

Resolution 17-19
Request Additional State Funding for Child Protective Services

WHEREAS Price County is experiencing a dramatic increase in the need for protective services for children resulting in placing these children in safe environments outside of the homes; and

WHEREAS, since 2015, the number of children placed outside of the home has risen from 25 to 66 children in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of placements related to drug use over the same period has risen from 24% to 47%; and

WHEREAS, the out-of-pocket costs of these placement services has risen from \$308,880 in 2015 to \$1,150,308 in 2018, an increase of 372% in placement costs incurred by Price County from 2015 - 2018; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties have an annual operating levy cap of 0% or the percentage of net new construction, whichever is greater. From 2015 through 2018, the percentage of net new construction in Price County has been .531%, .472% and .610%, respectively; generating a cumulative additional levy capacity of \$116,762 for all Price County operating levy needs for three years (2016 – 2018); and

WHEREAS, to pay for these increased costs out of our operating levy, the County has been forced to borrow for highway construction expenditures, which in 2018 amounted to \$700,000 of incremental borrowing, which realistically transferred operating levy from the Highway Department to the Health and Human Services Department; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's 2019-2021 biennial budget includes an additional \$15 million in each year to address the costs of Child Protective Services; although, the Wisconsin Counties Association requested that amount be \$30 million; and

WHEREAS, both the Governor's budget proposal and the Wisconsin Counties Association's (WCA) request are grossly inadequate in addressing the costs of providing these mandated services; and

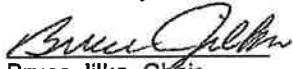
WHEREAS, Price County is rapidly approaching the end of our ability to borrow to pay for these costs. Once the option to borrow is exhausted, the only recourse will be to use money from our fund balance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Price County Board of Supervisors requests the Wisconsin State Legislators to consider the following, in order for counties in Wisconsin to have some relief from the financial burden of providing State mandated services that have quickly gotten out of control:

1. Elimination of the operating levy caps imposed on Wisconsin counties, or
2. Excluding the cost of Child Protective Services from the operating levy cap calculation as are bridge and culvert aid, library services and debt, or
3. Having the State of Wisconsin fully fund the entire cost of Child Protective Services (the preferred solution).

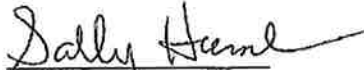
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Evers, the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature, the state legislators for Price County, all Wisconsin counties and the Wisconsin Counties Association, for consideration at the WCA annual business meeting to become part of the WCA platform.

Submitted by the Price County Health and Human Services Board:


Bruce Jilka, Chair

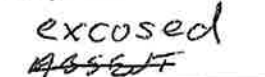

James Adolph


Peter Dahlie

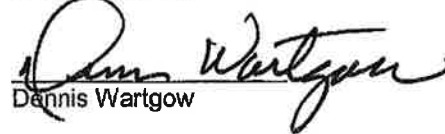

Sally Huml


Suzanne Ocker



Gerald Swenson

excused
ASSET

William Teeters


John Vlach


Dennis Wartgow

Reviewed by County Administrator:


Nicholas Trimmer

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this ^{18th} 21st day of June 2019.


Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair


Jean Gottwald, County Clerk

For 12 Against 0

Resolution 18-19

Request Elimination of the 0% Levy Cap Imposed on Wisconsin Counties

WHEREAS, in 2012, the State of Wisconsin imposed limits on town, village, city and county property tax levies under Wis. Stat. §66.0602; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §66.0602 limits that increase to the local property tax levy to no more than the greater of (a) 0% of last year's actual levy or (b) a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to new construction less improvements removed; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of net new construction in Price County used to calculate the increase in the operating levy allowance has significantly lagged the CPI-U over this period; and

WHEREAS, as a result, Price County has been forced to absorb inflationary increases in normal operating expenditures with no offsetting increase in revenues; and

WHEREAS, unexpected increases in the expenditures for certain items, particularly unfunded mandates such as the cost of Child Protective Services, has compounded this issue; and

WHEREAS, Price County has taken measures to curb spending by cutting costs, eliminating positions, limiting employee wage increases, reducing program offerings and postponing necessary work on highway infrastructure; and


WHEREAS, to continue to provide essential services to county citizens, Price County has resorted to using debt to fund qualified expenditures previously funded in its operating levy resulting in a higher cost to Price County taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Price County will be unable to continue to raise revenues using debt.

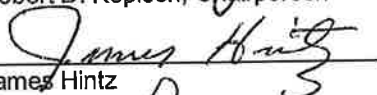
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County Board of Supervisors requests complete elimination of the current 0% tax levy cap or replacing it with a levy allowance that adequately reflects the increases in everyday costs incurred by Wisconsin Counties; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Evers, the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature, the state legislators for Price County and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration at the WCA annual business meeting to become part of the WCA platform.

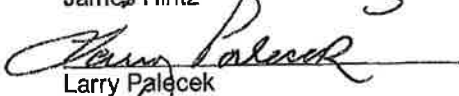
Submitted by the Price County Executive Committee.


Robert D. Kopsch, Chairperson

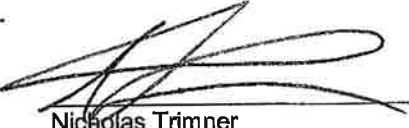

James Adolph


James Hintz

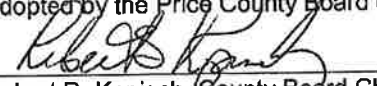

Bruce Jilka

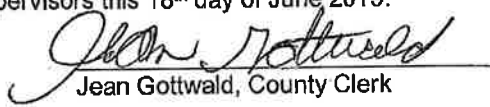

Larry Palecek

Reviewed by County Administrator:


Nicholas Trimner

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 18th day of June 2019.


Robert D. Kopsch, County Board Chair


Jean Gottwald, County Clerk

For: 12 Against: 0