

To: Bob Johnson, Editor of the Voice

From: Jim Scherneck Reedsburg, WI 53959

Re: 7 May 09 Presentation to Membership by Kathryn Schauf

So that the membership has in writing the facts and position held by approximately one-third of the 31 member Sauk County Board, I submit this information for consideration and comment:

1. Able, articulate and with the financial resources to tailor her position, Kathryn Schauf noted the following cuts expected in funding from the State of Wisconsin in the coming budget:

- a. Children and Family Aid \$196,000
- b. Mental Health funding 191,000
- c. Youth Aids 40,000
- d. Income Maintenance 40,000
- e. Skilled Nursing Aid 324,00
- Total (rounded up): 800,000

Ms. Schauf did not note that the Libraries have already been cut from 13% to 7% of their budget by the state. In 2008, while granting the Sheriff his \$18 million, Sauk libraries were cut \$28,000 by the leaders of the Sauk County Board, which has resulted in reduced hours and services across the county. No one in this county works harder and provides more services than the libraries.

2. The entire amount of state cuts is available, and more, in the current and projected 2010 Sauk County Budget allocation solely to “renovate” the existing shooting range grounds and building in the amount of \$900,000.

- a. Mark and Marion Bergman of Reedsburg, made a superbly researched and prepared presentation before the Sauk County Board, (please phone & thank them: 524 6028) where, similar to our own meetings, they were limited to 3 minutes, regardless of the importance of the issue.

The Bergman presentation stands unrefuted that the cost to Sank County to have their deputies qualify annually using the Dane County Shooting range would be \$1,600 a year.

- b. The Sheriff, who presents his budget requests with no time limits with five(5) paid employees at each meeting before the Law Enforcement Committee and three to five in appearances before the County Board, offered no conflicting evidence.
- c. With no staff to examine and inspect the unique accounting and requests by the multi million dollar Sheriff's Department. County Board members, except for Torn Kriegl, are no match for this bloated department. In fact, Kriegl can not even get Records from the Sheriff to fulfill his legislative duties.

Accordingly, the Sheriff's budget has ballooned in the past eight years by 450%, to \$18 million while Sauk County without the Sheriff's budget has increased 16% to \$90 million.

- d. Some of the signs of a bloated Sheriff's budget are: 1 jailer for less than 2 inmates; one out of every 4 Sauk County employees works for the Sheriff, etc.
- e. With the Sheriff being accorded virtually free rein on his budget, the predictable targets that have their budgets cut are libraries, Boys and Girls Clubs, and the social services list Kathryn Schauf presented, above.

If average citizens, to say nothing of Democrats, are not upset enough to confront their County Board representatives, and write letters to the editor about such a pervasive misuse of taxpayer money and gutting of rehabilitative and social programs, celebrating in parades and honoring the day of the guy commonly derided as the "agitator", Fighting Bob LaFollette, seems rather pointless.

Progressively yours,  
Jim Scherneck