



2016

Annual Report

County Treasurer's

Office

Department Overview:

The Treasurer is the custodian of money paid to the County. Upon proper authorization, the Treasurer disperses money for expenses incurred, debt payments and the County's payroll. Accurate records of receipts and expenditures are maintained and reconciled on a monthly basis.

The Treasurer must maintain sufficient cash flow and evaluate opportunities for the short-term investment of funds that are not immediately needed. The Treasurer must also ensure sound management of public funds and maintain security while achieving maximum return.

With respect to property taxes, the Treasurer's Office serves as a resource and liaison for municipalities, the general public and other governmental units when dealing with tax roll matters, billing information, as well as tax payment detail. The County Treasurer provides services to clerks and treasurers of the taxation districts by compiling summary reports, tax rolls and preparing real estate and personal property tax bills on an annual basis. In addition, the County has entered into agreements with the City of Fond du Lac and the Village of North Fond du Lac, as its agent, for processing the collection of first and full payments of real estate property tax, special assessments, special taxes and special charges. The treasurers of the remaining municipalities in the County collect these payments at their respective municipal levels. Pursuant to statute, the County Treasurer's Office collects the current year postponed real estate taxes and all delinquent taxes for 33 municipalities, consisting of 21 towns, 9 villages and 3 cities.

Initial settlements with municipal treasurers are made for their respective portions of the taxes collected by January 15th and February 20th. The initial tax settlement with the State occurs in March and final settlement with the State, as well as with the other taxing jurisdictions, is made by August 20th. The County settles with all taxing jurisdictions for 100% of the taxes levied, regardless if the taxes were collected.

Fees are assessed annually against each private onsite wastewater treatment system (POWTS) in the County and placed on the tax bill as a special charge. Settlement between the County and the municipalities takes place in February with regards to (POWTS) collections made at the municipal level.

Unpaid real estate taxes constitute a lien against a given property. Delinquent notices and foreclosure proceedings are the result of such delinquencies and steps are taken to acquire title to the property. The Treasurer's Office manages, with assistance from the Corporation Counsel's Office, the delinquent tax foreclosure process and is responsible for the advertising and bidding procedure. These parcels are subsequently sold to the highest bidder. Proceeds from homestead property are returned to the former homeowner, less the delinquent taxes and collection costs, provided an affidavit of former ownership status, homestead use and request for payment is received by the Treasurer's Office within the designated timeframe.

The Lottery and Gaming Credit provides direct property tax relief to qualifying taxpayers in the form of a credit against their property tax bill. To qualify for the Lottery and Gaming Credit, the owner must be a Wisconsin resident, own a dwelling and use it as their primary residence as of the January 1 certification date of the year the property taxes are levied. If an owner is temporarily absent, typically for a period no longer than six months (ex: hospitalization, vacation, incarceration), the primary residence is the home where the owner returns.

The Treasurer's Office mails lottery and gaming credit applications to owners and posts entries to the eligible parcels so tax bills reflect the credit for the current tax year. Annually, by March 1, the County Treasurer must report to the State the number of Lottery and Gaming Credit claims issued, as well as the total amount paid for each municipality. The County receives distribution from the State and must settle with each taxing jurisdiction by April 15th.

The County Treasurer must also report the number of First Dollar Credit claims issued and the total amount paid for each municipality to the State. First Dollar Credit payments are distributed by the Department of Administration on the 4th Monday of July and the County Treasurer must settle for these amounts no later than August 20th. The First Dollar Credit provides direct property tax relief as a credit for Wisconsin property owners against their property tax bill. Every taxable parcel (business, commercial or residential) containing a real property improvement, qualifies for the First Dollar Credit. Unlike the Lottery and Gaming Credit, the property does not have to be the owner's primary residence.

Every February, the Department of Natural Resources submits Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to municipalities to replace property taxes that would have been paid if state-owned property had remained in private ownership. The municipalities are responsible for distributing the funds proportionately to the corresponding taxing jurisdictions, special districts and the County. The Treasurer's Office collects the County's portion of these payments.

Unclaimed funds are funds held by the County on behalf of an owner who is entitled to the money but who has failed to claim ownership of it. Unclaimed funds may arise out of a variety of circumstances. The most frequent circumstance is the delivery of a payment which was not possible due to incorrect or incomplete address information for the recipient. The Treasurer's Office takes on the duty of finding the rightful owners of these unclaimed funds, as provided by Wisconsin Statute §59.66.

Property that has benefited from agricultural classification and use-value assessment may be subject to a Conversion Charge. This occurs when its use is converted to residential, commercial, manufacturing, or becomes exempt and the use is no longer agricultural. The County Treasurer is responsible for the administration of the conversion charge. The County collects the conversion charge and distributes 50% to the taxation district and 50% is retained by the County.

The County Treasurer is required to file reports with the State throughout the year. Those reports include, but are not limited to: several various property tax-related reports, Real Estate Transfer Fee Transmittal Report, Probate and Birth Certificate Report and the Court Fines and Assessment Reports.

The mission of the Treasurer's Office is to provide courteous service to our residents, to support local government and provide our citizens with efficient and accurate tax information. Our fiduciary responsibility is to ensure sound management of public funds by maximizing earnings, maintaining liquidity, and safekeeping all funds.

2016 In Review:

The following are annual reports summarizing the County's financial, investment and collection for the calendar year of 2016 and the comparison year of 2015. In addition you will find reports summarizing the uncollected real estate taxes and specials, as well as certificates and foreclosures.

The Treasurer's Office continued to work with interested departments to increase online banking service through ACH (Automated Clearing House), EFT (Electric Funds Transfer) and credit/debit card transactions. The County website provides constituents with the ability to conduct their tax and fee payments online. Payment platforms where electronic payments and the web serve as primary methods to receive and process payments will continue to grow.

Rates on investments have finally started to increase in 2016 and interest earned overall had doubled from 2015.

The Treasurer's Office worked with departments and municipalities to create the publication of Unclaimed Funds and were successful in returning over \$1,000 of those funds to the rightful owners.

With respect to property taxes, the County Treasurer's Office generated 57,534 real estate and personal property tax bills last year. The real estate taxes totaled nearly 166 million dollars countywide, for tax year 2016. Collection agreements remained in place with the City of Fond du Lac and the Village of North Fond du Lac, as its agent, for processing the collection of first and full payments of real estate property taxes, special assessments, special taxes and special charges. The County Treasurer's Office collected over 49 million dollars of real estate taxes for the City of Fond du Lac and Village of North Fond du Lac during December 2016 and February 2017. The remaining taxation district treasurers collected the first installments at their municipal level. The County Treasurer's Office continues to collect the postponed real estate and delinquent property taxes for all municipalities.

Uncollected real estate property taxes realized a 3% increase from 2015. Delinquent Notices are routinely mailed to property owners in March, May, September and November. The Treasurer's Office issued 1,262 tax certificates on delinquent 2015 property taxes, which was a 3% decrease in certificates issued in 2014 which totaled 1,305.

The Treasurer's Office continues to utilize the Tax Refund Intercept Program (TRIP). The program allows the County to submit delinquent taxes to the Department of Revenue. The Department of Revenue is authorized to intercept any state tax refund and refundable credit to pay debts owed to other government agencies. This program assists the County with payment on delinquent property taxes and fees. It also helps reduce the amount of tax foreclosures in Fond du Lac County.

The tax foreclosure process summarized:

- Process on delinquent 2012 taxes began on September 1, 2015, with the issuance of 1,680 certificates.
- On March 4, 2016, the PETITION FOR COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDING IN REM TO FORECLOSE TAX LIENS was filed with the Court. The original list included 238 parcels at that time.
- On June 24, 2016, the courts granted title to Fond du Lac County on eight (8) properties.
- The properties were advertised. The County sold six (6) of these properties.
- By year-end 2016, the County had six (6) properties available for purchase [four (4) from prior years].

The Treasurer's Office continues to streamline operations. Development and maintenance of in-house or outsourced programs will continue to grow and improve services provided to the taxpayers of Fond du Lac County.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda A Schneider
Fond du Lac County Treasurer

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<u>GENERAL CHECKING ACCOUNT</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Beginning Balance	\$ 24,133,884.16	\$ 33,158,062.51
Total Receipts	200,488,935.94	205,727,099.80
Total Disbursements	<u>(193,453,355.69)</u>	<u>(214,751,278.15)</u>
Ending Balance	31,169,464.41	24,133,884.16
 <u>PETTY CASH</u>		
Ending Balance	1,000.00	1,000.00
 <u>LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL</u>		
Ending Balance	12,682,759.18	7,882,327.70
 <u>SAVINGS ACCOUNTS</u>		
Ending Balance	53.64	53.64
 <u>CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT</u>		
Ending Balance	4,553,642.72	6,554,438.41
 <u>MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS</u>		
Ending Balance	<u>83,625.37</u>	<u>83,142.84</u>
 TOTAL TREASURER'S CASH	 \$ 48,490,545.32	 \$ 38,654,846.75

SUMMARY OF INTEREST EARNED ON ALL INVESTMENTS

<u>INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS – GENERAL</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Local Government Investment Pool	\$ 49,218.01	\$ 12,661.91
Checking Account*	106,057.44	48,695.58
Savings Accounts	-	-
Certificates of Deposit	46,953.64	38,817.65
Sheriff Canine Trust Fund	213.28	311.82
Money Markets	482.53	245.64
Passbook Account - Nutrition	<u>10.79</u>	<u>5.64</u>
TOTAL	\$ 202,935.69	\$ 100,738.24

*Interest Earned Net of Service Charges

LIST OF INVESTMENTS

WI LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL ACCOUNT

General Account	\$ 12,682,759.18
BALANCE AS OF 12/31/16	\$ 12,682,759.18

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

AMOUNT

Associated Investment Services	500,000.00
Bank Mutual	500,000.00
Bank Mutual-Sheriff	51,883.13
Bank of Oakfield	500,000.00
BMO Harris Bank	500,000.00
Fox Valley Savings Bank	500,000.00
Hometown Bank	500,000.00
Horicon Bank - Fond du Lac	500,000.00
Marine Credit Union	200,295.89
National Bank of Waupun	500,000.00
National Exchange Bank & Trust	100,000.00
Verve	201,463.70
TOTAL INVESTED	\$ 4,553,642.72

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Citizens First Credit Union	25.00
Marine Credit Union	28.64
BALANCE AS OF 12/31/16	\$ 53.64

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

National Exchange Bank & Trust	
COP Risk Reserve	83,625.37
BALANCE AS OF 12/31/16	\$ 83,625.37

**SUMMARY OF
REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTION
2015 TAX YEAR AND COMPARISON YEAR 2014**

	<u>COLLECTION YEAR 2016</u>	<u>COLLECTION YEAR 2015</u>
Delinquent Real Estate Taxes*	\$ 4,595,667.26	\$ 4,176,841.13
Postponed Real Estate Taxes*	24,029,530.88	24,463,576.02
Less Payments & Adjustments	<u>(27,590,094.98)</u>	<u>(27,631,194.57)</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1,035,103.16	\$ 1,009,222.58

**SUMMARY OF
SPECIALS COLLECTION
2015 TAX YEAR AND COMPARISON YEAR 2014**

	<u>COLLECTION YEAR 2016</u>	<u>COLLECTION YEAR 2015</u>
Specials in Trust*	\$ 388,114.74	\$ 367,635.80
Less Payments & Adjustments	<u>(237,205.30)</u>	<u>(211,927.78)</u>
TOTAL	\$ 150,909.44	\$ 155,708.02

* Balance after February Settlement

**SUMMARY OF REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTION
ALL YEARS**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Delinquent Real Estate Taxes - Jan 1	\$ 1,727,991.82	\$ 2,051,162.52
Plus Current Year Real Estate - Sept 1	2,018,256.78	1,939,273.55
Less Payments & Adjustments	<u>(1,984,025.39) *</u>	<u>(2,262,444.25) *</u>
OUTSTANDING REAL ESTATE TAXES	\$ 1,762,223.21	\$ 1,727,991.82

**SUMMARY OF SPECIALS COLLECTED
ALL YEARS**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Specials - Jan 1	\$ 260,185.77	\$ 241,111.45
Plus Current Year Specials - Sept 1	184,617.27	207,671.73
Less Payments & Adjustments	<u>(174,893.49) *</u>	<u>(188,597.41) *</u>
OUTSTANDING SPECIALS	\$ 269,909.55	\$ 260,185.77

**SUMMARY OF INTEREST AND PENALTY COLLECTED
ALL YEARS**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$ 379,727.01	\$ 478,167.14
Interest on Delinquent Specials	43,381.92 **	44,095.27 **
Penalty on Delinquent Taxes and Specials	<u>207,222.44 ***</u>	<u>257,036.31 ***</u>
TOTAL	\$ 630,331.37	\$ 779,298.72

*Does not include interest and penalty

**All interest revenue on specials was returned to the Taxing District

*** All penalty revenue on Specials is retained by Fond du Lac County
as per Resolution No. 107-88, effective 11-11-88.

**SUMMARY OF UNCOLLECTED
REAL ESTATE TAXES**

<u>MUNICIPALITY</u>	<u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>	<u>(INCREASE) DECREASE</u>
Town of Alto	\$ 32,770.36	\$ 23,486.99	\$ (9,283.37)
Town of Ashford	39,502.24	30,761.74	(8,740.50)
Town of Auburn	57,033.65	53,692.93	(3,340.72)
Town of Byron	40,945.75	38,947.15	(1,998.60)
Town of Calumet	16,333.94	16,800.41	466.47
Town of Eden	3,579.01	6,506.34	2,927.33
Town of Eldorado	70,509.34	53,567.27	(16,942.07)
Town of Empire	32,170.75	41,562.38	9,391.63
Town of Fond du Lac	17,891.83	18,077.45	185.62
Town of Forest	7,288.88	17,603.49	10,314.61
Town of Friendship	29,965.86	26,253.67	(3,712.19)
Town of Lamartine	6,892.47	16,124.05	9,231.58
Town of Marshfield	948.84	8,492.04	7,543.20
Town of Metomen	20,992.00	15,199.42	(5,792.58)
Town of Oakfield	17,288.92	7,454.11	(9,834.81)
Town of Osceola	27,137.08	33,858.59	6,721.51
Town of Ripon	36,334.02	35,060.01	(1,274.01)
Town of Rosendale	213.29	439.92	226.63
Town of Springvale	14,465.62	6,495.86	(7,969.76)
Town of Taycheedah	52,501.02	19,178.75	(33,322.27)
Town of Waupun	21,630.87	30,971.02	9,340.15
Village of Brandon	13,107.19	7,660.61	(5,446.58)
Village of Campbellsport	48,218.23	37,537.67	(10,680.56)
Village of Eden			-
Village of Fairwater	640.23	640.23	-
Village of Mt. Calvary	7,510.34	6,765.78	(744.56)
Village of North Fond du Lac	61,090.54	56,618.82	(4,471.72)
Village of Oakfield	13,915.19	47,867.10	33,951.91
Village of Rosendale	5,314.45	5,090.64	(223.81)
Village of St. Cloud	985.22	982.98	(2.24)
City of Fond du Lac	785,788.11	791,450.14	5,662.03
City of Ripon	231,919.71	232,256.80	337.09
City of Waupun	47,338.26	40,587.46	(6,750.80)
TOTAL	\$ 1,762,223.21	\$ 1,727,991.82	\$ (34,231.39)

**SUMMARY OF UNCOLLECTED
SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS, SPECIAL CHARGES
AND SPECIAL TAXES**

<u>MUNICIPALITY</u>	<u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>	<u>(INCREASE) DECREASE</u>
Town of Alto	\$ 42.00	\$ 38.85	\$ (3.15)
Town of Ashford	54.00	47.00	(7.00)
Town of Auburn	101.00	104.00	3.00
Town of Byron	2,242.39	2,139.05	(103.34)
Town of Calumet	24.00	2,734.19	2,710.19
Town of Eden	6.00	18.00	12.00
Town of Eldorado	2,823.88	1,971.81	(852.07)
Town of Empire	42.00	54.00	12.00
Town of Fond du Lac	2,115.32	1,150.36	(964.96)
Town of Forest	24.00	45.00	21.00
Town of Friendship	9,333.83	6,848.41	(2,485.42)
Town of Lamartine	388.00	793.00	405.00
Town of Marshfield	-	12.00	12.00
Town of Metomen	54.00	47.00	(7.00)
Town of Oakfield	18.00	12.00	(6.00)
Town of Osceola	715.00	1,024.00	309.00
Town of Ripon	159.00	116.00	(43.00)
Town of Rosendale	6.00	12.00	6.00
Town of Springvale	516.00	383.00	(133.00)
Town of Taycheedah	7,558.10	1,677.84	(5,880.26)
Town of Waupun	48.00	48.00	-
Village of Brandon	475.70	147.65	(328.05)
Village of Campbellsport	1,795.54	1,143.53	(652.01)
Village of Eden	-	-	-
Village of Fairwater	-	-	-
Village of Mt. Calvary	175.00	112.50	(62.50)
Village of North Fond du Lac	1,031.63	2,580.38	1,548.75
Village of Oakfield	1,177.40	3,003.23	1,825.83
Village of Rosendale	1,606.40	1,664.65	58.25
Village of St. Cloud	243.00	231.00	(12.00)
City of Fond du Lac	214,578.12	204,884.14	(9,693.98)
City of Ripon	21,793.01	26,297.31	4,504.30
City of Waupun	763.23	845.87	82.64
TOTALS	\$ 269,909.55	\$ 260,185.77	\$ (9,723.78)

**SUMMARY OF UNCOLLECTED REAL ESTATE TAXES
CURRENT TAX YEAR**

<u>TAX YEAR</u>	<u>REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY</u>	<u>UNCOLLECTED REAL ESTATE YEAR END</u>	<u>% OF UNCOLLECTED REAL ESTATE TOTAL TAX LEVY</u>
2016	165,987,578	In process of collection	
2015	166,176,362	1,035,103	0.62%
2014	156,491,010	1,009,340	0.64%
2013	163,859,934	1,199,904	0.73%
2012	160,176,409	1,346,049	0.84%
2011	156,387,386	1,757,050	1.12%
2010	155,330,734	1,893,075	1.22%
2009	148,337,866	1,643,770	1.11%
2008	140,245,771	1,409,049	1.00%
2007	132,581,539	1,147,651	0.87%
2006	120,248,567	1,044,369	0.87%

**SUMMARY OF UNCOLLECTED REAL ESTATE TAXES AND SPECIALS
ALL YEARS**

<u>TAX YEAR</u>	<u>UNCOLLECTED REAL ESTATE YEAR END</u>	<u>UNCOLLECTED SPECIALS YEAR END</u>	<u>TOAL UNCOLLECTED YEAR END</u>
2016	In process of collection	In process of collection	
2015	1,762,223	269,910	2,032,133
2014	1,727,992	260,186	1,988,178
2013	2,051,156	241,111	2,292,267
2012	2,143,204	241,183	2,384,387
2011	2,812,821	333,580	3,146,401
2010	2,795,039	252,853	3,047,892
2009	2,437,594	225,144	2,662,738
2008	2,147,194	193,328	2,340,522
2007	1,821,751	152,021	1,973,772
2006	1,846,198	151,393	1,997,591
2005	1,706,985	107,444	1,814,429

CERTIFICATE AND FORECLOSURE SUMMARY

<u>TAX YEAR</u>	<u>CERTIFICATES ISSUED</u>	<u>IN-REM FORECLOSURE NO.</u>	<u>INITIAL NO. OF FORECLOSURE PROPERTIES</u>
2015	1262		
2014	1305		
2013	1583	47	139
2012	1680	46	238
2011	1844	45	219
2010	2080	44	285
2009	2051	43	248
2008	1845	42	233
2007	1684	41	221
2006	1409	40	179
2005	1591	40	82
2004	1743	39	130

<u>JUDGMENT YEAR</u>	<u>PROPERTIES GRANTED TO COUNTY</u>	<u>PROPERTIES SOLD</u>	<u>HOMESTEAD PROPERTY REPURCHASES</u>
2016	8	6	1
2015	8	8	0
2014	9	5	0
2013	11	16	0
2012	14	13	2
2011	* 6	10	0
2010	* 11	8	1
2009	* 6	4	0
2008	15	8	3
2007	0	0	0
2006	6	3	2

* Foreclosure included two years