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NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

National County Government Month is April. This provides a perfect opportunity to provide the taxpayers information on the services and programs provided by Oconto County. This information will be broken out by department with a summary at the beginning and at the end.

COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

Oconto County provides a vast array of services to the public. These essential services produce the quality of life that the residents of Oconto County deserve and expect. These services range from highway maintenance to traffic patrol to providing care for the elderly and disabled. Usually these services are provided 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Below is a list of those services and programs and the corresponding 2019 tax levy for that service/program. Also, I have indicated the taxes paid, totaling \$512.16, for those services/programs by someone owning a \$100,000 piece of property.

	<b>2019 County Tax Levy</b>	<b>% of Levy</b>	<b>\$512.16</b>
<b>SHERIFF</b>	\$6,708,429	33.4%	\$171.28
<b>HUMAN SERVICES</b>	\$3,678,560	18.3%	\$93.92
<b>HIGHWAY &amp; BRIDGES</b>	\$3,542,865	17.7%	\$90.46
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>	\$1,740,250	8.7%	\$44.43
<b>COURTHOUSE MAINT</b>	\$1,089,944	5.4%	\$27.83
<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>	\$846,500	4.2%	\$21.61
<b>TECHNOLOGY SERVICES</b>	\$805,013	4.0%	\$20.55
<b>COUNTY LIBRARIES</b>	\$528,451	2.6%	\$13.49
<b>COURTS</b>	\$471,089	2.3%	\$12.03
<b>INSURANCE/SAFETY/RISK MGT</b>	\$384,485	1.9%	\$9.82
<b>ZONING</b>	\$384,270	1.9%	\$9.81
<b>LAND INFORMATION (Surveyor)</b>	\$361,053	1.8%	\$9.22
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	\$315,467	1.6%	\$8.05
<b>FINANCE</b>	\$275,004	1.4%	\$7.02
<b>DISTRICT ATTORNEY/VICTIM WITNESS</b>	\$257,076	1.3%	\$6.56

<b>EXTENSION/EDUCATION</b>	\$252,634	1.3%	\$6.45
<b>CONTINGENCY</b>	\$250,000	1.2%	\$6.38
<b>COUNTY BOARD</b>	\$220,830	1.1%	\$5.64
<b>LAND CONSERVATION</b>	\$206,356	1.0%	\$5.27
<b>COUNTY CLERK</b>	\$205,914	1.0%	\$5.26
<b>CORPORATION COUNSEL</b>	\$194,610	1.0%	\$4.97
<b>VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER</b>	\$158,655	0.8%	\$4.05
<b>TOURISM</b>	\$151,400	0.8%	\$3.87
<b>CHILD SUPPORT</b>	\$140,014	0.7%	\$3.57
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>	\$120,081	0.6%	\$3.07
<b>MEDICAL EXAMINER</b>	\$120,000	0.6%	\$3.06
<b>EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT</b>	\$68,010	0.3%	\$1.74
<b>AIRPORT</b>	\$41,369	0.2%	\$1.06
<b>COMMISSION ON AGING</b>	\$35,415	0.2%	\$0.90
<b>BAY LAKE REGIONAL PLANNING</b>	\$23,500	0.1%	\$0.60
<b>LWR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT</b>	\$19,680	0.1%	\$0.50
<b>ELECTIONS</b>	\$15,705	0.1%	\$0.40
<b>YOUTH FAIR</b>	\$10,000	0.0%	\$0.26
<b>HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b>	\$10,000	0.0%	\$0.26
<b>SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER</b>	\$3,275	0.0%	\$0.08
<b>COUNTY TREASURER</b>	\$2,466	0.0%	\$0.06
<b>RECYCLING</b>	\$0	0.0%	\$0.00
<b>MAR-OCO</b>	\$0	0.0%	\$0.00
<b>REGISTER OF DEEDS</b>	-\$43,947	-0.2%	-\$1.12
<b>FORESTRY, PARKS, RECREATION</b>	-\$91,970	-0.5%	-\$2.35
<b>INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS</b>	-\$300,000	-1.5%	-\$7.66
<b>GENERAL FUND APPLIED</b>	-\$390,574	-1.9%	-\$9.97
<b>DELINQUENT TAX INTEREST</b>	-\$450,000	-2.2%	-\$11.49
<b>STATE AID/SHARED REVENUE/SPECIAL/OTHER</b>	-\$695,067	-3.5%	-\$17.75
<b>SALES TAX APPLIED FOR DEBT</b>	-\$761,101	-3.8%	-\$19.43
<b>SALES TAX APPLIED FOR CAPITAL</b>	-\$846,500	-4.2%	-\$21.61
<b>Total</b>	\$20,059,211		\$512.16

This is a part of a series of informational articles on the services and programs provided by Oconto County.

### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Sheriff Department accounts for \$0.334 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$171.28 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Sheriff Department. Those services include:

- 911 Dispatch – provides a central calling center to request assistance or report certain situations. They then dispatch the necessary personnel or emergency service to respond to citizen requests. In 2017, they received 21,715 calls. These calls generated 29,672 law enforcement agency incident involvements, 1,491 fire department incident involvements, and 7,838 EMS incident involvements. (Note: one call may generate more than one involvement due to multiple agency involvement).
- Road Patrol – provides various services to the traveling public, enforces traffic regulations, investigates citizen complaints, and responds to emergencies. In 2017, they responded to 15,025 complaints.
- Investigations – provides response to all major crime scenes and conducts follow-up investigations and reports to judicial systems.
- Corrections – provides oversight of the incarceration of individuals awaiting trial or found guilty by the court system. In 2017, they booked in 1,828 adults.
- Court Security – provide security for circuit court system to maintain order.
- Civil Process – provides notification to person's that a case has been filed against them. In 2017, there were 1,012 paper processes served.
- Administration – provides coordination of all of the above services.

The Sheriff Department consists of 71 dedicated county employees (11 in 911 Dispatch, 16 in Road Patrol, 4 in Investigations, 27 in Corrections, 2 in Court Security, and 11 in Administration) providing for a safe environment for the citizens of Oconto County 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Does the taxpayer receive \$171.28 worth of services from the Sheriff Department each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Sheriff Department is \$6,708,429.

In my next article, I will discuss the Health & Human Services Department.

If you have any questions or concerns about this article or any other questions or concerns about Oconto County, please contact Kevin Hamann, County Administrative Coordinator at (920) 834-6811 or [kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us).

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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Health and Human Services Department accounts for \$0.183 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$93.92 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Health and Human Services Department. Those services include:

- Economic Support –BadgerCare, Medicaid, FoodShare, Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance, Child Day Care Assistance, plus fraud investigation was provided to approximately 3,650 families. Energy Assistance was provided to approximately 1,300 families.
- Child/Family Services – Child abuse and neglect, foster care, juvenile court, restitution, group home, institutional, youth aids, custody studies, counseling and support, child care, referral and consultation, community education, prevention and crisis intervention. In 2018, received 634 reports of child abuse/neglect reported. In 2018, received 130 youth justice court referrals.
- Community Services - Adult protective services, adult-at-risk investigation, protective placement/guardianship, adult family home administration, long term support, case management/service coordination for the elderly and disabled, psychiatric services, psychological services, outpatient mental health and alcohol/drug services, OWI assessments, community support services for severe and persistent mental illness, court ordered commitment services, family court mediation, information and referral, and crisis intervention. In 2018, these programs served 1,098 persons.
- Vocational Services for Developmentally Disabled – Sheltered workshop, supported employment, benefits counseling, day services, pre-vocational services, vocational testing, and case management. In 2018, these programs served approximately 164 individuals.
- Public Health – Immunizations, communicable disease control, health promotion and disease prevention, injury prevention, support to families with special needs children. In 2018, 96 child passenger safety seats were inspected and 90 special needs children received support. Women with Infant Children programs has a average monthly caseload of 437.

The Health and Human Services Department consists of 74 dedicated county employees providing for or arranging social, financial, medical, and emotional support to the people of Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$93.92 worth of services from the Health and Human Services Department each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Health & Human Services Department is \$3,678,560.

In my next article, I will discuss the Highway Department

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The Oconto County Highway Department accounts for \$0.183 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$90.46 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Highway Department. Those services include:

- General Maintenance – Patching, crack filling and seal coating of pavement, shoulder maintenance and vegetation control, bridge and culvert maintenance, litter pickup, guard rail installation and maintenance, signing, pavement marking and traffic control.
- Winter Maintenance – Plowing State and County Trunk highways, shoveling of bridges, and application of salt to State and County Trunk highways and bridges.
- Roadside Maintenance – Cleaning and maintaining the buildings and grounds at each wayside facility.
- Roadway Construction - Road construction, pavement resurfacing (black topping), bridge repair, culvert repair and installation and gravel crushing.

All the above mentioned services are available to Towns, Cities, and Villages upon request. To effectively perform these activities, storage maintenance and repair facilities are operated at Mountain, Oconto, Sampson and Suring locations.

The Highway Department maintains 471.5 lane miles of State roads, 637 lane miles of County roads, and 1,078 lane miles of town roads for winter maintenance. This totals almost 2000 lane miles to maintain.

The Highway Department consists of 53 dedicated full time county employees and 15 summer help employees in providing for the safety and convenience of the traveling public, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Does the taxpayer receive \$90.46 worth of services from the Highway Department each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Highway Department is \$3,542,865.

In my next article, I will discuss the Maintenance Department.

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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Maintenance Department accounts for \$0.054 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$27.83 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Maintenance Department. Those services include:

- General Maintenance – Provides general maintenance, care and repair of the Courthouse Complex and grounds, Law Enforcement Center and the Beyer Home.
- Operations – Funds the operation of the Courthouse & Law Enforcement Center facilities, including utility costs. In 2018, utility costs were \$301,808.
- County Building Projects – Provides technical assistance to various departments on building and renovation projects.
- Janitorial – Oversees contracted janitorial services to ensure a clean facility. In 2018, janitorial services cost \$118,504.

The Maintenance Department consists of 5 dedicated county employees providing for a clean and attractive looking Courthouse for the citizens of Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$27.83 worth of services from the Maintenance Department each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Maintenance Department is \$1,089,944.

In my next article, I will discuss the Technology Services Department.

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The Oconto County Technology Services Department accounts for \$0.040 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$20.55 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Technology Services Department. Those services include:

- Networking Services – Provide and support Local Area Networks (LAN), Wide area Networks (WAN), Virtual private networks (VPN), Storage Area Networks (SAN), WIFI networks, wireless networks, etc. using network hardware such as switches, routers, firewalls, controllers, etc. and software tools.
- Web Services – Provide and support multiple web servers that offer information to the general public such as tax, assessment and deeds information; county campgrounds online; myOconto employee intranet; and general government items such as meeting agenda & minutes, County Supervisor information, links, staff directory, department services information, forms and much more.
- Phone Services – Provide and support voice over ip (VOIP) phone systems to Courthouse, Highway, Land Conservation and New View Industries employees. Manage all cellular devices such as phones and cellular internet.
- Equipment – Provide and configure standard hardware (computers, network equipment, printers, physical and virtual, servers, network attached storage, etc.) and software purchases to all county departments.
- Application & Software Support – Support Windows, AIX, LINUX computer operating systems. Support software's for each department including financials, property listing, health and human services, law enforcement, deeds and various other apps. Support SQL server, VMware virtualization.
- 911 Services – Support 911 services equipment in dispatch. Support Text29-1-1, mapping and networking for 911.
- Audio Video – Provide and support Video conferencing, 300+ milestone camera surveillance system, sound systems, recording systems, voting systems, etc.
- Maintenance – Provides coordination of maintenance of all computer and network hardware and software to all county departments. In 2018, there were 260 computers in Oconto County. Maintain physical and VMware virtual servers which data is stored on and programs are run from. Maintain local and wide area computer network connectivity spanning 10+ buildings and 5 municipal PD's within the county and connectivity to the State of Wisconsin. Provides support and maintenance of various application programs used by departments. Maintain e-mail, gateway, network printing, disaster recovery and other solutions for the county.
- Other – Provides technology planning, consulting, research, training and help desk services to all county departments.



The Technology Services Department consists of 6 dedicated county employees providing for the technology needs for Oconto County 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Does the taxpayer receive \$20.55 worth of services from the Technology Services Department each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Technology Services is \$805,013.

This is a part of a series of informational articles on the services and programs provided by Oconto County.

## COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County (LIS) Land Information Systems Department accounts for \$0.018 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$9.22 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Land Information Systems Department. Those services include:

- Surveying – Maintains the PLSS (Public Land Surveyor System), in which all properties are based, this also includes annually working with all 29 municipalities to assure the preservation of these PLSS section corners and land ownership monuments that may become endangered of being destroyed due to construction and development. Provides the base mapping and control for all parcel mapping and GIS (Geographic Information System) applications. Reviews and approves survey maps to make certain that they comply with the Oconto County Land Division Ordinance. Provides technical assistance to other county departments, municipalities on land ownership and land location issues.
- Physical Addressing – Provides for the uniform rural numbering system throughout Oconto County. Continually updates the physical address maps and on an annual basis provides revised maps to all municipalities for fire, rescue and emergency services. Coordinates with the Sheriff's Department any address numbering discrepancies and new road locations. Works with all municipalities to coordinate road naming and any changes necessary to alleviate any confusion or discrepancies that may exist.
- Property Listing – Maintains accurate lists and descriptions for all parcels (approximately 41,000) of real property and personal property in the county, which are subject to tax and those exempt from such tax. Also provides lists, maps, and descriptions for the use of assessors, municipal officials, and the general public. Reviews all new parcels to assure they comply with applicable land division regulations. Receives both electronic and hardcopy files from Assessors for uploads to the tax program. Prints and distributes tax bills to all the municipalities in Oconto County.
- Land Records/ GIS (Geographic Information System) –Prepares and manages grants for WLIP (Wisconsin Land Information Program) funded projects along with retained fees. Provides oversight of collection and coordination of all county related GIS information such as soils, wetlands, hydrology, zoning, PLSS, parcels, census mapping, supervisory and school district mapping, etc. of which are used to create reference maps along with data bases for tabulations in generating reports, maps, and other planning tools for other departmental studies. Actively supports the mapping and data base portion of the Oconto County Sheriff's Department E-911 dispatch system.
- SOLO (Search Oconto County Land Information Online) Maintains, updates and adds information to the Oconto County GIS web site that was developed in cooperation with the Technical Information Department.
- Plat Books – Coordinates the development of the official Oconto County Plat Book.

The Land Information Department consists of 9 dedicated county employees providing for the preservation of land records for the citizens of Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$9.22 worth of services from the Land Information Systems Department each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Land Information Systems Department is \$361,053.

In my next article, I will discuss the Planning and Zoning and Solid Waste Department.

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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Planning and Zoning and Solid Waste Department accounts for \$0.019 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$9.81 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Planning and Zoning and Solid Waste Department. Those services include:

- Planning – Providing comprehensive land use planning assistance in the form of plan development, plan reviews and updates, and plan implementation for Oconto County and all towns, villages, and cities within Oconto County.
- Zoning – Administers various ordinances controlling land use, regulation and protection of environmental resources for all towns in Oconto County. These ordinances include the areas of General Zoning, Floodplain, Shoreland & Wetland Protection, Sanitary, Land Division, Non-metallic Mining, and Recycling. Development is managed through uses permitted within certain zoning districts. Changes to zoning districts are reviewed for consistency with future land use plans. Decisions on land use changes take into consideration compatibility with similar uses in an area so that conflicts with incompatible uses do not occur. Three year sanitary maintenance of all septic systems in Oconto County is a state mandate and is an important factor in assuring all private septic systems function properly and cause no harm to private wells, public waters or becomes a public nuisance upon failure.
- Solid Waste (Recycling) – Oversees municipal recycling program for 16 municipalities under an intergovernmental agreement. This includes the collection of single stream recyclables from municipal recycling drop off centers. In addition to single stream materials, the department also collects from the citizens used tires, waste oil, electronics, bulbs from the centers and provides proper disposal of these items. Information and education is provided to all interested parties on the proper recycling and disposal of solid waste. This service receives no County tax dollars.

The Planning, Zoning and Solid Waste Department consist of 10 dedicated county employees providing for public health, safety and general welfare for the citizens of Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$9.81 worth of services from the Planning and Zoning Department each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Planning/Zoning/Solid Waste Department is \$384,270.

In my next article, I will discuss the University Extension Department.

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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County University of Wisconsin Extension Department accounts for \$0.013 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$6.45 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the UW Extension Department. Those services include:

- Agriculture and Natural Resources – Provides education to foster profitable, environmentally responsible agricultural production through the application of modern farm production, and financial management.
- Community Resource Development – Improves the capacity of local citizens to make wise land use and growth management decisions; and manage lakes and waterways in a sustainable manner. Foster profitable and sustainable small businesses through the application of modern business planning and management techniques.
- Family Living – Improves the parenting skills and effectiveness of parents and guardians of children. Increases the self-reliance of limited income residents through improvement of nutrition, food safety and money management knowledge and skills.
- 4-H Youth Development – Increases the effectiveness of citizen volunteer adults, enabling them to teach valuable life skills to children through the 4-H youth development

The UW Extension Department consists of 2 dedicated county employees and 5 State employees providing educational services for the citizens of Oconto County. Does the taxpayer receive \$6.45 worth of services from the UW Extension Department each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the University Extension Department is \$252,634.

In my next article, I will discuss the Court System.

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The Oconto County Court System accounts for \$0.023 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$12.03 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Court System. Those services include:

- Circuit Court – Provides the trial court of general jurisdiction, and the highest court in the County for both civil and criminal cases.
- Clerk of Courts – Disburses all funds generated from fines, costs and filing fees, and answers all incoming phone calls. Intakes and processes all documents which includes assigning file numbers, file stamping all documents, docketing and filing, draws and notifies jury, pulls and then files away all files for court. Court Deputies clerk the court (takes minutes, swears in witnesses, marks exhibits), handles criminal, civil, traffic, small claims and passports. Prepares records for the Court of Appeals. Files and maintains all family court files (included paternities) and orders.
- Family Court – Provides County residents and the court system with high-quality family court, court commissioner and director of family mediation services as prescribed by state statute.
- Register in Probate – Maintains all records for the Court, prepares records for the Court of Appeals and advises the Director of State Courts of all record statistics receipts the necessary fees and disburses them accordingly. Additionally, issues orders for hearings and takes testimony of witnesses under oath for proof of heirship and wills. The Probate Court Commissioner is responsible for uncontested probate proceedings. Attorneys and public are advised by the Department regarding probate matters and changes regarding estates, trusts, and guardianships. The Department also audits and approves/disapproves all guardianship, conservatorship and trust annual accountings. The Department manages the annual protective placement reviews, maintains the retention of certain court records.

The Court System consists of 16 dedicated county employees and 4 State employees providing a judicial system for the citizens of Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$12.03 worth of services from the Court System each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Court System is \$471,089.

In my next article, I will discuss the Library System

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The Oconto County Library System accounts for \$0.026 of every county tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$13.49 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Library System. Those Libraries are:

- Oconto (Farnsworth) – In 2019, Oconto County provided \$94,199 to subsidize the operations of this library.
- Oconto Falls - In 2019, Oconto County provided \$108,780 to subsidize the operations of this library.
- Gillett - In 2019, Oconto County provided \$57,152 to subsidize the operations of this library.
- Suring - In 2019, Oconto County provided \$42,995 to subsidize the operations of this library.
- Lakewood (Lakes County) - In 2019, Oconto County provided \$70,325 to subsidize the operations of this library.
- Lena - In 2019, Oconto County provided \$43,214 to subsidize the operations of this library.
- Brown County & Antigo Library – In 2019 payments of \$107,786 to pay for charges due to utilization of their libraries by residents of Oconto County per State law.

The Libraries also receive tax levy from the individual municipalities.

The Library System consists of 6 libraries throughout Oconto County providing for convenient and effective access to high quality library services to the citizens of Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$13.49 worth of services from the Library System each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 county tax levy for the Libraries is \$528,41.

In my next article, I will discuss is the County Board.

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The Oconto County Board accounts for \$0.011 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$5.64 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the County Board.

The organization for Oconto County also includes various County Board Standing Committees that oversee the various County Departments. Those standing Committees include:

- Economic Development and Tourism
- Emergency Management
- Extension Education
- Finance/Insurance
- Health and Human Services
- Highway
- Technology Services
- Land and Water Resources Management
- Law Enforcement/Judiciary
- Personnel and Wages
- Public Property

As the governing body for Oconto County, the Board is responsible for planning and provision of services related to public needs as required by state and federal law including; adopting the annual budget, adopting county ordinances, setting policies, confirming appointments of most non-elected officials, and assisting citizens in solving problems and addressing local concerns.

The Oconto County Board consists of 31 dedicated county supervisors providing for the legislative and executive oversight of all County operations for the citizens of Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$5.64 worth of services from the Oconto County Board each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the County Board is \$220,830.

In my next article, I will discuss the County Clerk's Office and Elections.

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The Oconto County Clerk's Office and Elections accounts for \$0.011 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$5.66 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the County Clerk's Office. Those services include:

- Elections – The County Clerk is responsible for the administration of county, state and national elections to include: publishing notices, filing nomination papers, preparation of ballots, tabulating returns and maintaining records; Assists with coordination of elections on municipal and school district level to meet State statutory requirements, encouraging uniformity in the use of electronic voting systems. Provides voter registration and participation services using the web-based software system; WisVOTE. In 2018 the County received \$14,000 from 13 relying municipalities per agreement, to provide WisVOTE services.
- Licensing –County Clerks have been responsible for issuing marriage licenses since they were first required in Wisconsin in 1899. Upon meeting statutory criteria, a marriage license may be issued in Oconto County for a \$60 fee. In the year 2018, a total of 193 marriage licenses were issued. The County Clerk's Office assists and coordinates the municipal activity in the collection of dog tax. Licenses and tags are received by the Clerk's Office and distributed to municipal treasurers, along with forms for same from the State Dept. of Ag, Trade & Consumer Protection. The State receives 5% of the minimum dog tax collected, which in the year 2018 a total of \$11,131.00 was collected by Municipal Treasurers and the State received \$556.55. The remainder is used to pay for expenses, forms, and dog damage claims. Any excess amount above \$1,000 at the end of the year is disbursed proportionately back to the municipalities. There were no dog damage claims paid out in 2018.
- Permits and other functions – A variety of permits are issued by the County Clerk's Dept. including timber cutting permits; sale of County plat books; compilation of Official County Directory annually and sales of same.
- Record keeping – The County Clerk serves the County Board by taking minutes, insure payment of county obligations, assuring compliance of open meeting laws and maintaining files of records for the County Board and the citizens of the county; maintains file of Probate Claims Notices; State and County Highway records, Farmland Preservation Applications files, contracts, leases and agreements of the County; oaths, bonds and appointments.
- General Information – Provides information to the public on all aspects of the county.

The County Clerk's Office consists of 3 dedicated county employees performing services for the public including conducting of elections, issuing and distribution of certain licenses and providing general information for the citizens of Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$5.66 worth of services from the County Clerk's Office each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the County Clerk's Office, including the cost of elections for the County, is \$221,619.

In my next article, I will discuss the District Attorney's Office

If you have any questions or concerns about this article or any other questions or concerns about Oconto County, please contact Kevin Hamann, County Administrative Coordinator at (920) 834-6811 or [kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us).

This is a part of a series of informational articles on the services and programs provided by Oconto County.

### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County District Attorney's Office accounts for \$0.013 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$6.56 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the District Attorney's Office. Those services include:

The District Attorney, a constitutionally mandated office that is filled by election every two years, heads the department. Until the late 1980's, all staff within the District Attorney's Office was county employees. Through legislative changes, the District Attorney and Assistant District Attorneys are all state employees. The support staff remains as county employees.

The District Attorney enforces, through prosecution, the criminal laws of the state of Wisconsin with Oconto County. In addition, laws are enforced relating to children and delinquency as well as a variety of civil offenses including conservation, boating, and traffic.

Included in the District Attorney's Office is the Victim Witness Office which provides services to Victims and Witness of Crimes. Some of the services include notice of rights, how to exercise those rights, information regarding Criminal Justice Procedures; and referrals to Community & Government resources. The Victim Witness Office also works to assure that victims' and witnesses' rights are being provided by law enforcement agencies, the Court, Prosecutors (DA), and other agencies involved in the criminal justice system.

The District Attorney's Office & Victim Witness Office consists of 4 dedicated county employees and 2 state employees providing for the prosecution of criminal laws for the citizens of Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$6.56 worth of services from the District Attorney's Office each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the District Attorney's Office is \$257,076.

In my next article, I will discuss Economic Development and Tourism.

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## COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

Representatives of Oconto, Oconto Falls, Gillett, Suring, Lakewood and Oconto County created the Oconto County Economic Development Corporation (OCEDC) in 1977 to combat significant job losses experienced during the mid to late 1970's.

The County contracts with the OCEDC for economic development services in cooperative program with Cities, Towns, and Villages, and for county-wide tourism promotion. This accounts for \$0.014 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$6.94 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from OCEDC. Those services include:

### **Economic Development**

- Industrial recruitment,
- Business retention and expansion programs,
- Management of the Oconto County and Tri-County Business Development Revolving Loan Funds
- Develop and manage the Community Development Zone tax credit program for new job development,
- Develop and manage the Technology Development Zone tax credit program for job creation using new technologies and represent Oconto County on the North East Wisconsin Economic Partnership (NEWREP),
- Assistance to local communities for special project development, grant writing and administration. Grants to build the water towers in Lena, Suring and Gillett, the breakwater and boat ramps in Oconto, and the Suring TIF District are examples of these services.
- Develop and maintain the Economic Development portion of the <http://www.ocontocounty.org> website

OCEDC has worked with local units of government and local business and industry in financial packages totaling over \$120 million that have had an impact on nearly 1200 jobs.

### **Tourism**

- Development and publication of the **Oconto County Discovery Guide** as a self-funded tourism destination marketing magazine,
- Organize volunteers and staff the Oconto County Tourism booth at sport and recreation shows annually in cooperation with area Chambers of Commerce, Business Associations, and communities.
- Attraction of nearly \$100,000 in Wisconsin Department of Development Joint Effort Marketing (JEM) grants in Oconto County,
- Development and publication of the Oconto County Recreation map.
- Assistance to the Oconto County Snowmobile Alliance,
- Development assistance for special projects,
- Develop and maintain the Tourism portion of the <http://www.ocontocounty.org> web site.

OCEDC consists of a volunteer Board of Directors representing business, industry, local and county government and 3 dedicated employees providing for the citizens of Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$6.94 worth of services from OCEDC each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for OCEDC services is \$271,481.

In my next article, I will discuss the Finance Department.

If you have any questions or concerns about this article or any other questions or concerns about Oconto County, please contact Kevin Hamann, County Administrative Coordinator at (920) 834-6811 or [kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us).

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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Finance Department accounts for \$0.014 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$7.02 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Finance Department. Those services include:

- Establish county-wide uniform policies in financial procedures, financial reporting, accounting methods, payroll procedures, and budget preparation.
- Provide debt administration, cash management, and investment policies.
- Develop data information required for bond issuance and debt reduction.
- Responsible for all county, state and federal financial reports, budgets, financial analysis and studies of revenues, expenditures, assets, liabilities and equities.
- Coordinate, maintain, and review all existing and new financial and accounting systems; recommend changes in accounting methods and systems; supervise installation of new accounting systems and procedures.
- Establish fiscal policies of the county to insure uniform operation; review, develop, and recommend long-range fiscal, financial, and information systems.
- Supervise and process the central accounting, payroll, and cash management services for all departments.
- Plan, organize, and supervise all budget preparation activities.
- Conduct internal audits upon request of the Finance Committee and/or County Board.

The Finance Department consists of 2 dedicated county employees providing for governmental financial services for the citizens of Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$7.02 worth of services from the Finance Department each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Finance Department is \$275,004.

In my next article, I will discuss the Land Conservation Department.

If you have any questions or concerns about this article or any other questions or concerns about Oconto County, please contact Kevin Hamann, County Administrative Coordinator at (920) 834-6811 or [kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us).

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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Land Conservation Department (LCD) accounts for \$0.010 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$5.27 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Land Conservation Department. Those services include:

- Assists the Land Conservation Committee in developing annual and long range planning and prepares LCD annual report and other reports as directed by the Land Conservation Committee (LCC).
- Seeks all local, state and federal funding possible on behalf of the LCC, completes grant applications, and if received, accounts for all expenditures.
- Administers the Farmland Preservation Program, insuring all program requirements for soil erosion planning and compliance are met.
- Assist the Natural Resource Conservation Service deliver Federal programs such as EQIP, CSP and CRP with yearly average of \$700,000 in funds spent.
- Administers and implements state runoff programs.
- Administers the State Soil and Water Resource Funds for cost sharing to landowners throughout the county.
- Administers County Cost Share program for Shoreline Restoration & Ag BMP's
- Assists and enforces farmers in meeting the New State Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions.
- Designs and installs soil erosion control and water pollution abatements systems for farmers to meet the States Standards & Prohibitions and County AG Waste Management Ordinance requirements.
- Develops and coordinates an information and education program to promote the wise use of land, water, and related resources.
- Administers and enforces the Oconto County Animal Waste Management Ordinance.
- Assists local Lake Management Districts or Associations in lake water quality and invasive species control.
- Administers the Oconto County Healthy Waters Program.
- Administers and implements the county wide lake study.
- Implements wildlife and fish habitat projects with state and federal funding.
- Administers the State Wildlife Damage Program to landowners with crop damage.
- Provides soils information and interpretations and/or performs on-site soil investigations for land users, realtors, students, and units of government.
- Provides liaison for the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and relays requests and information between LCC and DATCP.

The Land Conservation Department consists of 5 dedicated county employees providing for county land conservation programs for the citizens of Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$5.27 worth of services from the Land Conservation Department each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Land Conservation Department is \$206,356.



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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Administration Office accounts for \$0.016 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$8.05 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Administration Office. Those services include:

- Administrative Coordinator – Assists in the administration and coordination of all countywide functions, providing services to the County Board, County Board Committees, County Committees, Boards and Commissions, Elected Officials, Appointed Officials and Department Heads.
- Human Resources – Assists in employee recruitment/selection, employee and labor relations, wage and salary administration, employee development, employee records, and affirmative action. Participates in and coordinates labor negotiations, recruitments, selection, placements, transfer, and removal of employees. Additionally, major responsibilities of this department include developing the countywide personnel system, personnel policies and procedures, central and complete personnel files, updating the County's Affirmative Action Program and providing guidance for the county and its employees regarding personnel matters.
- County Board – Develops and proposes for the County Board consideration, policy initiative to strengthen county government, and to implement laws, County ordinances, resolutions, County policies, budget and procedures.
- Risk Management – The Administrative Coordinator is responsible for risk management/loss control and evaluates all insurance needs and recommends appropriate coverage's.

The Administration Office consists of 3 dedicated county employees providing for coordinating all administrative and management functions of county government for the citizens of Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$8.05 worth of services from the Administrative Coordinator's Office each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Administrative Coordinator's Office is \$315,467.

In my next article, I will discuss is the Veterans Service Office.

If you have any questions or concerns about this article or any other questions or concerns about Oconto County, please contact Kevin Hamann, County Administrative Coordinator at (920) 834-6811 or [kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us).

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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Veterans Service Office accounts for \$0.008 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$4.05 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Veterans Service Office. Those services include:

The Veterans Service Office consists of two dedicated county employees, accredited by the VA, to provide assistance to Veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and their family members on all matters pertaining to benefits available to them.

The Veterans Service Office aims to assist veterans, their family members and beneficiaries in securing the wide range of benefits to which they have earned through their service. Veterans benefits consist primarily, but not limited to, compensation, pension, health care – to include mental health, education and burial. The office assists in obtaining benefits by:

- Advise veterans and family members on benefits available at the federal, state and local level.
- Develop claims by obtaining necessary supporting evidence and public records.
- Filing appropriate claim forms with benefit agencies.
- Follow-up on claims and maintain records.
- Outreach Programs (Gillett, Mountain, Lakewood/Townsend area).

The office administers, through the Veterans Commission, the Oconto County Veterans Emergency Relief Fund to provide aid to needy veterans of Oconto County, in addition to budgetary funds for the care of veterans graves, ordering of headstones and indigent burial allowances. The office also provides information and referral as necessary to assist in obtaining benefits from other resources and/or governmental agencies. The office also manages a transportation program which provides transportation to veterans attending their VA scheduled appointments. The CVSO also attends local veteran's organization meetings and community events to provide informational presentations and disseminate current policy information.

As reported by the Veterans Administration, Oconto County veterans and their family members receive, on average, an annual total disbursement of combined Federal VA benefits of 24.9 million dollars. This is a 15,614% Return on Investment [ROI=((gains-cost)/cost)x100]. This does not include the amount of state and local benefits our veterans receive. Veterans and their families use this non-taxable income to pay taxes and purchase goods and services. Receiving these federal payments helps relieve the reliance on local resources.

Does the taxpayer receive \$4.05 worth of services from the Veterans Service Department each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Veterans Service Department is \$158,655.

In my next article, I will discuss the Corporation Counsel's Office.

If you have any questions or concerns about this article or any other questions or concerns about Oconto County, please contact Kevin Hamann, County Administrative Coordinator at (920) 834-6811 or [kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us). For information about veteran benefits please contact Ron Christensen, County Veterans Service Officer at (920) 834-6817 or [cvso@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:cvso@co.oconto.wi.us).

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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Corporation Counsel accounts for \$0.010 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$4.97 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Corporation Counsel. Those services include:

- Prosecution - Prosecute and defend all civil actions involving Oconto County.
- Legal Advice - Give advice to the County Board and all departments. Review all contracts and draft contracts, when directed, that involve the county. Draft resolutions, ordinances and county code revisions, when directed to do so.
- Child Support - Act as the Oconto County Child Support Enforcement Attorney and provide advice to the Oconto County Child Support Agency.

The Corporation Counsel consists of 2 dedicated county employees providing for legal services to Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$4.97 worth of services from the Corporation Counsel's Office each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Corporation Counsel's Office is \$194,610.

In my next article, I will discuss the Child Support Agency.

If you have any questions or concerns about this article or any other questions or concerns about Oconto County, please contact Kevin Hamann, County Administrative Coordinator at (920) 834-6811 or [kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us).

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#### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Child Support Agency accounts for \$0.007 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$3.57 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Child Support Agency. Those services include:

The Child Support Agency works with several different types of action including: paternity establishment, support and maintenance cases (separated without a divorce), Kinship Care cases and Foster Care/Substitute Care referrals, and in-coming and out-going UIFSA, medical support order enforcement, and revisions of judgments. The Child Support program was created by Congress in 1975. They assist Non- public aid assisted families with the same consideration as public aid assisted families. The Child Support Agency represents the State of Wisconsin in the best interests of the child/children.

The Child Support Agency consists of 5 dedicated county employees providing for establishment and enforcement of child support orders for families for the citizens of Oconto County.

Does the taxpayer receive \$3.57 worth of services from the Child Support Agency each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Child Support Agency is \$140,014.

In my next article, I will discuss the Emergency Management/Safety Department.

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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Emergency Management/Safety Department accounts for \$0.003 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$1.74 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Emergency Management/Safety Department. Those services include:

- Emergency Management - Administers the County Emergency Management Plan and the County Emergency Priority Plan, which compliments the State of Wisconsin's endorsement of the Federal Integrated Emergency Management System concept. They are divided into sections which contain all-hazard functional components and hazard-specific operational preparedness, response and recovery, and were written by this office specifically for the purpose of carrying out its mission.
- HAZMAT -supports the Local Emergency Planning Committee in the preparation of the S.A.R.A title III hazardous material / toxic waste plan mandated by the Federal Government. This plan will be the basic document used by this office to carry out our mission of protecting the lives and properties of county residents from the hazards of chemical and/or toxic substances.
- Safety - Coordinates County safety program through implementation of the safety manual.

The Emergency Management/Safety Department consists of 2 dedicated county employees providing planning to protect the lives and properties of Oconto County residents during emergencies, both natural and man-made.

Does the taxpayer receive \$1.74 worth of services from the Emergency Management/Safety Department each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Emergency Management/Safety Department is \$68,010.

In my next article, I will discuss the Medical Examiner's Office.

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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Medical Examiner's Office accounts for \$0.006 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$3.06 in property taxes to Oconto County for services from the Medical Examiner's Office. Those services include:

- Death investigations - the Medical Examiner's office is part of a multi-disciplinary team (including law enforcement agencies and District Attorney's office), which investigates, determines cause and manner of death and if necessary prosecutes cases where death is suicidal, accidental, homicidal, unexplained, unusual, suspicious, sudden, or those where a physician cannot or will not certify a death certificate. In these cases, the deceased is under the sole jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner, who carries out all procedures necessary at the scene and thereafter, to maintain the integrity of the investigation.
- Record Keeping - records and reports obtained and/or produced will be maintained in both paper forms as well as electronic. These records are available to those who have direct and tangible interest as determined by the Medical Examiner. If necessary, this documentation will be provided to the District Attorney for prosecution as required by law. The Medical Examiner, and the experts working for the Medical Examiner, testifies in court as necessary.
- Cremations and disinterment - require authorization by the Medical Examiner. In the case of cremation, this disposition may not be allowed if investigation finds the cause of death to be undetermined or homicide. The case of disinterment, legality of the request must be ascertained prior to authorization

Oconto County contracts with Brown County for Medical Examiner's services.

Does the taxpayer receive \$3.06 worth of services from the Medical Examiner's Office each year? I hope you answer yes, I certainly would. The total 2019 tax levy for the Medical Examiner's Office is \$120,000.

In my next article, I will discuss the Register of Deeds Office.

If you have any questions or concerns about this article or any other questions or concerns about Oconto County, please contact Kevin Hamann, County Administrative Coordinator at (920) 834-6811 or [kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us).

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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Register of Deeds Office accounts for -\$0.002 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. What does a negative amount mean? For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, it means they saved \$1.12 in property taxes to Oconto County as a result of the services and fees from the Register of Deeds Office. Those services include:

- Records all documents authorized by law to be recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds. Reviews each document for compliance with statutory recording requirements. Collects a recording fee and also a transfer fee, if required. Indexes each document in a computerized grantor/grantee index, and enters each document containing a legal description in the tract index system. Scans documents for the county records, and maintains a website for online access to recorded documents. Makes available copies of daily recordings for tax listing purposes. Returns original documents as instructed. Makes and certifies copies of any record and collects statutory fee for same.
- Files, indexes and maintains military discharges. Makes and certifies copies, free of charge, that a veteran or dependent of a veteran may require applying for veteran's benefits.
- Files and indexes all uniform commercial code instruments pertaining to fixtures on real estate.
- Maintains records of all births, deaths and marriages. Issuing copies under statutory guidelines and fees. Most recently issuance of Divorce Certificates from January 1, 2016.

The County Register of Deeds Office consists of 4 dedicated county employees providing timely, secure, accurate, archival, accessible and cost-effective record systems and services that are delivered in a prompt and courteous manner for the citizens of Oconto County.

In 2019, the Register of Deeds Office provides a savings to the tax levy in the amount of \$43,947.

In my next article, I will discuss the Forest & Parks Department.

If you have any questions or concerns about this article or any other questions or concerns about Oconto County, please contact Kevin Hamann, County Administrative Coordinator at (920) 834-6811 or [kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us).

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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Forestry & Parks Department accounts for -\$0.005 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. What does a negative amount mean? For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, it means they saved \$2.35 in property taxes to Oconto County as a result of the services from the Forestry & Parks Department. Those services include:

- Forestry - The Oconto County Forest is composed of approximately 43,705 acres, divided into six management units comprising the commercial forest. The administrative offices are located in the Courthouse and the field headquarters are located on County Trunk NN in Oconto. Major programs include: Establish timber sale contracts to be sold in May, Ensure compliance of contract specifications through site inspections, timber scaling to account for wood removed from the forest, billing and payment collection. Other major programs include: maintenance on approximately 37 miles of forest roads, marking property boundary lines with assistants of County surveyor, Regenerate stands for future sustainability, issuance of firewood permits for private owner use, and insect/invasive control as needed. The Forestry Department also cooperates with the Department of Natural Resources in fish management, wildlife management, and forest fire protection programs.
- Parks - The Oconto County Parks Department operates 15 parks, 11 boat landings, cooperates with cross country ski clubs for 7.2 miles of trails, works with local riders to maintain 25+ miles of bridal trail, operates 8 dams, contracts with user groups for the maintenance of 421 miles of snowmobile trails and 102 miles of ATV trails. Oconto County Parks also cooperates in maintaining and operating 2 State Recreational Trails, the Nicolet State Trail from Gillett to Townsend and the Oconto River State Trail from Oconto to Stiles.
  - The 110-acre Chute Pond Park was established in 1935. The campground has 112 sites for tents and trailers and is open year round. Chute Pond Dam was built about 1852 to store water for logging drives down the Oconto River. In 1934-37 the old wooden chute dam was replaced with the present dam. Chute Pond Park offers visitors access to Chute Pond Flowage a 440 acres flowage with a maximum depth of 15 feet, 4 miles of shoreline, public swimming, good fishing, hiking trails, playground, showers, and flush toilets.
  - The 85-acre North Bay Shore Park is located on Green Bay-Lake Michigan. It provides a 34 site campground with flush toilets, showers, pit toilets, water and electrical sites, and boat landing for excellent fishing, fish cleaning station, playground, pavilion, volleyball, horseshoe, and basketball.

The County Forestry & Parks Department consists of 9 dedicated county employees (5 full time and 4 seasonal employees). The mission of the Oconto County Forestry Department is to promote the planned development and management of the county

forest for optimum production of forest products, together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, and watershed protection, giving full recognition to the concept of multi-use for maximum public benefit. The mission of the Oconto County Parks Department is to provide recreational opportunities by developing, managing, and programming all park lands and trails. Also, promotes an appreciation, awareness, and understanding of the natural resources.

In 2019, the Forestry & Parks Department provided a savings to the tax levy in the amount of \$91,970.

In my next article, I will discuss the County Treasurer's Office.

If you have any questions or concerns about this article or any other questions or concerns about Oconto County, please contact Kevin Hamann, County Administrative Coordinator at (920) 834-6811 or [kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us). This is a part of a series of informational articles on the services and programs provided by Oconto County.

## COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

The Oconto County Treasurer's Office accounts for  $-\$0.037$  of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. What does a negative amount mean? For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, it means they saved \$19.09 in property taxes to Oconto County as a result of the services from the County Treasurer's Office. Those services include:

- Record Keeping - keeps records of all monies appropriated and disbursed regarding: General property taxes, bail, fines, or forfeitures imposed by the courts for violation of state laws or county / municipal ordinances
- Investing - safe-keeps all county funds and invests such funds consistent with state stature and direction of the County Board. In 2018, County earned over \$300,000 in interest due to its investments and over \$450,000 on interest on taxes.
- Tax Collection - maintains records of all transactions affecting current and delinquent taxes and foreclosures.

The County Treasurer's Office consists of 3 dedicated county employees providing for the orderly collection, disbursement, and recording of all monies received or disbursed by the county and with maintaining records of transactions affecting taxes and the safekeeping of all county funds for the citizens of Oconto County

In 2019, the Treasurer's Office provides a savings to the tax levy in the amount of \$747,534.

In my next article, I will discuss the City/County Airport, Commission on Aging, Bay Lakes Regional Planning Commission, Youth Fair and the Senior Citizens center.

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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH

Oconto County, along with funding County Departments, also provides property tax funds to other agencies. Those include:

- Airport – In 2019, \$41,369 was appropriated to the Oconto City/County Airport to subsidize their operation to provide general aviation service to Oconto County. This costs \$1.06 for the taxpayer with a \$100,000 property.
- Commission on Aging – In 2019, \$35,415 was appropriated to this agency to subsidize their operation to provide meals and transportation to the elderly. This costs \$0.90 for the taxpayer with a \$100,000 property.
- Bay Lakes Regional Planning Commission – In 2019, \$23,500 was appropriated to subsidize their operation to provide planning services to Oconto County. This costs \$0.60 for the taxpayer with a \$100,000 property.
- Historical Society – In 2019, \$10,000 was appropriated to this agency to operate the County owned Beyer Home Museum. This costs \$0.26 for the taxpayer with a \$100,000 property.
- Youth Fair – In 2019, \$10,000 was appropriated to this organization to subsidize the operation of its fair. This costs \$0.26 for the taxpayer with a \$100,000 property.
- Senior Citizens Center – In 2019, \$3,275 was appropriated to this agency to subsidize the operation of this facility in Oconto Falls. This costs \$0.08 for the taxpayer with a \$100,000 property.

These above agencies play an important role in providing the residents of Oconto County a better place to live and work.

In my next article, I'll discuss revenue received from the state, the contingency account, debt service and the insurance budget.

If you have any questions or concerns about this article or any other questions or concerns about Oconto County, please contact Kevin Hamann, County Administrative Coordinator at (920) 834-6811 or [kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kevin.hamann@co.oconto.wi.us).

This is a part of a series of informational articles on the services and programs provided by Oconto County.

## COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH

The County budget also includes other revenue and expenditures that are not directly related to any one department.

The County receives revenue from the State to help offset the property tax levy. In 2019, we estimate that the State Shared Revenue Program will provide \$695,067. This accounts for  $-\$0.035$  of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. What does a negative amount mean? For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, it means they saved \$17.75 in property taxes to Oconto County as a result of the funding from the State.

The County also used General Fund Applied funds, which I refer to as the County savings account. In 2019 we plan to use \$390,574 to balance the budget. This offsets the taxes by \$9.97 for a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property.

The County also retains a contingency budget each year for unforeseen expenditures or to set aside funds for expenditures that at the time the budget was adopted, we only had preliminary cost estimates. In 2019, we budgeted \$250,000 for the contingency budget. This accounts for \$0.012 of every tax dollar spent in Oconto County. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$6.38 in property taxes to Oconto County to create this contingency account.

The County also has a debt service account due to the construction of the Law Enforcement Center. We receive \$761,101 from the sales tax collections and \$846,500 from the 25 cent debt levy started in 2015 to pay for construction of the Law Enforcement Center. This 25 cent debt levy is scheduled to expire in 2034.

The County also has an insurance budget. In 2019, \$384,485 was budgeted for insurance costs (liability, property, equipment breakdown, etc.) that were not allocated to a specific department. This accounts for \$0.019 of every tax dollar spent. For a taxpayer with a \$100,000 property, they paid \$9.82 in property taxes to Oconto County for insurance coverages.

In my next article, I'll summarize all of the services and programs provided by Oconto County.

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### COUNTY SERVICES: DO I GET MY MONIES WORTH?

Oconto County provides a vast array of services to the public. These essential services produce the quality of life that the residents of Oconto County deserve and expect. These services range from highway maintenance to traffic patrol to providing care for the elderly and disabled. Usually these services are provided 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

Below is a list of those services and programs and the corresponding 2019 tax levy for that service/program. Also, I have indicated the taxes paid, totaling \$512.16, for those services/programs by someone owning a \$100,000 piece of property.

	<u>2019 County Tax Levy</u>	<u>% of Levy</u>	<u>\$512.16</u>
<b>SHERIFF</b>	\$6,708,429	33.4%	\$171.28
<b>HUMAN SERVICES</b>	\$3,678,560	18.3%	\$93.92
<b>HIGHWAY &amp; BRIDGES</b>	\$3,542,865	17.7%	\$90.46
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>	\$1,740,250	8.7%	\$44.43
<b>COURTHOUSE MAINT</b>	\$1,089,944	5.4%	\$27.83
<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>	\$846,500	4.2%	\$21.61
<b>TECHNOLOGY SERVICES</b>	\$805,013	4.0%	\$20.55
<b>COUNTY LIBRARIES</b>	\$528,451	2.6%	\$13.49
<b>COURTS</b>	\$471,089	2.3%	\$12.03
<b>INSURANCE/SAFETY/RISK MGT</b>	\$384,485	1.9%	\$9.82
<b>ZONING</b>	\$384,270	1.9%	\$9.81
<b>LAND INFORMATION (Surveyor)</b>	\$361,053	1.8%	\$9.22
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	\$315,467	1.6%	\$8.05
<b>FINANCE</b>	\$275,004	1.4%	\$7.02
<b>DISTRICT ATTORNEY/VICTIM WITNESS</b>	\$257,076	1.3%	\$6.56
<b>EXTENSION/EDUCATION</b>	\$252,634	1.3%	\$6.45
<b>CONTINGENCY</b>	\$250,000	1.2%	\$6.38
<b>COUNTY BOARD</b>	\$220,830	1.1%	\$5.64
<b>LAND CONSERVATION</b>	\$206,356	1.0%	\$5.27
<b>COUNTY CLERK</b>	\$205,914	1.0%	\$5.26
<b>CORPORATION COUNSEL</b>	\$194,610	1.0%	\$4.97
<b>VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER</b>	\$158,655	0.8%	\$4.05

<b>TOURISM</b>	\$151,400	0.8%	\$3.87
<b>CHILD SUPPORT</b>	\$140,014	0.7%	\$3.57
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>	\$120,081	0.6%	\$3.07
<b>MEDICAL EXAMINER</b>	\$120,000	0.6%	\$3.06
<b>EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT</b>	\$68,010	0.3%	\$1.74
<b>AIRPORT</b>	\$41,369	0.2%	\$1.06
<b>COMMISSION ON AGING</b>	\$35,415	0.2%	\$0.90
<b>BAY LAKE REGIONAL PLANNING</b>	\$23,500	0.1%	\$0.60
<b>LWR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT</b>	\$19,680	0.1%	\$0.50
<b>ELECTIONS</b>	\$15,705	0.1%	\$0.40
<b>YOUTH FAIR</b>	\$10,000	0.0%	\$0.26
<b>HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b>	\$10,000	0.0%	\$0.26
<b>SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER</b>	\$3,275	0.0%	\$0.08
<b>COUNTY TREASURER</b>	\$2,466	0.0%	\$0.06
<b>RECYCLING</b>	\$0	0.0%	\$0.00
<b>MAR-OCO</b>	\$0	0.0%	\$0.00
<b>REGISTER OF DEEDS</b>	-\$43,947	-0.2%	-\$1.12
<b>FORESTRY, PARKS, RECREATION</b>	-\$91,970	-0.5%	-\$2.35
<b>INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS</b>	-\$300,000	-1.5%	-\$7.66
<b>GENERAL FUND APPLIED</b>	-\$390,574	-1.9%	-\$9.97
<b>DELINQUENT TAX INTEREST</b>	-\$450,000	-2.2%	-\$11.49
<b>STATE AID/SHARED REVENUE/SPECIAL/OTHER</b>	-\$695,067	-3.5%	-\$17.75
<b>SALES TAX APPLIED FOR DEBT</b>	-\$761,101	-3.8%	-\$19.43
<b>SALES TAX APPLIED FOR CAPITAL</b>	-\$846,500	-4.2%	-\$21.61
<b>Total</b>	\$20,059,211		\$512.16

Over the last few months I have briefly explain those above services and programs that Oconto County provides to the taxpayer. The purpose of these information articles was to allow you, the taxpayer, to decide whether you are getting your monies worth for the taxes you pay to Oconto County. For every \$1000 of equalized property value, a taxpayer pays \$5.12 for the services and programs provided by Oconto County.

As a taxpayer myself, I feel I'm getting my monies worth. Hopefully you will answer the same.

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