



Issue 32

County Administration Newsletter

Vision & Stewardship

November 2016

Administration

Every year staff spends an incredible amount of time working on the annual budget. From working with the County Board to set and approve budget guidelines to reviewing and prioritizing equipment purchases, all while living within the financial means of the County and ever present state levy limits.

This year, unlike others, department heads were required to develop a two year budget for their standing committees to review. While the committees only rec-

ommended one year for the County to approve, the intent was to start the process of forecasting revenues and expenses so that our policy makers can have more insight into future department requests/needs. Preparing financial information for future years, will hopefully assist our County Board when making financial decisions for the County as a whole. Our hope is to develop a 3 year budget within 2 years and a 5 year budget forecast within 3 years.

The 2017 budget reflects the val-

ues and priorities of our County, and prepares the County for a sustainable future, while still investing in our roadway infrastructure, capital equipment, and our most important asset: our staff who deliver the County services daily. On the next page you can see how the 2017 adopted budget compares with the budget guidelines.

I want to once again thank all the departments for their work on the 2017 budget.

-Nate

Emergency Management

**Are You Ready for Winter?
Time to get your home and car
ready for cold and snow.**

It is time to face the inescapable truth, winter is coming to Wisconsin. We all need to brush up on our winter driving skills and cold weather preparedness.

Governor Scott Walker has declared November 14-18, 2016 as Wisconsin's Winter Awareness Week. The annual campaign, sponsored by Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM), Wis-

consin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), and the National Weather Service (NWS), reminds us that now is the time to get ready before the snow and cold hit.

"Make sure you have an emergency supply kit in your car - it could save your life," says Major General Don Dunbar, Adjutant General and Wisconsin's Homeland Security Advisor. "If you slide off into a ditch and are stranded during a storm, food and other items in your kit could

help keep you and your family safe until emergency help arrives."

The emergency vehicle kit should contain items such as a flashlight, first aid kit, booster cables, emergency flares, water and snack food along with extra gloves, hats, scarves and blankets. In addition, make sure you have a shovel and a bag of sand or kitty litter to help provide traction if you get stuck.

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2017 Budget Guidelines:

- Reduce tax levy supported operational budgets by 1.5-2%; look first at all non-essential and non-mandated services
- Plan on no more than \$45K in increased tax levy due to current levy limits
- Provide between 2-3.5% raise value for staff (may not be structural other than those moving through the compensation plan)
- Continue to fund compensation plan in 2017
- No net new positions in 2017
- Review capital equipment purchasing timelines (Utilize New Capital Equipment Fund for a portion of capital purchases)
- Create a two year budget showing projections for 2018
- Focus resources on road infrastructure (no borrowing, use cash in a stable manner) Goal of \$1million in road infrastructure investment in 2017
- Reduce the reliance of investment income for operational revenue by another 30%
- Review health care plans and provide options for staff, goal is to cut County Health Care expenses by 2-5%

2017 Adopted Budget:

- Reduced non-essential services by roughly \$40,000
- Levy limit resulted in an increase of \$53,000
- 2% increase in base wages for all non-represented staff with another 1% value provided in either PTO, lump sum check, or deferred compensation
- Compensation plan is funded for 2017
- No new position were created, Airport Manager position was absorbed into Administration
- Funded requested capital items using \$72,174 from the Capital Equipment Fund. Balance of Capital Equipment Fund is \$1.9million.
- Completed for all departments and provided to standing committees for review
- \$991,000 allocated for road improvements without borrowing
- Reduced reliance on investment income by roughly another \$42,000, down to \$98,000 of \$240,000 of income
- Decreased health care expensed by 3.75% or \$117,000 from 2016

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Every winter in Wisconsin, officials say approximately 50 people are killed and more than 4,900 are injured in crashes on icy or snow-covered roads. Many of those crashes are caused by driving too fast in winter conditions. "The posted speed limit is based on dry pavement and good driving conditions. But the posted limit may be too fast for conditions when a road is snow covered and slippery," says David Pabst, director of the WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety. "During severe winter storms, the safest decision is to not drive until conditions improve. Law enforcement officers frequently

respond to vehicles in the ditch and chain-reaction crashes when motorists should not have attempted to travel. Slowed or stalled traffic on slippery roads also delays tow trucks and snowplows, which are trying to get roads cleared, as well as emergency responders."

Make a Mobile Ready Kit for Winter



In addition to getting your vehicles winterized and putting to-

gether an emergency vehicle supply kit, now is also good time to get your home ready for the cold months ahead. Put together an emergency preparedness kit for your home that contains a three-day supply of non-perishable food and water in case there is no power during a winter storm. Also make sure your flashlights have new batteries and you have a NOAA Weather Radio to receive any emergency alerts.

For more information visit ReadyWisconsin at <http://ready.wi.gov>. You can also follow ReadyWisconsin on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Health & Human Services

Burnett County Proving to Be Leaders in the Charge Against Meth Use in the Region

As most of Wisconsin battles the heroin epidemic, the northern part of the state has another fight on their hands. Burnett County has a Methamphetamine problem and it is not going away. Law enforcement seizures of the drug went up over 1,363% from 2014 to 2015. There has been \$250,000 in property crimes reported as a direct result of Meth. Health and Human Services struggles to keep up with the reports of child abuse and neglect.

School districts are reporting neglect and behavior issues in the children they serve, which is a direct effect of their parent's meth use.

Many agencies and organizations from Burnett County have come together to fight against the issues left in the wake of meth use, and in the last 9 months they have made great strides. To such an extent that neighboring counties are looking to Burnett County for ideas on how to combat this dilemma in their area. Furthermore, Burnett County has become a part of a regional effort

working on how to address meth use today versus the last big onset of almost 10 years ago.

Methamphetamine is an extremely addictive stimulant drug. It affects the central nervous system, dumping dopamine at an extreme rate into the body. The difference with this drug compared to many others is that the addict will give up everything for another high. They will lose their job, home, and children; that still will not stop the desire for the next meth high.

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When given the choice of getting clean, and potentially getting their children returned to their care, they choose to keep using. Meth is so powerful that it breaks the parental instinct. That kind of impact shows the extent to which users will go to attain what they are looking for. They will lie and steal for their next fix. In fact, in a matter of months the addict will lose everything and still be trying to find more.

Another distinction of Meth addiction is that the addict's brain is not even healed, nor ready for

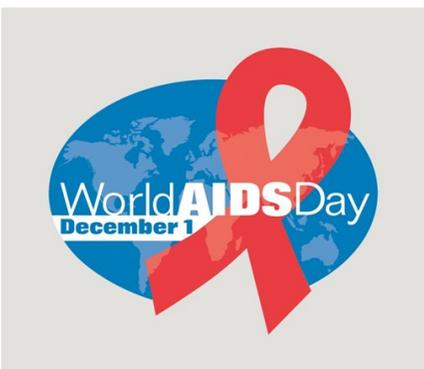
treatment, for 9 months after the drug is out of the system. Meaning, meth is a drug that requires long term treatment. The traditional 21-day treatment programs do not even touch what is needed to combat this addiction. Addicts that have been clean for years state that meth still, "... whispers to them." The power of this drug is truly devastating for the addict, and those around them.

We are asking that the citizens in Burnett County pay attention to what they see in their neighborhoods. If you see something, say

something. The members of the community must educate themselves by taking advantage of the Town Halls, and/or other educational opportunities that are offered in the county. Volunteers and mentors are needed in many programs to help those in the throes of addiction get back on their feet. This is not just a problem for the addict, it is a problem for the community.

For more information, visit: www.drugabuse.gov or call: 1-877-643-2644

Article Provided by :
Restorative Justice of Burnett County



December 1, 2016, marks the 28th anniversary of World AIDS Day—a time for remembrance and renewed commitment to end the HIV epidemic. World AIDS Day is an opportunity for people to work actively and collaboratively with partners around the world to raise awareness about HIV and help us

move closer to the goal of an AIDS-free generation. This year's theme, "The Time to Act Is Now," calls us to act with urgency to implement the latest high-impact, evidence-based HIV prevention strategies. While anyone can become infected with HIV, the impact of HIV does not affect everyone equally and we must concentrate our efforts on helping persons and communities in greatest need of HIV prevention and treatment services.

Worldwide, over 36 million people are living with HIV. More than 1.2 million people in

the U.S. are living with HIV, and one in eight do not know it. More than 7,900 people are estimated to be living with HIV in Wisconsin, including an estimated 1,000 people who are unaware of their HIV infection. In the US, the Center for Disease Control continues to work with our many partners to bring the best available prevention and treatment tools to the communities that need them most, at home and around the world. On this World AIDS Day, we are pleased to join our partners to raise awareness to prevent the spread of HIV.

Highway Department

Our winter driving season is fast approaching!

Like it or not, old man winter will make an appearance sooner than later, which is painful to think about considering the incredible fall we had. It's time to give some thought to the upcoming winter driving season.

To minimize the dangers of winter driving, the State Patrol offers the following common-sense safety tips:

- Always wear your safety belt. You and your passengers absolutely need this protection even in low-speed "fender-bender" crashes that frequently occur on slick roads.
- Don't use your cruise control in wintry conditions. Even on roads that appear clear, there may be slippery spots, which can cause a loss of traction and a spinout if the vehicle is in the cruise-control mode.
- Watch for slippery bridge decks. They ice up faster than adjacent pavement.
- Look farther up the road than you normally do. If vehicles ahead of you are swerving or show other signs of loss of traction, you should slow down and take extra precautions.
- Brake early. It takes much longer to stop in adverse conditions.
- Don't pump anti-lock brakes. With anti-lock brakes, the correct braking method is to "stomp and steer."
- Don't be overconfident about the traction and stopping distance of four-wheel drive vehicles, which generally won't grip an icy road any better than two-wheel drive vehicles.
- Avoid cutting in front of large trucks, which take longer than automobiles to slow down or stop.
- Leave plenty of room for snowplows. You must stay back at least 200 feet from the rear of a snowplow.
- Obey the Move Over Law, which requires drivers to shift lanes or slow down in order to provide a safety zone for emergency and maintenance vehicles on the side of a road with their warning lights flashing.
- If your vehicle slides off the road, gets stuck or becomes disabled, stay inside it if at all possible with your seat belt fastened until a tow truck or other help arrives. If you're inside your vehicle and buckled up, you have protection against out-of-control vehicles. There's no protection outside your vehicle.



Did You Know?

- There are 13 plow routes in Burnett County on the state and county highways. Five of these routes are dedicated solely to the state highways and the other eight are routes on the county roads.
- Bulk road salt costs the County \$68 per ton for just the material, not including the application costs. In contrast, each ton of blacktop costs the County \$45 per ton installed. For every ton of salt saved two tons of blacktop could be installed.
- The State reimburses the County for all labor, equipment expenses, and materials the County expends on the state highways year-round, including snow plowing. Wisconsin is the only state in the country that has simply hired the local county highway department to maintain their highways. This saves the taxpayers of the state a lot of money each year.

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- We use free cheese brine from Burnett Dairy to “pre-wet” our salt and salt-sand mixtures before spreading on the high-ways. This pre-activates the salt and allows it to “stick” to the roads surface, maximizing the effectiveness of the de-icing process. The county and state have realized significant cost savings using this approach.
- Pure salt is used to de-ice the state highways. We use a mixture of 10% salt and 90% sand on the County roads to save cost yet provide de-icing and friction on the lower volume roads.
- We will be performing a route optimization study to further improve efficiency for snow plowing and de-icing in the County. This will consist of combining the state and county

plow routes as well as maximizing the number of right-hand turns to improve safety and save time.

- Plow trucks need to drive slower than 30 MPH to ensure the salt they are spreading simply doesn’t “bounce” off the road. The plow drivers are not going this slowly to annoy you despite what popular opinion may suggest.
- Our plow drivers are usually in the shop by 4:00am on snow days and may not get home until after 11:00pm when there is a storm. Last season the crew was called in on Christmas Eve and worked most of the day on Christmas Day.
- If our plow physically strikes your mailbox, we are responsible for fixing it. It is usually pretty obvious if there was

physical contact. If the snow coming off the plow knocks your mailbox off, it is your responsibility to fix.

- It is unlawful to push the snow into or across the roadway such that the deposit of snow may be hazardous to the traveling public or impedes the snow removal efforts of the local municipality having jurisdiction of the roadway.
- From a liability standpoint, the highway department will not assist motorists with getting their vehicle out of the ditch or un-stuck. We will check in with any stranded motorists to ensure they are ok, however.

Please have a safe and uneventful winter driving season and remember to thank a snowplow driver for their hard work and dedication.

Land and Water Conservation

End of Season Dock Removal

It isn’t every day that someone has the ability to look underneath their dock and see what is happening on their structure. That rare opportunity will present itself as summer gives way to autumn and lake residents and lake service providers start to remove boats, docks and piers from the water. Why would anyone want to take a look at the bottom of the piers?

“The clean equipment that gets installed every year provides an excellent home for aquatic invasive species (AIS) like zebra mussels to colonize,” explains **Dave Ferris, Burnett Co. LWCD**. “It’s often difficult to thoroughly inspect a structure while it’s in the water; however during removal anyone involved with the process can easily monitor for invasive species.” AIS are non-native plants and animals that threaten Wisconsin’s waters by causing environmental and economic harm. One example, zebra mus-

sels, can clog water intakes and pipes, encrust piers, boats and motors, and their sharp shells can cut the feet of swimmers.

Zebra mussels have been found in less than 5% of Wisconsin lakes predicted to be suitable for zebra mussels. Unfortunately, Zebra Mussels were found here in Burnett County in October 2016. Only 1 small colony was identified in Big Mckenzie Lake and the LWCD and

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