

Barron County

Department Updates

DECEMBER 2015

Finance Department

Jodi Busch
Finance Director

The Finance Department had a very busy fall season focusing on the 2016 budget. At the November 2nd County Board meeting, a County Levy was set at \$19,569,260; an increase from 2015 of \$395,117 or 2.06%. Once the budget was approved, it was full speed ahead as the County Apportionment calculations were finalized and sent out to the municipalities. Soon after, Levy Limit Worksheets were completed and sent to the DOR. Next came the setup of the 2016 Departmental Budgets in our financial software system. Did you know that the County Budget is divided up between 1400 sepa-

rate departmental accounts? As you can imagine, it takes a great deal of time throughout the budget process to enter, calculate, and check, to insure that everything ties out to what was approved. Now with just a few more tasks to complete, we will be ready for 2016.

In addition to preparing and looking ahead to the New Year, we are also looking back over 2015 to begin our year-end processes. CliftonLarsonAllen will be onsite the week of December 7th for their annual preliminary audit visit. By spending a few days here in December, they can take care of some of the more tedious tasks, which will help streamline the audit

process when they come again in the spring.

As we move into 2016, we will start reconciling 2015 accounts and prepare the necessary workpapers. W-2's and 1099's will be calculated and sent out in January, and we will be assisting departments with their year-end deposits, payments, and any necessary adjusting entries through February. Late February and March will consist of closing the books County-wide, and in April we will be putting everything together for when the Auditors visit in early May. The whole process of closing the year and preparing for the audit takes several months to complete. The Finance Team



will be working together through the winter to insure deadlines are met and all reconciliations are completed accurately.

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Sheriff's Department

Chris Fitzgerald, Sheriff

Wed Dec 2 over 50 law enforcement officers across Barron County took 53 kids shopping in our 5th Annual Shop with a Cop. 24 from the Sheriff's Dept. The largest ever. These kids were chosen from the Barron County Boys and Girls Club and the Kinship of Cumberland and Turtle Lake because their Christmas needed to be a little brighter and it was the hope that local law enforcement could help. With the help of Wal-Mart, Pepsi, CenturyLink, Cumberland Kiwanis, Johnson Agen Kupferschmidt and Associ-

ates, Barron County Law Enforcement Foundation, Rice Lake Men's Club and Adventures Restaurant we were able to provide \$150.00 for each kid to purchase gifts for their family and one small item for themselves while

getting to shop with a member of local law enforcement. After shopping Adventures Restaurant catered a full meal for over 100 plus people.



Veterans Service Office

Scott Bachowski, CVSO

Recent Outreach Events – We had a busy September providing outreach at various locations in our area.

- At a VA Town Hall meeting with senior leadership from the VA Medical Center, we advocated for expansion of medical services at the Rice Lake Community Based Outreach Clinic. The suggested expansions included radiology, physical therapy to include a physical fitness training center, eye clinic, and a limited dental clinic. The VA welcomed our input and is currently looking for a larger facility. We also suggested the VA reconsider their decision to have a central call center to make appointments. We have found this to be confusing and inconvenient for our veterans. Looks like the decision for a call center was final and was not open for change. We expressed our concern

over the Veterans Choice program. Under the program, veterans are able to obtain outside VA medical care if their scheduled appointment is more than 30 days out. However, under the program; it is taking more than 21 days just to navigate through the Veterans Choice program. Thus, it is not providing timely care like it was perceived. The VA stated they are aware of the problem and are trying to streamline the process.

- Provided valuable benefit counseling at the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall in New Richmond. Various County Veteran Service Officers from the area assisted the St. Croix Veterans Service Officer is providing benefit counseling throughout the event. Hundreds of veterans visited the wall during the 4-day event.
- Provided a “State of the Barron County Veterans

Service Office” address during the dedication of the new Veterans Memorial at the Wayside Cemetery. The memorial is dedicated to Barron area veterans who died during conflicts from WWI through Vietnam. It was a touching ceremony in which not only veterans were honored but also our emergency responders, police, and firemen. The event was held on Patriots Day.

Recent Training Event – In October we attended the Wisconsin Veterans Service Officer Associations conference and business meeting. Our association leadership again went above and beyond to provide valuable training in all areas needed to ensure we are current with our accreditation requirements and continuing education units. We received training from the Milwaukee VA Regional Office staff, WI National Guard, VA Pension Management Center, VA Medical Center staff, Veterans of Foreign

Wars, and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. We were also fortunate to have State Representative Skowronski, Chairman of the Committee on Veterans and Mark O’Connell, WCA Executive Director present at our conference.

National Guard Benefit Briefing – We conducted a VA benefits presentation to approximately 60-70 Army National Guard members on December 5th at two locations with the assistance of the St. Croix Veterans Service Officer. We were located at the Rice Lake Armory while the service officer from St. Croix was in New Richmond. We developed a slideshow presentation to present information on VA Service-Connected Disability, VA Healthcare, and State & Federal Education Benefits as well as other ancillary benefits. We received numerous questions and provided answers and most importantly we were able to explain our office function and establish some rapport.



Aging & Disability Resource Center

Leslie Fijalkiewicz, Director

Almost exactly nine months after World War II, babies were being born in record numbers. In fact, 3.4 million babies were born in the U.S. in 1946, an increase of 20% from 1945. And the babies kept coming... 3.8 million in 1947...3.9 million in 1952...and more than 4 million every year from 1954 until 1964. At that point, there were 76.4 million “baby boomers” in the United States and they accounted for 40 percent of the nation’s total population!

Today, roughly 10,000 people turn 65 in the U.S. every day. And it will continue for another 15 years! This may come as a bit of a shock to some, but this is not big news to the ADRC... we’ve been planning for this quite awhile.

So how exactly do you “plan” for serving more people with no additional money? Well, it requires a constant examination of priorities as well as a fair amount of creativity. All departments look at their priorities

and determine how best to use the limited resources to meet the greatest needs. Being creative can mean many things, including collaborating with other departments, other agencies and businesses in the community, applying for grants, communicating through our website, utilizing volunteers in new ways...basically maximizing every resource available!

We aren’t worried about serving “the masses”. The Baby Boomers have had a positive impact on society throughout

their lives thus far. There is no reason to believe that they won’t continue to do so in their retirement years! It’s going to be a challenge, but it will also provide us with many new and exciting opportunities.

Human Resources

Rachael Richie, HR Director

Personnel Update - New / Replacement Positions				
Position Title	Office / Department	Incumbent	Date Filled	New / Replacement
Deputy Medical Examiner	Medical Examiner	Karen Diedrich	10/22/15	Replacement
Social Worker	Health & Human Services	Danielle Jackson	10/19/15	Replacement
		Roberta Smuda	11/30/15	Replacement
		Martha Moyer	11/30/15	New
Office Specialist	Health & Human Services	Angela Lovelady	10/28/15	Replacement
Public Health Nurse	Health & Human Services	Recruiting		Replacement
Assistant Clerk of Court	Clerk of Court	Recruiting		Replacement
Economic Support Specialist	Health & Human Services	Recruiting		Replacement