

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED STATE UTILITY TAX PAYMENTS

TO THE MANITOWOC COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1 WHEREAS, public utilities are generally exempt from local property taxes and taxed
2 instead by the state of Wisconsin under Wis. Stat. ch. 76; and

3
4 WHEREAS, in lieu of payment through local property taxes, the state gives a portion of
5 the amounts it collects to counties and municipalities through a shared revenue utility aid payment;
6 and

7
8 WHEREAS, shared revenue utility aid payments help counties and municipalities pay for
9 services provided to the tax-exempt utility property; and

10
11 WHEREAS, these shared revenue utility aid payments are also viewed as partial
12 compensation for the air pollution, noise, traffic congestion, and land use limitations caused by the
13 presence of utility property; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the state has historically retained about eighty percent of utility tax collections
16 for use as General Purpose Revenue, rather than return those dollars to counties and municipalities
17 where the utilities are located; and

18
19 WHEREAS, in 2019-20, the state collected \$351.4 million in utility taxes, but only
20 returned \$75.6 million to local governments as utility aid, and

21
22 WHEREAS, payments generated through the current utility aid formula have largely been
23 stagnant, both as a percentage of tax collections and in the actual dollars distributed to counties
24 and municipalities; and

25
26 WHEREAS, stagnant or declining aid has resulted in a burdensome shift in taxes to owners
27 of the remaining taxable property in the county;

28
29 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the county board of supervisors of the
30 County of Manitowoc hereby requests the Honorable Tony Evers to build in an inflationary
31 increase in the utility aid formula in the Governor’s 2021-23 budget plan, which will result in a
32 fairer, more equitable return of utility tax collections; and

33
34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this
35 resolution to Governor Evers and the legislators who represent Manitowoc County.

Dated this 19th day of January 2021.

Respectfully submitted by



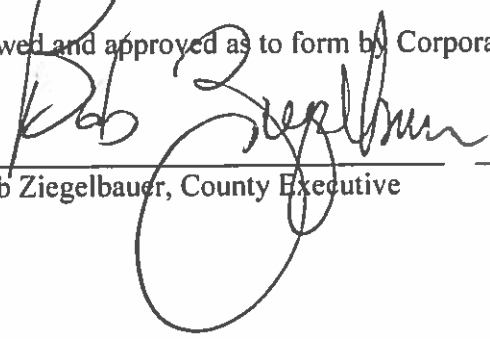
Jim Brey, County Board Chair

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

FISCAL NOTE: Reviewed and approved by Finance Director. 

LEGAL NOTE: Reviewed and approved as to form by Corporation Counsel. 

APPROVED:



Bob Ziegelbauer, County Executive

1/19/2021

Date

MANITOWOC COUNTY BOARD - 2020/2022 Session

DATE: January 19, 2021

DOCUMENT: Resolution 2020/2021-56 Supporting Increased State Utility Tax Payments

AYE	SUPERVISOR	NO	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
X	AULIK, Jamie			
X	BAUMANN, James			
X	BEHNKE, Kevin			
X	BREY, James			
X	CAVANAUGH, Robert			
	DYZAK, David	X		
X	ENGELBRECHT, Lee			
X	FALKOWSKI, Jim			
X	GERROLL, Rick			
	HAGEN, Charles			X
	HANSEN, Paul			X
X	HENRICKSON, Rick			
X	LINSMEIER, Mark			
X	MARESH, Susie			
X	MARTELL, Tyler			
X	METZGER, Rita			
X	MUENCH, Nick			
X	NEILS, Jon			
	NICKELS, Dave			X
X	SHIMULUNAS, Bonnie			
X	SITKIEWITZ, Ken			
X	VOGT, Norbert			
X	WAGNER, Catherine			
X	WILLIAMS, Mike			
	ZIMMER, Don	X		

Aye: 20 No: 2 Abstain: 0 Not Present: 3

I certify that the above tally list is correct and true.

Jessica Backus, Manitowoc County Clerk