



Department Updates

Barron County

September 2015

Clerk of Courts

Sharon Millermon
Clerk of Circuit Court

June 17, 2015, the Barron County Clerk of Court Office changed from its initial credit card service supplier to GovPayNet to accept credit card payments at the counter, over the phone and internet. GovPayNet accepts Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express along with offering 24/7 service over the phone and on the internet. Along with fines, forfeitures, copies, passport photos, etc., being paid via

credit card, cash bonds can now be posted during normal business hours. GovPayNet guarantees bond payments once accepted. This added convenience is beneficial for several: clerk of court office, the county/state, inmate, jail staff, inmate's family and employer, etc. The credit card user pays all service transaction fees which is a change from previous practice and has resulted in a reduction of \$3,300.00 to the courts 2016 budget for collection fee expenditures which is particularly exciting.

Finance

Jodi Busch
Finance Director

Summer has flown by in the Finance Department. We worked with CliftonlarsenAllen to finalize the 2014 audit, which was submitted to the State of WI – Dept of Administration on July 31st. We also worked with Sequoia Consulting Group, who was onsite for two days conducting the Indirect Cost Allocation Study, which was recently finalized. With audit time now completed, we move on to the 2016 Budget.

Budget Worksheets were distributed to departments the week of July 6th and were due back to Finance on August 14th. Once received, compilation of the 2016 County Budget began. Mid August, Net New Construction numbers for 2015 came in at 2.25%. This means that per levy limit rules, we can increase our levy limit ceiling by approximately \$395,000. Fortunately, because we are well below our levy limit ceiling, we don't face the challenges of many other counties to stay within our levy limit.

Committee meetings have already begun to review and approve departmental budgets which are moved on to the Finance Department for compilation. The first view of the budget as a whole will be in September at the Executive and County Board meetings. In October, a recommendation to the County Board by the Executive Committee will be given. Based on their recommendation, a Budget Publication will be developed and published in all County newspapers. A public hearing will be held on November 2nd with the County Board finalizing the budget in early November. After the 2016 budget is approved, apportionment sheets will be submitted to the DOR and the budget will be setup in the County's financial software. The budget process contains many steps and is accomplished over several months. This whole process will guarantee us a very busy fall season in the Finance Department.

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Circuit Court

Sharon Millermon Clerk of Circuit Court

Along with the Wisconsin Court System designating the month of September as the annual month to formally recognize the importance of jurors to the American justice system, Judge Babler, Judge Bitney, Judge Boyle and Clerk of Court Sharon Millermon want to take this opportunity to thank all Barron County jurors this past year.

Chapter 756 of the Wisconsin Statutes governs juries and indicates that one judge of the county shall be responsible for administering the jury system. Judge Boyle is the present jury judge. Chapter 756 further states the clerk of circuit court, by and under the supervision of the judge responsible for administering the jury system, may select and manage juries under policies and rules established by the judges in that circuit court. The clerk of circuit court has been delegated the majority of jury management; however, any requests to be excused from jury duty other than an advisory doctor's excuse is

given to Judge Boyle for her consideration.

The end of September, the clerk of circuit court will receive from the Department of Transportation the annual list of 1,700 Barron County prospective jurors for 2016. Questionnaires will be sent to those individuals late September or early October. Beginning this year, prospective jurors will have the capability to complete their juror qualification questionnaire online. Mail is still an option for those choosing not to use the online method. Another addition to advising jurors on the phone and on the county's website of upcoming trials or cancellations, summoned jurors may receive a text message notification in the very near future.

The random odds to receive a juror qualification questionnaire are approximately 5% of Barron County's adult population. After the completed questionnaire is received, there is a 93% probability that you **will** be summoned for a semimonthly panel in the

upcoming year. The odds requiring you to report to the Justice Center to serve are very much harder to predict. In some panels, the juror must report five times during the schedule while in other panels the juror may not have to report even one time. Thus far in 2015, jurors were not required to report one day in 9 out of 16 panels. If you are required to report to the Justice Center, you will have an approximate 33% chance of actually serving on the jury.

The courts would also like to recognize and thank our three very part-time bailiffs: Dave Dhein, Bob Rogers and Dan Fitzgerald. All of the bailiffs do an absolutely wonderful job of alleviating stress along with taking care of the needs of the jurors during jury trials.

On behalf of the court system, a huge thanks to those citizens that have served on jury duty and a huge welcome to those that will be summoned in the future.

Veterans Service Office

Scott Bachowski Veterans Service Officer

GDX Expenditure Report / 2014 Completed Work - The 2014 Geographic Distribution of Veteran Affairs Expenditures (GDX) statistics have been released by the Department of Veteran Affairs. The listing includes VA Compensation and Pension; and, Readjustment (Education) and Vocational Rehabilitation expenditures. The GDX also shows the estimated veteran population for each state and county. According to the 2014 statistics Barron County has a population of 3,748 Veterans; those veterans are receiving \$11,700,000 in VA Compensation and Pension (C&P). As a comparison, in 2013; Barron County had 3,724 veterans and received \$10,040,000. This difference represents a 15.82% increase of C&P dollars; the largest increase the Barron County Veteran Ser-

vice Office has ever experienced. This data certainly reflects the dedicated service of the Veterans Service Office.

Barron County Veterans received \$917,000 worth of Education and Vocational Rehabilitation benefits in 2014 up from \$703,000 in 2013. This benefit is educating our veterans and directly supporting our local Educational Institutions.

In 2014, the Veterans Service Office processed 93 Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) Service-Connected disability claims, 25 DVA Non-Service Connected Disability Pension claims, 165 medical applications, 59 grave marker applications, and 25 burial reimbursement applications. We also registered 178 new county veterans into our database; this is an impressive number of new veterans being exposed to the benefits they have earned.

CVSO / Transportation Grants - The

Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA) recently revised the County Veterans Service Office Grant. They modified the system used for making county veterans service office grants from a sum-certain amount, to an expense reimbursement basis. They also specified that the costs eligible for reimbursement include only the following: (a) information technology; (b) transportation for veterans and services to veterans with barriers; (c) special outreach to veterans; (d) training and services provided by the WDVA and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and (e) with limitations for salary and fringe benefit expenses. The WDVA will provide reimbursement payments for documented expenses twice annually. The WDVA and WCA are currently composing administrative rules to establish reimbursement criteria and procedures.

Human Resources

Rachael Richie, HR Director

<u>New/Replacement Positions</u>				
<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Office/Department</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Date Filled</u>	<u>New / Replacement</u>
Mechanic	Highway	Mitch Hanson	9-8-15	Replacement
Civilian Correction Officer	Sheriff	Jeff White	9-10-15	Replacement
Deputy Medical Examiner	Medical Examiner	Recruiting		Replacement
Social Worker	Health & Human Services	Recruiting		Replacement

- Annual Health Fair / Flu Shots are scheduled for October 29th.
- Biometric Process is scheduled for October 28 - 30th

Health & Human Services

Stacey Frolik
Director

On September 30th Public Health along with area hospitals will be hosting the 2015 Community Health Needs Assessment in the Auditorium of the Government Center. This will be a daylong event to further explore Barron County's top community health priorities: alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse, chronic disease, and mental health. Alison Bergum, MPA, from the University of Wisconsin Population Health institute will lead a discussion on evidence based practice and strategies promoted by "What Works for Wisconsin Health". Time will be spent working in small groups to plan how we will address the top health concerns. Lunch will be provided with pre-registration. There is no need to pre-register if you do not plan to join us for lunch. For more information and to pre-register please contact Public Health at 715-537-5691, press 2 or e-mail health@co.barron.wi.us.

Barron County Department of Health and Human Services will begin scheduling appointments for the Energy Assistance Program on September 24, 2015. The program begins October 1,

2015 and ends May 15, 2016. Please call 715-537-5691 to schedule an appointment or request an application. If you have never applied for energy assistance before, you MUST complete a face-to-face appointment. If you have applied in the past and nothing has changed, you may request an application be mailed to you or you can set up an appointment at the agency. Please call with any questions, concerns, or general information about the program. Office hours are Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

September 21, 2015 will be the Western Region Recovery and Wellness annual meeting in Dunn County. This meeting will emphasize the work be doing in the consortium with a spotlight on Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) and the Individual Placement Support program (IPS). The Barron County IPS program has been recognized as one of two counties in the state earning exemplary fidelity in this program model. Everyone is welcome to join this meeting which will be held at Dunn County Community Services, 3001 State Hwy. 12 East, Room 54, Menomonie, WI from 1-2:30 pm

The Brighter Futures Initiative (BFI), trauma project, is well under way with tier one training occurring (12 month learning collaborative for mental health clinicians on trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy). Barron County has one of the highest Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) ratings in the state, which suggests that many of our neighbors, family members, friends or selves have endured 4 or more traumatic events in our childhood. These events have a direct impact on the overall physical, mental and emotional health of our communities. Brighter Futures is an opportunity to become a more trauma-informed/sensitive community.

Highway Department

Mark Servi
Highway Commissioner

CTH P - PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT

The Barron County Highway Department will begin pavement replacement on CTH P beginning on Monday, September 14th. Work will consist of pulverizing the existing pavement, paving, shouldering, and placing pavement marking. Paving operations will begin at the intersection with USH 8 and continue south to 7th Avenue. It is anticipated that the project will continue thru the fall. Motorists are re-

minded that the project limits are from USH 8 to 7th Avenue and that there are construction activities occurring along the entire section of CTH P. The road will continue to be open to traffic with the use of flaggers for traffic control, but traffic delays will occur and drivers are encouraged to find alternative routes. Road grading operations are now in the area of 10 ½ Avenue and moving south.

If you must travel through this project, please be aware of the ongoing construction and be prepared to stop for

work activities. The workers of the Barron County Highway Department, A-1 Excavating and their families thank you for your help in keeping the construction work zone safe.