

## Richland County Committee

### Agenda Item Cover

**Agenda Item Name: Administrative Reports: (Items 9 through 18)**

<b>Department</b>	Administration	<b>Presented By:</b>	Administrator
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	05 April 2022	<b>Action Needed:</b>	Vote
<b>Disclosure:</b>	Open Session	<b>Authority:</b>	Structure H
<b>Date submitted:</b>	04 January 2022	<b>Referred by:</b>	
<b>Action needed by no later than (date)</b>	N/A	<b>Resolution</b>	<u>N/A</u> , prepared, reviewed

**Recommendation and/or action language:**

Motion to... [guidance may be given germane items reported by Administration]

**Background:** *(preferred one page or less with focus on options and decision points)*

In efforts to maximize use of committee meeting time, empower administration and provide desired oversight and transparency on County business, this Finance and Personnel Agenda has been composed to stream line actions and prioritize focus by presenting items three major sections: 1) consent items – seen as routine, procedurally necessary, and aligning with previous decisions and policy, 2) Administrative Reports – seen as a notification of actions that administration is taking, information that administration is taking, and future solutions that administration is developing for committee consideration, and 3) action items – items that need committee focus, discussion and decision.

These administrative reports cover a variety of administrative actions, information seeking and solution development. The reports are intended to provide transparency to the committee and allow the committee to offer guidance, by motion, on topics covered.

**Attachments and References:**

See Reports Below	

**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 type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

*(summary of current and future impacts)*

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**Approval:**

**Review:**

*Clinton Langreck*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Head

\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)

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#### **9. Review of 2022 employee benefits package and employee questionnaire—**

Please reference attached report.

— No action needed at this time. Future recommendation will come from Administration.

#### **10. Review comparison data on conversion to Employee Trust Fund Health Insurance Program—**

Please reference attached report.

— No action needed at this time. Future recommendation will come from Administration.

#### **11. Debt Service and impacts with consideration of Radio and Tower Project —**

The Richland County Law Enforcement and Judicial Committee is approaching their decision point on a radio/tower project. Proposals have been received and the committee is working with our consultant (True North Consulting Group) on evaluating the five proposals received from two vendors. The committee is anticipating to bring a recommendation on vendor and project design concept to the county board within the next few months. The five concept proposals on the table range from costs of \$5.03 million to \$10.97 million in construction and equipment, with a likely proposal for funding coming at a \$7.5 million to \$13 million range. Administration will continue to stress consideration for ongoing operational costs that will fall on operational levy.

In support of this initiative the Finance and Personnel Standing Committee will be asked to fund the project through bonding. This will require future action by the Finance and Personnel Committee to recommend an authorization resolution to the Richland County Board to allow future borrowing through bonding up to a “do not exceed \$\_\_\_\_\_” amount. Richland County will have to adopt the resolution by a 3/4<sup>th</sup> majority vote in order to undertake that borrowing and raise the debt service levy on Richland County properties.

To understand how this impacts our current debt service:

Richland County’s Debt Outstanding after \$2,955,000 payments made on 3-01-22 is \$21,865,000  
Richland County’s Debt Limit Based on 2021 E.V. (5%) - \$67,404,910 equates to a Percentage of Debt Limit Used as 32.44%.

In considering how this bonding will impact our debt services, these two examples help provided reference:

If Richland County were to increase our Debt Outstanding by \$7.5 mill = \$29,365,000; than our Percentage of Debt Limit Used would increase to 43.56% of our legal limit.

If Richland County were to increase our Debt Outstanding by \$10 mill = \$31,865,000; than our Percentage of Debt Limit Used would increase to 47.27% of our legal limit.

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Understanding how these potential increases will impact our millage rate and property tax statements depends on additional decisions on debt structure and future use of short-term loan financing.

In addition, Administration will be working with MIS and Sheriff's office to ensure that future impacts associated with operational costs are included into the 5-year financial planning matrix.

- No action needed at this time. The next LEJC committee meeting is scheduled for Friday 8 April at 8:30am.

#### **12. Status on Financial Planning—**

The Administrator is scheduling department meetings to review proposed plans in the 5- year financial planning process. The preliminary plan is intended to be presented to the Finance and Personnel Committee in May. A revised timeline of committee actions will be developed post reorganization.

#### **13. Status on Capital Planning —**

The Administrator is scheduling department meetings to review proposed plans in the capital planning process. The preliminary plan is intended to be presented to the Finance and Personnel Committee in May. A revised timeline of committee actions will be developed post reorganization.

#### **14. Status Purchasing Cards —**

A DRAFT copy of the policy is attached in the folder as Item 12 Purchasing Card Policy. Administration has received the purchasing cards and is scheduling training. Policy will be reviewed with departments at the April 14<sup>th</sup> department head meeting. Policy will be brought back for consideration by the Finance and Personnel Committee at its next meeting.

- No action needed at this time. Intentions that this policy will grow into future intended finance policy.

#### **15. Administrative Guidance on mandatory password updates on county server and AS400 —**

As the Administrator I am anticipating giving guidance to departments on requiring a minimum of biannual password changes on all county computers, systems, servers and the AS400 system. Item will be discussed in the next department head meeting and anticipating issuing guidance shortly thereafter.

- No action needed at this time. Future computer use policy changes are intended.

#### **16. Report on Supreme Court Decision on Brown County vs. Brown County Tax Payers —**

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(From Wisconsin Counties Association)

March 4, 2022, the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued a decision in *Brown County v. Brown County Taxpayers Assn*, 2022 WI 13, upholding Brown County's imposition of the county option sales tax and use of the sales tax proceeds.

As you may recall, the Brown County Taxpayers Association (the "BCTA") had challenged the County's imposition of the sales tax and use of the tax proceeds to fund capital projects as a violation of Wis. Stat. § 77.70, which provides a sales and use tax "may be imposed only for the purpose of directly reducing the property tax levy."

According to the BCTA, Brown County's use of the sales tax proceeds to fund capital projects did not "directly" reduce the property tax levy according to the statute's requirement. Brown County argued the statute should be interpreted to provide flexibility to counties in the use of sales tax proceeds such that using, for example, a "pay as you go" method of funding projects, thereby saving over \$47 million in interest costs by avoiding borrowing, is a valid use of the sales tax proceeds.

In a 5-2 decision, the Supreme Court agreed with Brown County and upheld the tax, together with the County's use of the proceeds.

Specifically, the Court concluded:

"In sum, we conclude that Brown County's sales and use tax ordinance is consistent with Wis. Stat. § 77.70. Section 77.70 does not require a dollar-for-dollar offset to the property tax levy. Instead, it authorizes counties to impose a sales and use tax for the specific purpose of directly reducing the property tax levy, while leaving the means to accomplish that purpose up to the county. Because the County's ordinance does in fact directly reduce the property tax levy by funding projects that would otherwise have been paid for through additional debt obligations, we determine that the ordinance is permissible." ¶ 55.

The decision represents the culmination of a four-year litigation process. It also represents a tremendous victory for Brown County and, for that matter, all Wisconsin counties. Recognizing the importance of the case, the association provided amicus curiae briefing support to Brown County in the circuit court, Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court.

#### **17. Status on Tax Deed Property—**

On Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> Administration will be recommending to the Richland County Property Committee to Pursue economic development in collaboration with the City of Richland Center by offering the sale of Tax Deed property parcel #276-2100-0420 to the City for \$1 pursuant of Wis Stat. 75.69(2).

Parcel # 276-2100-0420 in Richland Center is a severely blighted and delinquent tax deed property located in the City at 291 N Jefferson St.

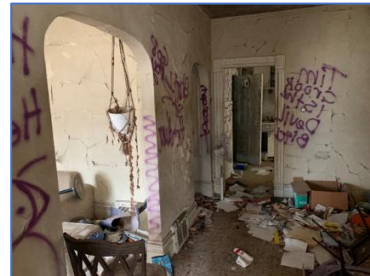
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The City of Richland Center has budgeted funds for the razing of this property which has been abandoned for years and presents a significant safety hazard to the public due to severe deterioration of the structure. Once razed the City and Economic Development will work towards redevelopment of the property that can potentially result a significant increase in the parcel improvement value and help provide the community with needed housing, as well as increased property tax value.

The City has passed a resolution expressing their commitment to economic development and requesting to purchase the property for \$1.

This requested action is similar to the action that was taken on 460 W. 1st St. where the County sold the lot for \$1 to the City and the City paid for the razing of the structure. The City and Economic Development are currently working towards preparing that lot for resale for the development of a new single family home or a duplex.



- No action needed at this time. The next Property Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7 April at 3:00pm. This item will return for action to sell.

### 18. Discussion and possible action on report items—

The committee may provide guidance or ask for additional information, by actions, that are germane to the reported items.