

The Real Solution for Government Spending

Scott Liddicoat, BCTA Member

Hooray! I'm going to get a \$1200...no, \$600... wait, no, a \$2000 check! Well ok, whatever, I'm going to get a check. So will you.

Where did the money come from? Someone in the Federal Treasury types a number into their computer—a number like \$2,500,000,000,000. They click "enter" and the money simply appears in the government spending register! In other words, the money is created out of...nothing. No one likes to say this, of course. To be polite we call it deficit spending, economic stimulus, or fiscal policy.

Washington politicians have done this for decades. Creating money from nothing, they've amassed a national debt of about \$30 trillion. It's senseless to think that we and our children will ever repay the \$90,000 we owe.

So, why not just blow off deficits and debt? Let's have the politicians create all of the money they want from now on. Think of the advantages!

With politicians creating all the money they want, taxes would no longer be necessary! That means no IRS to shake down worried taxpayers anymore. And relieved of any financial connection to government activities, Americans could simply leave the business of government to the real experts

our trendy political elites and their bureaucratic friends.

Big banks would love this arrangement! Washington politicians have already given them authority to create enormous sums of money. With this scheme, they'll be able to pyramid a bottomless ocean of cash. Banks will enjoy positively supernatural profits!

And politicians? They can create and spend all the money they want! Compulsive, destructive spending behaviors will not just be indulged. They'll be praised as a public good. Every crisis and desire can be funded. Politicians can continue to stimulate the economy without limit, in good times and bad. Money will be permanently available for their never-ending wars on crime, poverty, drugs, terror, etc. Then money, of course, for war. And we'll never have to endure another silly "budget crisis."

Time for a fiscal policy that really works. One that works without effort or worry. Politicians should simply create all the money they want.

Please, someone tell me...why not?

Scott

NOVEMBER MEETING NOTES

Green Bay City Council President Speaks to BCTA

Jesse Brunette, Green Bay City Council President, spoke about City issues and, in particular, the Green Bay city budget. Jesse represents the 12th aldermanic district on the far west side of Green Bay.

He served on the city council previously, representing a different district, Currently, He is the city council president, representing the 12th district since 2018. He served on the Brown County Board for four years representing district eight. Currently, he serves on the Green Bay Improvement and Services and the Parks Committees.

Every year, the mayor prepares the Green Bay municipal budget with his staff. He proposes it to the city council. First, it goes to the Finance and Personnel Committee, which is a four-member committee, all city council members. They massage it a little bit, increase it, decrease it, and then it goes to the full city council.

Net new construction growth in Green Bay is 1.6 percent. The Green Bay unemployment rate is at 5.6 percent. That is two percent less than the national rate. One good thing that the city has going for us in the next few years is that the tax increment financing (TIF) districts that the previous mayor pushed very hard to institute are maturing and producing revenue. A major issue was a reduction of \$850,000 in hotel room tax and interest income.

The finance director provides projections for us to work with. We have been living with the COVID situation since March. They determine where we're

overspent and underspent. We are underspent from this budget year now. The City budget came in over \$112 million, nearly \$113 million. It passed on a vote of seven to five. Jesse was one of the five who voted no. As for the assessed value, the mayor recommended \$9.75 per thousand. They were able to reduce that by 3 cents to \$9.72 per thousand. He is concerned about the trend of rising property taxes. An example is taxes are \$140 more this year compared to just three years ago for a \$200,000 property.

Jesse stated that he prefers to make sensible cuts now, so that we are protected going forward. It's his job to ask the tough questions. There is no harm in asking questions. The ones that don't want to tell what they're looking to do are most in need of transparency.

As for the equal rights ordinance, Jesse commented that he thinks it is mostly redundant. Most all of our equal rights protections are in state and federal law. He is concerned about creating new classes of protected individuals in the City. It's horrifying because the assumption of guilt is on you. You have to basically prove that you were not discriminating.

Frank Bennett, Elliot Christenson, Brian Verheyden, and Tom Sladek were elected as BCTA Directors for three-year terms ending October 31st, 2023.

BCTA officers elected for one-year terms were:

Rich Heidel	President
Rod Goldhahn	First Vice-President
Dave Dillenburg	Second First Vice-President
Tom Sladek	Treasurer
Dave Nelson	Secretary

Dave Nelson, BCTA Secretary

Articles and views appearing in the "TAX TIMES" do not necessarily represent the official position of the Brown County Taxpayers Association. We want to encourage discussion and input on current issues of taxpayer interest and invite your comments or articles suitable for future "TAX TIMEES." Please send them to the BCTA, P.O. Box 684, Green Bay, WI 54305-0684 or email BCTaxTimes@gmail.com

DECEMBER MEETING NOTES

“Dark Store” Property Tax Issue Explained

Mike Denor of Fair Market Assessments, assessors for several local municipalities, explained the controversies in the “dark store” assessment debate. Mike stated that he worked for the City of Green Bay until he went out on his own. His first contract was with the Town of Bellevue. He does a fair amount of large commercial work now and he works with Ashwaubenon, Howard and many other local municipalities.

Value in commercial property is very similar to residential property. In a residential home, an appraiser or an assessor will look for similar properties that have sold and then make adjustments for the differences they identify and change in the value.

First of all, Mike’s stand on the dark store theory. He thinks it's very unfair to use such an approach.

They haven't had much success with dark store litigation in Wisconsin. There are very few written decisions that we could use in case law, but there are a lot of unwritten strategies. As an example, a Walmart might be valued at \$10 million, and they'll have an appraisal using buildings that are vacant and looking for a second generation, something like that as their comparable and they will support a value instead of \$10 million, that will be at about six and a half million. And that will be their argument and when we are required to file suit, we'll file a lawsuit against a municipality, and we have to go to mediation then before proportional support, we're always required to go to

mediation. They have a lot of success with the dark store theory in Michigan.

While the municipalities have the property assessment responsibility, they receive only 15 to 20 percent of the property tax revenue. School districts are affected about three times as much. They receive 50 to 60 percent of the property tax revenue while having almost no participation in assessing and collecting property taxes.

It's really the big box stores raising dark store challenges. Lowes is real big in it and so is Target, to a certain extent. You've got appeals, certainly a lot of appeals from Menards and Walmart. Every property of Woodman's is a thorn there as well.

A couple, BCTA members for 18 years, presented their concerns about the deteriorating trends in our system of elections.

Kristina Shelton, newly elected Representative to the 90th Assembly District stated that she wants to establish communication with the BCTA. She was invited to return any time she wants the BCTA perspective on an issue.

Dave Nelson, BCTA Secretary

**SUPPORT THE BCTA
New Members are
Always Welcome.
Visit our website
www.BCTAxpayers.Org
for Details.**

Monthly Meetings @ The Village Grille

Monthly meetings are held at **The Village Grille, corner of Hoffman and East River Drive**, Allouez. The location has no stairs or steps, convenient parking, and a room to better accommodate speakers and conversation. There will be three selections from which to choose lunch - each one will be priced at \$12 (including tip.) Lunch is at 12:00 noon with monthly speakers presenting.

The TAX TIMES

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Meeting Location

The Village Grille, Allouez

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Thursday - Jan 21, 2021 BCTA Monthly Meeting.
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez
Chief David Litton, Green Bay Metro Fire Dept

Thursday - Feb 18, 2021 BCTA Monthly Meeting.
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez

BCTA monthly meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month, 12:00 Noon, at , at The Village Grille, Allouez.

Meetings are open to the public. BCTA Members, their guests and other interested parties are cordially invited to attend and participate in our open discussions.

**COST: \$12.00, Payable at meeting. Includes lunch, tax & tip.
Call Tom Sladek – 499-7701 for information or to leave message.**

Jan - Feb 2021



www.BCTAxpayers.Org
