Understanding Library Funding

Presented to the Waupaca Area Public Library Board
November 4, 2020
How are libraries in Wisconsin funded?

- Local municipal tax – City of Waupaca
- Local County tax – based on circulation to residents of the home county outside of the municipality – based on a County Library Service Plan
- Adjacent County tax – taxed for their residents use of libraries located in an adjacent County – Waushara
- State tax – supports the Systems who provide services to Libraries - OWLS
The Recent History of Library Funding in Wisconsin?

- Up until 2010 there was a law in place that regulated the allocation for libraries through their municipalities.
- The **Maintenance of Effort** law said that a municipality could not allocate less than the average of the last three years allocation or they would lose support from the State funded Systems.
- When levy limits were put into place this law was not part of the new State Statutes.
- At about the same time Systems were allowed to bill adjacent counties for their residents’ use of libraries located in neighboring counties...
- Except for consolidated county libraries. Consolidated county libraries bill all their county residents for the use of libraries and are exempt from paying adjacent counties for their resident use – unless there is reciprocal use and the Consolidated County Library bills the adjacent county. (new law – 2017)
What is the method for determining the County Funding?

- Expenditures / Circulation = Cost per Circulation
- Cost per Circulation X # of Circulated items = Reimbursement Total
- There is a two year lag
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clintonville</td>
<td>$302,883</td>
<td>80,408</td>
<td>7,526</td>
<td>$4.47</td>
<td>$136,035</td>
<td>$134,717</td>
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<td>$135,771</td>
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<td>Fremont</td>
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<td>Iola</td>
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<td>3,480</td>
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<td>$116,207</td>
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<td>$114,064</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$45,731</td>
<td>$47,817</td>
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<td>$46,148</td>
<td>$42,662</td>
<td>$3,486</td>
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<td>9,826</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$169,380</td>
<td>$172,325</td>
<td>$2,945</td>
<td>$169,969</td>
<td>$160,943</td>
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<td>Scandinavia</td>
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<td>$30,067</td>
<td>$(230)</td>
<td>$30,251</td>
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<td>Waupaca</td>
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<td>229,281</td>
<td>19,880</td>
<td>$3.49</td>
<td>$383,184</td>
<td>$389,742</td>
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<td>$384,496</td>
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<td>Weyauwega</td>
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<td>$76,625</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,108,423</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$1,111,929</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,059,548</strong></td>
<td><strong>$52,381</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.94%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$52,381</strong></td>
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What is the history of Library Funding in Waupaca County?

- State Statutes mandate that Counties must reimburse municipalities for resident use of the library at 70% of the total cost for providing service.
- After lobbying for increased funding, the 2009 Waupaca County Library Plan included the goal to reimburse at 100%.
- The percentage increase was phased in over a five year period. In 2014 the reimbursement reached 100%.
- The reimbursement has remained at 100% for the last six years.
- County funding is outside of levy limits for the County.
Difference in Funding by source

Difference in Funding from Prior Year

- Waupaca County
- Waushara County
- City of Waupaca
2019 Expenditures

Staff Wages & Benefits

- Staff Wages & Benefits
- AV Materials
- OWLS Membership

Other Operating expenses

- Print Materials
- Electronic & Other Materials
- Other Operating expenses
What is the possible effect of reduced spending or funding?

- **Strategic Initiatives impossible** - increased hours, community connections, etc.
- Waupaca County funding is at 100% - the Statutory requirement is 70%
- Materials budgets have already been decreased to a minimum
- Even more need in our community with regional Job Centers closing and libraries are being asked to pick up the slack.
- Eventual erosion of services
- We are a service organization - high personnel costs
- Personnel are lowest paid in the City - compare to clerical workers at City Hall, Park & Rec, Police
- Fund balance set aside by Board for retiring staff - will eventually be gone
- Essential services provided - workforce development, internet access, early literacy, lifelong learning
- We rely on our outside funding agencies for the extras that make our library exceptional