

Richland County Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Reduction in County Clerk Salary for the 2025-28 Term

Department	County Board	Presented By:	Shaun Murphy-Lopez
Date of Meeting:	April 16, 2021	Action Needed:	Approval
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Committee Structure (L)
Date submitted:	April 15, 2021	Referred by:	

Recommendation and/or action language: Motion to approve a reduction in the County Clerk's salary for the 2025-28 term to match the salaries of the Register of Deeds and Treasurer, and forward this motion as a resolution to the County Board at its April 20th meeting.

Background:

With the recent resignation of Clerk Vlasak and the transfer of Administrative Coordinator duties from the Clerk to the Administrator, the question of reducing the Clerk's salary has been raised.

Resolution 20-44 established the 2021-24 salaries for three elective offices. In 2021, these salaries are: Clerk (\$78,953), Register of Deeds (\$63,886), and Treasurer (\$63,886). By 2024, the salaries will be increased to: Clerk (\$83,326), Register of Deeds (\$67,883), and Treasurer (\$67,883). See Attachment A. Upon consultation with Wisconsin Counties Association Attorney Andrew Phillips, Wisconsin statute 59.22 is interpreted to restrict the County Board from reducing the salary for anyone holding these elective offices during the term. However, salaries in future terms may be decreased. See Attachment B.

Research on salaries for these elective offices in peer and neighboring counties across Wisconsin show that the market does not bear the County Clerk's current salary, even when Administrative Coordinator duties are included. See Attachment C. Attorney Andrew Phillips has advised that since the expectation of any future appointed or elected Clerk may be to continue at a base salary of \$83,326 for the 2025-28 term, the resolution the following resolution will establish the alternate expectation that the Clerk's salary will fall in line with the salaries of the Register of Deeds and Treasurer at that time. This should not be interpreted as a reflection of the performance of the person holding the office of County Clerk.

RESOLUTION NO. 21 - _____

A Resolution Reducing the County Clerk Salary for the 2025-28 Term

WHEREAS the County Board passed Resolution 20-44 in March of 2020 adopting the following salaries for the 2021-24 term:

County Clerk

1. \$78,952.62 for 2021, that being a 2.5% increase over the 2020 salary of \$77,026.95;
2. \$80,926.44 for 2022, that being a 2.5% increase over the 2021 salary of \$78,952.62;
3. \$82,126.44 for 2023, that being a \$1,200 increase over the 2022 salary;
4. \$83,326.44 for 2024, that being a \$1,200 increase over the 2023 salary.

County Treasurer and Register of Deeds

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- 1. \$63,885.80 for 2021, that being a 2.5% increase over the 2020 salary of \$62,327.61;
- 2. \$65,482.95 for 2022, that being a 2.5% increase over the 2021 salary of \$63,885.80;
- 3. \$66,682.95 for 2023, that being a \$1,200 increase over the 2022 salary;
- 4. \$67,882.95 for 2024, that being a \$1,200 increase over the 2023 salary.

WHEREAS Wisconsin Statute 59.22 does not allow increases or decreases in salary for elective offices during a term but allows changes in later terms, and

WHEREAS a review of County Clerk salaries in 13 similar counties (with a population of 15,000 to 24,000 and/or neighbors) found that the average County Clerk salary for 2021 is \$64,246, with a range of \$54,621 - \$73,502, and

WHEREAS the County Clerk no longer carries out duties of the Administrative Coordinator,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED when elected official salaries are set for the 2025-28 term, the salary of the County Clerk shall be reduced to equal the salary of the Register of Deeds and Treasurer, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this reduction should not be interpreted as a reflection of the performance of the person holding the office of County Clerk, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

Attachments and References:

Attachment A – Resolution 20-44	Attachment B – Wisconsin Statute 59.22
Attachment C – Elective Office Salaries	

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

The financial impact of this decision will take place in future budget years (2025 and after).

Approval:

Review:

Clinton Langreck

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)