is in order. However, this program was inaugurated at a time when the state was already experiencing budget problems, and no provision for funding was made except Joe Taxpayer. One suggestion (not serious) would be for the state to take prescription drug orders from everyone eligible and send a truck to Canada every week or so. Maybe at least they can figure out why prescriptions drugs are supposedly less expensive up there.

There has been discussion why county officials are elected on a partisan basis, the same as our state and national representatives, while county board, city council and school board members are not. No doubt there are compelling arguments for and against this system which must go back forever. There was a lot of confusion last fall when people found they couldn't vote their choice for Sheriff in the Brown County Primary, with three well qualified candidates from the same party. Then we wonder why people do not bother to vote.

The question seems to be, why should the county clerk, register of deeds, sheriff or even the coroner be a partisan position? Aren't these officials expected to perform their duties on an equal basis to all citizens without regards to their race, creed, or political affiliations whether or not they contributed to their last election campaign?

This is not necessarily the same with our state and national representatives who are elected more on the basis of party affiliation and the philosophy of the particular political parties. Unfortunately party philosophies play a part in the actions of our county, school, and municipal boards even though candidates seek election on a non-partisan basis. It is always important to know what your candidate stands for, and his intentions if elected.

If anyone would like to comment on this or other issues mentioned in

this article, pro or con, it will be welcome in a future "TAX TIMES."

The CEO of K-Mart is scheduled to receive a \$1 million bonus if his company gets out of bankruptcy by April 1. ~~Too bad they can't make him~~ pay all the unemployment and welfare benefits his laid-off employees are costing the taxpayers first.

The idea of legalizing video gaming machines in taverns has again surfaced, and apparently has considerable support. Even though it would be an expansion of gambling in the state it could be a new and major source of revenue for both the state and taverns. We can see many sources of mischief on both sides of the issue if this becomes a reality, so lets hope the legislature proceeds with caution.

The states are making another effort to make it easier for them to collect sales tax on internet sales. Many of the larger venders would possibly have little trouble sorting out all the state and local jurisdictions they would have to comply with. However, there are thousands of small businesses using the internet who could no longer afford the necessary paperwork. They had better speak up if their concerned.

Let us know what taxing problems you are wondering about. JF

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.

January Meeting Notes.

Monthly BCTA meeting held January 16, 2003 at the Glory Years.

The concept of a multi-county mental health facility was discussed. It was agreed to invite Brown County Supervisor Tom Lund, a proponent of this idea, to speak at our next meeting.

Following a discussion of spring races significant to Brown County Taxpayers, a County Executive candidate forum was planned for 7:30 AM on February 14th at the Glory Years. This meeting will be free of charge and open to the public.

The SMART GROWTH plans being advocated by city and county government planners were discussed at length. Being pushed by state legislation, these plans will have major impacts on taxpayers although there appears to be very limited public knowledge of the ultimate consequences of these plans as proposed by the government planners.

The membership committee has met and discussed various tools to promote new membership in the BCTA. All members are encouraged to bring guests to our regular meetings.

The Water Study Committee reported that no firm prices or minimums have been agreed upon. The contracts will be take-or-pay. There is no time period locked in for the \$1.23 per thousand gallons price from the City of Green Bay. Another \$1.25 per thousand gallons will be going to the water authority. Numerous citizens with good wells and septic tanks are unhappy about being forced to connect and take expensive water. This water won't be returned to the lake. Water quality costs haven't been explained. The Town of Scott appears to be trading some annexation for water from the City.

The next regular BCTA meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 20, at the Glory Years. Details on the last page of this TAX TIMES.

Dave Nelson – Secretary.

"A politician's words reveal less about what he thinks about his subject than what he thinks about his audience." . . . George F. Will

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The TAX TIMES - February, 2003

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule. (Mark Your Calendars.)

Friday - February 14, 2003. County Executive Candidate Forum
GLORY YEARS, (Astor Room) 347 S. Washington St.
7:30 A.M. - Bring your friends. Free Admission, Coffee/Rolls.

Tuesday – February 18, 2003, Primary Elections. Green Bay Mayor,
Brown County Executive, Others.

Thursday – February 20, 2003, BCTA Monthly Meeting.
GLORY YEARS, Lombardi Room, 12:00 Noon
Tom Lund, Brown County Supervisor, The Mental Health Center.

NOTE: THEIR WILL NOT BE A MARCH "TAX TIMES" - MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Monday - March 10, 2003, Deadline for returning Taxpayer Surveys.

Thursday – March 20, 2003, BCTA Monthly Meeting.
GLORY YEARS, 12:00 Noon, Program to be announced.

Tuesday - April 1, 2003. General Elections. Be Sure to VOTE !

Thursday – April 17, 2003, BCTA Monthly Meeting.
GLORY YEARS, 12:00 Noon, Program to be announced.
Cost – \$6.50 per meeting – Includes lunch, tax & Tip. Payable at meeting.
BCTA Members, their guests, and other interested parties cordially invited to our meetings.



**February,
2003**

“The world is full of willing people;
some willing to work, the rest will-
ing to let them.” . . . **Robert Frost**

“Have you ever seen a candidate
talking to a rich person on televi-
sion?” . . . **Art Buchwald**

“When in doubt, do what’s right.”
. . . **Harry Truman**

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
for Details.**