

October 6, 2020

To the Residents of Portage County and the County Board:

The 2021 budget process is nearly complete. Once again, I gave County department heads and their staff a 0% net guidance target, and this year posed many more challenges than most given the need to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 on county operations. I'm very thankful for their efforts, and this budget reflects the seriousness and diligence of those efforts.

The 2021 budget retains all core programs and services and puts the County in a better position for next year's budget development process. The tax rate proposed for 2021 is \$5.23 (up from \$5.18) per \$1,000 of equalized value. The median value for a home in the County is \$163,300 according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. The tax on that home's value would be \$854.06.

The referendum that was passed for the Portage County Health Care Center is still in place for 2021 and 2022. The tax rate increased in part due to the need to levy for the full \$1.4 million that the referendum authorizes. Last year, we levied \$895,559.

The total, proposed Portage County Tax Levy for 2021 is \$32,736,593. The total, overall budget for 2021 is \$114,539,209. As a reminder, the vast majority of the monies—over 2/3—in county

budgets are not discretionary, and this is often overlooked. Moving forward, the effects of a fragile-to-stagnant economic recovery in the midst of a global pandemic coupled with the continued levy limit policy will force the county to take a hard look at all programs and services supported by discretionary funding.

This means that we need to balance the year-to-year needs with a longer-term perspective whenever possible. This will require some minor shifts in our budget philosophy and fiscal policies and lead to cuts in future budgets.

Due to these challenges, I will also ask the County Board to create a Budget Task Force so that there is a clear, long-term framework for fiscal decision-making. The prioritization process I began two years ago will continue via this group's work as well. This effort will hopefully start in early 2021 with a focus on 2021-2025.

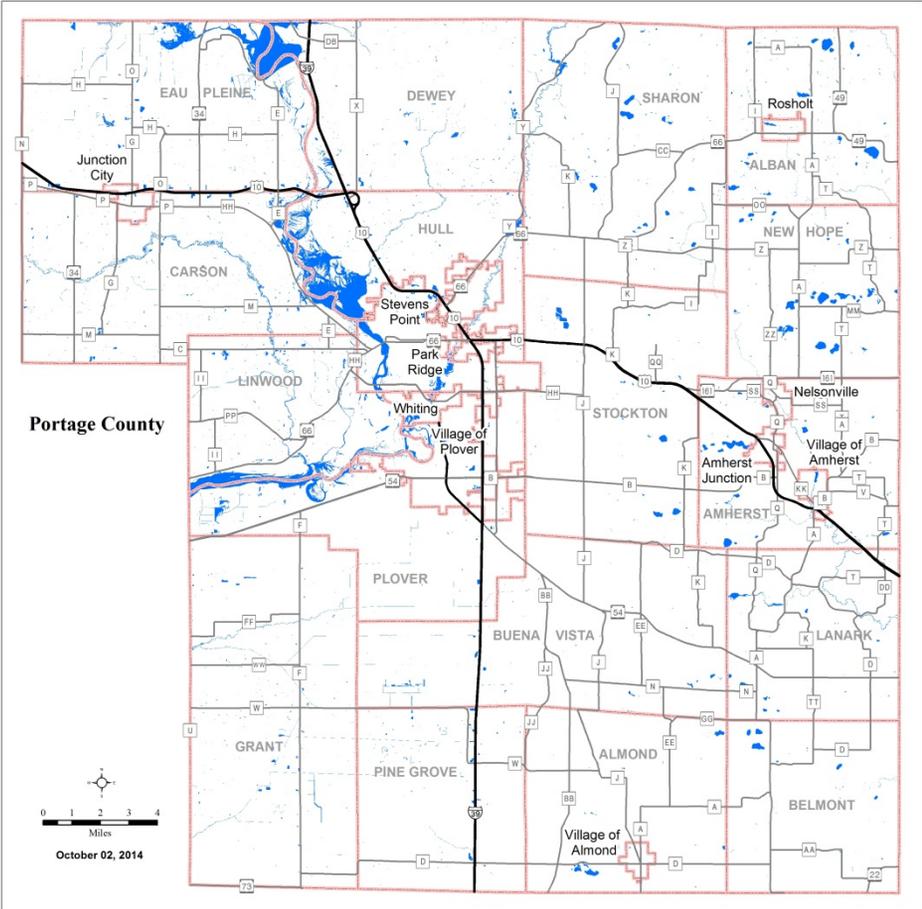
Net New Construction in Portage County, the metric that determines how much our levy is allowed to increase from year to year, was half of last year's at 1.124%. After accounting for 0.001% for TID subtraction over the previous year less an adjustment for the personal property tax aid, the net increase for the 2021 budget is \$312,989.

I will do my very best for you as I continue my term in this position, and I deeply appreciate the efforts of county staff and the County Board. The only way forward is working together.

Chris Holman, County Executive

PORTAGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN – COMMUNITY PROFILE

Portage County Map:



Portage County Mission Statement:

It is the mission of Portage County government to enhance the quality of life for all its residents by providing fiscally responsible services that enable our citizens to build productive communities, families, and lives.

Portage County in Brief:

Portage County, located in central Wisconsin, covers an area of 823 square miles. Intersected by two major highways, US Highway 10 and Interstate 39/US Highway 51, the County is approximately 170 miles east of Minneapolis/St. Paul, 50 miles west of Green Bay, and 155 miles northwest of Milwaukee.

Founded in 1842, Portage County has a diverse landscape and rich culture. Its roots are in the logging industry and trading posts that defined its communities. Major commerce of the area now includes agriculture, food processing, manufacturing, insurance, and education. The rural setting of the County also allows for year-round recreational areas including parks, lakes, streams; the 26-mile Green Circle Trail for biking, hiking, and jogging; numerous cultural festivals, live music/entertainment venues, restaurants, coffee shops, and shopping locations.

The County is governed by a County Executive and a 25-member Board of Supervisors, elected from one city, nine villages, and seventeen townships, with an estimated population of 71,680 (*WI Demographic Services Center, 2019 estimate*). The County seat is located in the City of Stevens Point.

Portage County Municipalities:

1 City	Stevens Point
17 Townships	Alban, Almond, Amherst, Belmont, Buena Vista, Carson, Dewey, Eau Pleine, Grant, Hull, Lanark, Linwood, New Hope, Pine Grove, Plover, Sharon, Stockton
9 Villages	Almond, Amherst, Amherst Junction, Junction City, Nelsonville, Park Ridge, Plover, Rosholt, Whiting

PORTAGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN – COMMUNITY PROFILE

Largest Employers (alphabetical order):

AIG	Donaldson Company	RR Donnelly
Associated Bank	Herrschners Inc.	Sentry Insurance
Ascension	H.O. Wolding	Skyward
Canadian National Railway	Ki Mobility	Stevens Point Area Public School District
City of Stevens Point	McCain Foods USA	UWSP
Del Monte Corporation	Monogram Foods	Verso Paper Corporation
Delta Dental of Wisconsin	Portage County	Worzalla Publishing
<i>Source: Portage County Business Council</i>		

Employment by Industry:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational services, health care and social assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail trade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates</i>

Principal Real Estate Taxpayers:

Sentry Insurance	McCain Foods USA Inc.
John Parker Development LLC	Seramur Family Ltd Partnership
Lineage SCS WI LLC (Service Cold Storage)	Marshfield Clinic
Skygroup, LLC (Skyward)	Ascension/St. Michael's Hospital
American Intl. Realty Corp. (AIG/Travel Guard)	Verso MN WI LLC
<i>Source: Portage County Treasurer's Office - Tax Year 2019</i>	

Miles of Roads and Streets:

State	158
County	434
City, Villages, and Towns	1,312
<i>Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation</i>	

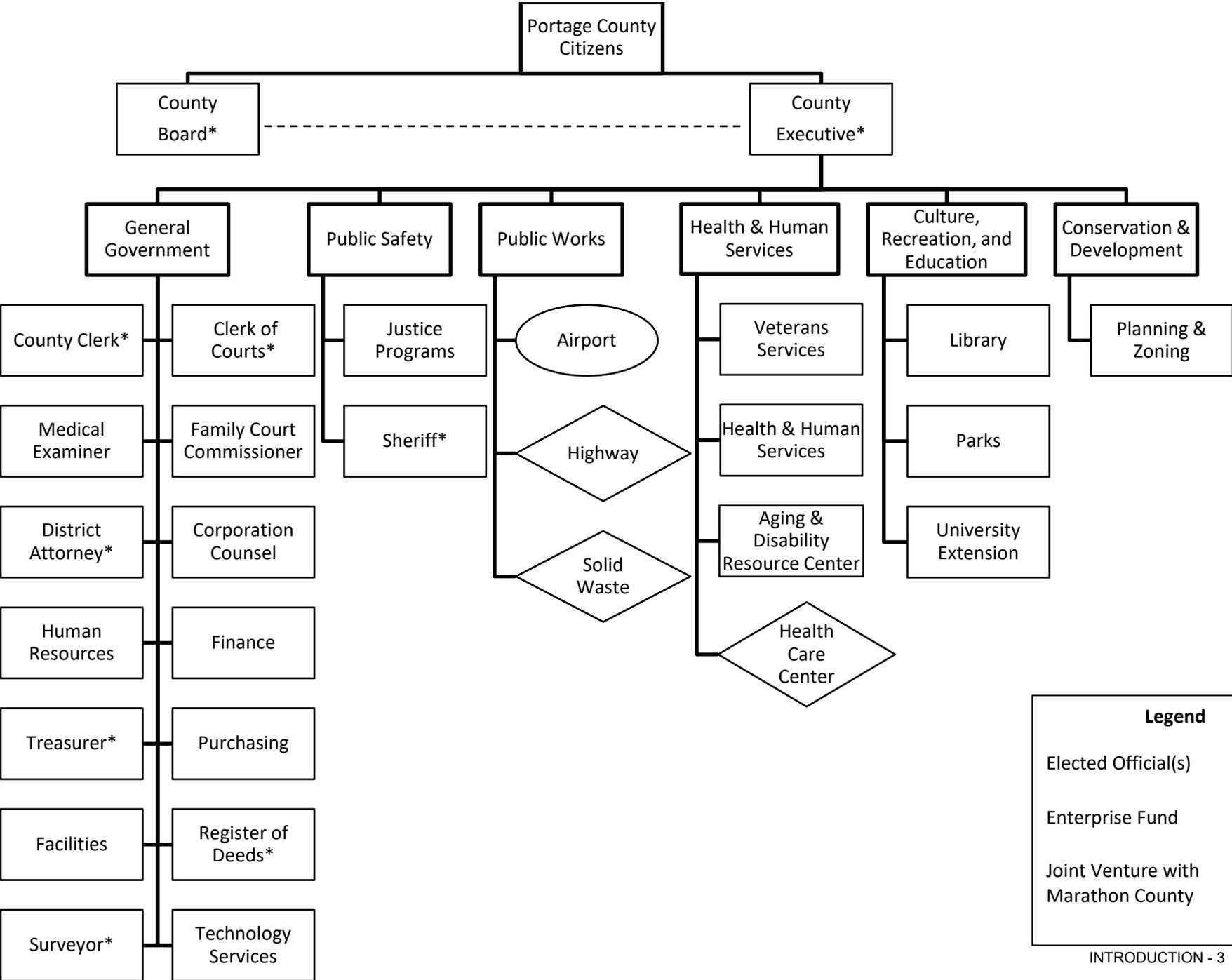
Income, Jobs, & Unemployment:

Per Capita Income	\$29,742	Civilian Labor Force	39,277
Median Family Income	\$76,500	Portage County 2019 Annual Unemployment Rate	3.3%
Median Non-Family Income	\$31,363	Wisconsin 2019 Annual Unemployment Rate	3.3%
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates and Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development</i>			

Education:

Elementary/Secondary	
Almond-Bancroft	Pacelli Catholic – St. Bronislava and St. Stephen
Saint Adalbert Catholic School	
Rosholt	St. Paul Lutheran
Stevens Point – Bannach, Jefferson, Kennedy, Madison, McDill, McKinley, Plover-Whiting, Roosevelt & Washington	Amherst & Tomorrow River CC
	Sacred Heart Elementary
	Wisconsin Rapids – Grant
Middle School/Junior High/High School	
Almond-Bancroft	Pacelli Catholic
Ben Franklin Junior High	Point of Discovery School
PJ Jacobs Junior High	Stevens Point Area Senior High
Rosholt	Amherst
Charles F. Fernandez Center for Alternative Learning	Tomorrow River CC Middle
Post-Secondary	
Mid-State Technical College	University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

PORTAGE COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Legend

Elected Official(s)	*
Enterprise Fund	◇
Joint Venture with Marathon County	○

DRAFT ONLY BASED ON PROPOSED BUDGET – WILL BE REPLACED WITH OFFICIAL RESOLUTION AFTER ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO: _____

TO: THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

RE: ADOPTION OF THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY APPORTIONMENT FOR THE 2020 TAX LEVY PAYABLE IN 2021

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Revenue establishes the Equalized Value for Portage County for the 2020 apportionment which is set at \$6,260,311,700; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has duly formulated his 2021 budget proposal and presented it to the County Board; and

WHEREAS, to fund and operate the County, a tax levy of \$32,736,593 with an associated rate of \$5.23 per thousand (\$1,000) of equalized value is needed; and

WHEREAS, the levy is in compliance with the levy limit as imposed by 2019 Wisconsin Act 9 (2019-2021 State Biennial Budget) which limits the property tax levy increase to the greater percent change of net new construction for Portage County at the level of 1.124%, or the statutory rate of 0%; and

WHEREAS, formal publication of the budget summary and announcement of the public hearing were noticed on Monday, October 12, 2020 in the Stevens Point Journal in accordance with Section 65.90 of the Wisconsin State Statutes; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed 2021 Portage County Budget was held at 5:00 P.M. on November 2, 2020.

FISCAL NOTE: This resolution establishes the tax levy for the 2021 Portage County Budget to be apportioned to Portage County municipalities. The total levy is \$32,736,593 for the 2021 Budget as follows:

	Amount
Operating Levy – General	\$24,607,651
Operating Levy – Referendum	1,400,000
County Wide EMS	2,501,120
Bridge & Culvert Aid	280,000
Debt Service Levy	<u>3,947,822</u>
TOTAL Levy	\$32,736,593

This resolution requires a majority vote of the board for passage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portage County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes a property tax levy in the amount of \$32,736,593 in support of the 2021 budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is hereby directed to levy the required taxes against all taxable property in Portage County and to levy special assessments and charges against the respective municipalities as provided by law.

DATED THIS 2ND DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2020.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

PORTAGE COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: October 26, 2020

Jeanne Dodge, Chair

Dennis Raabe

Larry Raikowski, Vice Chair

Julie Morrow

Dave Ladick

DRAFT ONLY BASED ON PROPOSED BUDGET – WILL BE REPLACED WITH OFFICIAL RESOLUTION AFTER ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO: _____

TO: THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

RE: ADOPTION OF THE 2021 PORTAGE COUNTY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the County Executive and Finance Committee have conducted numerous budget meetings in formulating the 2021 budget; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 budget proposed by the County Executive has been presented and detailed to the County Board of Supervisors on October 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, formal publication of the budget summary and announcement of the public hearing were formally noticed on Monday, October 12, 2020 in the Stevens Point Journal in accordance with Section 65.90 of the Wisconsin State Statutes; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed 2021 Portage County Budget was held at 5:00 P.M. on November 2, 2020, as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Supervisors authorizes the annual budget of \$114,539,209 at its annual fall meeting on November 2, 2020 to fund and operate the County.

FISCAL NOTE: This resolution adopts the 2021 Portage County Budget of \$114,539,209 including the appropriations, revenues, and use of fund balance as proposed by the County Executive and amended by the County Board of Supervisors as outlined in the 2021 Portage County Budget. Passage of this resolution requires a majority vote of the County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portage County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the budget of \$114,539,209 for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021.

DATED THIS 2ND DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2020.

DRAFT ONLY BASED ON PROPOSED BUDGET – WILL BE REPLACED WITH OFFICIAL RESOLUTION AFTER ADOPTED

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

PORTAGE COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: October 26, 2020

Jeanne Dodge, Chair

Dennis Raabe

Larry Raikowski, Vice Chair

Julie Morrow

Dave Ladick