

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Kevin M. Lahner
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MEMO

To: Mayor, City Attorney and City Council
CC: Department Directors and Press
From: City Administrator
Subject: Administrator's Report
Date: May 15, 2015

- 1. Police Officers of the Year:** Three Waukesha Police employees have recently been recognized as Officers of the Year for their professionalism, dedication, and outstanding performance. Elks Officers of the Year are Detective Mike Carpenter and Detective Dave Feyen. They were recognized on May 11th at the annual Elks Dinner.

Optimist Officer of the Year is Detective Paul Paikowski. He will be recognized on May 20th at the annual Optimist Lunch. Congratulations to Mike, Dave and Paul!
- 2. Cemetery Study Update.** The firm conducting the cemetery study MKS&H, is estimating that the study will be complete in June. The firm has conducted interviews with staff and collected financial data over the past several months. They are now working on completing the report.
- 3. Legislative Update.** Please see the enclosed update from the League of Wisconsin Municipalities regarding the state budget. This update actually contained some good news, especially in terms of levy capacity carryover, and the removal of some language that would have been harmful to cities. However, please note that the Tourism lobby is seeking changes to the state's room tax law that was successfully blocked yesterday. This item is very concerning for the City of Waukesha, and we will have to keep a close eye on it as the legislative session moves forward. There would be a substantial negative impact to our revenue if the changes pass.
- 4. Election Equipment Resolution.** Please see the enclosed memo to the County Board, which is in response to several resolutions passed or under consideration urging the County to fully fund the purchase of election equipment. Please note that the Finance Committee passed the resolution at their meeting this week and it is on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting for consideration.
- 5. Economic Development Update.** The City has held recent meetings with Waukesha County and the Waukesha County Business Alliance to discuss a regional approach to economic development related issues. Currently, a focus group consisting of city officials and business leaders from throughout the county will be meeting this summer to begin the process of formulating an action plan for future economic growth. Several parties working together have conducted research on the best practices in economic development and the working group will be tasked with developing the county's strategy. We will keep you informed on the progress as it moves forward.



Carol Capes

From: Kevin Lahner
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 4:41 PM
To: Carol Capes
Subject: FW: Capitol Buzz -- Competitive Bidding Threshold Increased

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please attach to Administrator's report.

Kevin M. Lahner, ICMA CM

City Administrator

City of Waukesha

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From: League of Wisconsin Municipalities [<mailto:witynski@lwm-info.ccsend.com>] **On Behalf Of** League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 2:53 PM

To: Kevin Lahner

Subject: Capitol Buzz -- Competitive Bidding Threshold Increased

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League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Capitol Buzz

<p style="text-align: center;">May 15, 2015</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Witynski@lwm-info.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.lwm-info.org</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">Like us on Facebook </div> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">Follow us on Twitter </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Subscribe to our E-Newsletters</u></p>	<p>Joint Finance Committee Passes Several Favorable Budget Amendments, Including Raising Bidding Threshold to \$100,000</p> <p>Yesterday the Joint Finance Committee took up shared revenue, property taxation and other state budget issues relating to municipalities. The committee made no changes to the Governor's recommendations regarding funding levels for shared revenue, expenditure restraint or any other local aid programs.</p> <p>The committee passed the following budget amendments beneficial to municipalities:</p>
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Motion 369, Increasing Public Construction Competitive Bidding Threshold. The motion increases the dollar amount at which municipal public construction contracts must be competitively bid from \$25,000 to \$100,000. Sen. Tiffany, Rep. Nygren, and Rep. Czaja made the motion. *The League strongly supports this change.*

Motion 379, Modifying Governor's budget provision requiring additional information be included on property tax bills. The motion deletes the Governor's proposal and replaces it with a less onerous requirement. The new requirement is to place on the property tax bill the total amount of tax levied in the current year and the amount of tax levied on the property in the current year resulting from a referendum to exceed the school revenue limit, the tech college revenue limit, or the county and municipal levy limit on a non-permanent basis. Rep. Kooyenga made the motion. *The League lobbied for deletion of the Governor's proposal. This is a much more workable requirement.*

Motion 301, Allowing Municipalities to Carry Forward Unused Levy Capacity for Five Years. The motion allows a municipality that experiences growth in any year to have five years in which to carry forward any unused levy capacity from that year of growth. The ability to carry forward unused levy capacity would be capped at 5% annually. Also, a municipality would be able to carry forward unused levy capacity only if in that year the community does not increase its total outstanding general obligation debt over the prior year. This is an alternative to the current carry forward provision, which allows communities to carry forward unused levy capacity from one year to the next, but is capped at 1.5% of the prior year's total levy. *The League worked with Counties Association and Sen. LeMahieu (R-Oostburg), Rep. Novak (R-Dodgeville), and Rep. Rob Brooks (R-Saukville) on advancing this motion.*

Motion 383, Remove Penalty for Service Delivery Collaboration in Expenditure Restraint Program. The motion clarifies that when two or more communities collaborate on shared service delivery their ability to qualify for the expenditure restraint program will not be compromised. *The League worked with Rep. Born (R-Beaver Dam) to advance this budget motion through Rep. Knudson (R-Hudson).*

Motion 316, Creating a Partial Levy Limit Exception for Service Transfers. When two local governments collaborate on service delivery and one

governmental unit becomes responsible for providing the service for the other unit, the motion would allow half of the savings from the transferred service to be divided between the collaborating communities and used to increase their allowable levies. *Sen. Vukmir (R-Wauwatosa) introduced this motion at the request of communities within her district. The League supports the motion.*

Room Tax Legislation Blocked For Now

Yesterday, the Wisconsin Hotel and Lodging Association sought to have room tax law changes that the League opposes inserted into the state budget. While it was nip and tuck throughout the day, the League successfully blocked the budget amendment from being taken up by the Joint Finance Committee last night. We were successful despite leadership in both houses supporting the room tax motion and putting tremendous pressure on GOP members of JFC to pass it. We won because:

- Municipal officials responded to our action alert and used Voter Voice to communicate with their legislators.
- Brookfield Mayor Steve Ponto, who happened to be attending a conference in Madison, joined League lobbyists in meetings with JFC members and staff throughout the afternoon to bolster opposition.
- JFC members Sen. Vukmir, Rep. Kooyenga, and Rep. Knudson opposed the motion and they were eventually joined by Sen. Harsdorf. The Democratic representatives also opposed.

While we won last night's battle, the proponents will continue to try to get the room tax changes inserted into the budget, perhaps in the final omnibus motion. We will continue to try to block it, but may have to compromise on a less onerous version. We'll keep you posted.

Forward email

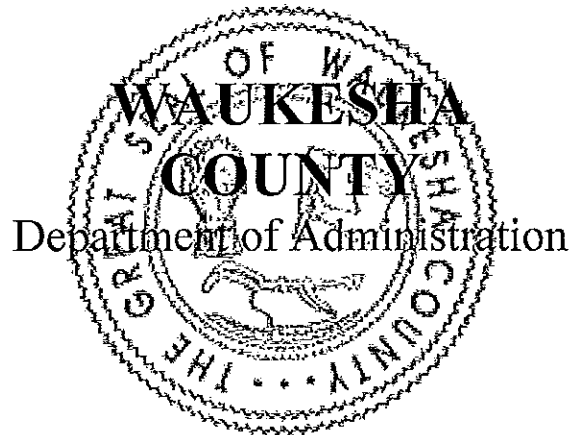
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Paul Farrow
County Executive

Norman A. Cummings
Director



To: Waukesha County Board Chairman Paul Decker and Supervisors of the County Board

From: Norman Cummings, Director of Administration

Date: May 11, 2015

Subject: Election System Capital Project and County/Municipal Share of Local System Equipment

You may be aware that some municipalities have recently adopted resolutions petitioning the County to pay a higher share of the local elections system equipment that they wish to order from the County.

Apparently they are responding to recommended resolutions and contacts for local elections systems and equipment the County sent out to take advantage of the new state certified elections system the County has acquired in the RFP/Bid conducted. As required by the County Board adopted "Election System Upgrade" capital project adopted in the 2014 and 2015 budgets; the County will pay 100% for system equipment residing at the Courthouse and two-thirds of the cost of equipment located at the municipalities for those that chose to participate. The municipalities will have three years, beginning in 2016 to repay the County in equal installments.

While securing local voting equipment and systems is a municipal responsibility, the County Board in adopting this policy wanted to provide an incentive for municipalities to adopt the County system and take advantage of the group purchase. Under the law, it is 100% the responsibility and duty of the local municipality to acquire and pay for voting equipment. It is also 100% the responsibility of the local municipality to maintain the equipment and conduct elections as are necessary. If the municipalities elect not to take the County's 2/3 County, 1/3 local share offer, which is their right, then they will be completely responsible for equipment and ongoing costs including election programming for their current system or when they decide to modernize.

The ultimate goal that is very achievable is to test the new system and be able to go live starting with the first election in Spring 2016. This will provide the opportunity to work with the new equipment before the November General election. I fear with the misguided attempt to get a greater contribution from the County, some municipalities will miss the timeline for the County to submit the municipal equipment order. If a municipality does not participate up-front, they will have to pay the full cost.

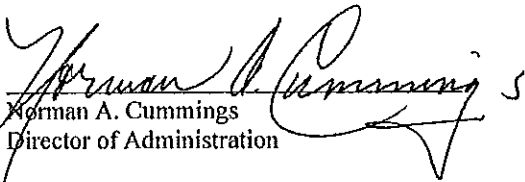
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www.waukeshacounty.gov

Some of the misinformation in the resolutions suggest that the County has sufficient funds without a local contribution. The Capital budget for the Elections Upgrade project includes nearly \$350,000 of municipal paybacks that support the expenditure budget. This clearly shows that the municipal contribution of one-third is needed and there is absolutely no "double taxation."

Some of the municipalities cite that they have recently bought refurbished election equipment. The County's vendor has provided us a price list that they will pay to acquire any other older equipment and it can be used to mitigate the cost of their share of the new equipment. We know that some municipalities replaced election equipment which they then sold. Some of this equipment was furnished by the County about 15 years ago. In the amended contract to the municipalities it is made clear that at the one-third price, they have full ownership of the new equipment. All municipalities will be provided the latest contract.

In spite of some of the confusion, many municipalities have indicated their willingness to approve the resolution and memorandum of understanding with the County's proposed financial terms. Unfortunately, it appears the confusion in some municipalities is based on a faulty perception that a change in the cost allocation can be made at this time. We hope we can encourage these municipalities into participating in this project within the established timeline in order for them to take advantage of the County's subsidy offer. Ultimately both the County and municipalities stand to benefit from using standardized, modern equipment.

Sincerely,


Norman A. Cummings
Director of Administration

NAC/lmg

Cc: County Executive Paul Farrow
Corporation Counsel Tom Farley
County Clerk Kathleen Novack
County Executive Chief of Staff Shawn Lundie
County Board Chief of Staff Mark Mader

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