

Citizen Forums

April 24, 2014 Reedsburg Public Library 5:30 p.m.

- 9 County Board Members – Tommy Lee Bychinski, John Dietz, Joan Fordham, Tut Gramling, Nathan Johnson, Tom Kriegl, Marty Krueger, Jerry Lehman, Andrea Lombard
- 4 Staff – Kerry Beghin, Todd Liebman, Steve Muchow, Kathy Schauf
- 7 Public – Judy Brey, Connie Lehman, Wessie Dietz, John Lichte, Mark Owen, Gene Wuest, Mimi Wuest

Public’s Comments Expressed:

1. Concerns about funding for youth programs and costs of incarceration. Encourage strong funding to help youth to avoid law enforcement involvement later in life.
2. Concerned about frac sand mining, and its impact on the County’s economics and environment. Hope for proactive investigation of this. (The Wisconsin Counties Association has a Frac Sand Task Force, and its information can be found at <http://www.wicounties.org/legislative.Impl#legislative-documents>.)
3. Concern about adequate staffing of law enforcement to maintain ability to respond to calls. Also concerned about staying ahead of heroin and other illegal drug use.
4. Encourage education for job readiness.
5. Don’t want the distinction of having the “finest jail”. Need better efforts to explore alternatives to incarceration. Curious about what % of county’s budget/levy is for the jail, and as compared to Columbia County. (see following chart with 2014 budgeted amounts for Sauk County)

	Sauk County Jail	Sauk County Total Budget	Sauk County Jail as a Percent of Total Budget
Direct jail costs	6,115,079		
Utilities, maintenance	644,981		
Debt service	1,989,573		
Total expenses	8,749,633	79,223,383	11.04%
Less direct offsetting revenues	(862,289)		
Property tax levy impact	7,887,344	28,854,774	27.33%

6. Concern about conservation efforts and the environmental legacy current generations are responsible for preserving.
7. Encourage the County to continue broad-based priority development and strategic planning.
8. Advocate for bike trails and more low-impact recreation, particularly encouraging children to be physically active.
9. Disappointed that the County hosts tenants for space in the West Square Building in Baraboo, but maintains the Reedsburg Human Services building.
10. Appreciate County support of libraries, and emphasizing the importance of this resource.
11. Appreciate this forum, and encourage future and more frequent forums such as this. County website is pretty good, but could use better definitions of programs offered. Sound quality of live-streamed County Board meetings could be better. Wish the meetings could be presented on local cable channels. Unique website hits of the County Board meeting: April-129.
12. Appreciate Conservation, Planning & Zoning tree sales.