

- REQUESTING A CHANGE IN WISCONSIN LAW TO ALLOW THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ACCESS WISCONSIN RETIREMENT FUND ACCOUNTS OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES WHO ARE CONVICTED OF STEALING MONEY FROM THEIR STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYER-

WHEREAS, under current Wisconsin law Wisconsin Retirement System (“WRS”) benefits are accessible only to the person who earned them except in certain situations including some child support orders, payment of delinquent state taxes and when pensions are divided due to divorce; and

WHEREAS, under current Wisconsin law neither the State nor local government entities have any legal authority to access retirement funds of employees convicted of stealing money from the government entity they worked for; and

WHEREAS, as a result Eau Claire County had no legal right to receive any payments from the WRS retirement accounts of former County Treasurer Larry Lokken nor Office Manager Kay Onarheim both of whom were convicted of theft and misconduct in public office and ordered to pay restitution to Eau Claire County in the amount of \$681,846.92.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Eau Claire County Board of supervisors that it requests the state legislature to change Wisconsin law to allow the state and local governments to access Wisconsin Retirement System accounts of public employees who are convicted of stealing money from their state or local government employer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors directs the county clerk to forward this resolution to the governor, assembly members and senators representing Eau Claire County and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

ADOPTED: March 6, 2018

Janet K. Loomis
County Clerk

