

Watch Your Dollars

Dave Nelson, Secretary

The Federal Reserve is a national bank that politically manipulates interest rates and has a monopoly on printing money. Its policies have enabled the US Government to run up a national debt of more than **\$28 Trillion**. The US Government is spending 45 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current levels.

Money printing made it possible for the US Government to run up annual budget deficits of over \$3 trillion. A central bank controlling credit always leads to money supply inflation.

Do we have any hope that the Treasury can act judiciously, carefully reducing its spending while the Fed slows its money printing and brings it to a halt? Unfortunately, the massive volume of debt taken on since the beginning of the pandemic precludes shutting off the money machine, which is creating \$120 billion every month.

Cheap money allows US businesses to operate inefficiently, further weakening the US economy. With an abundant supply of cheap money, businesses focus on stock buybacks instead of cost control and improving production efficiency.

Another cloud on the horizon is the Chinese government's accumulation of physical gold. China is building the world's largest gold stockpile.

As it strives to become the world's largest economy, the Chinese government wants to own and control the world's reserve currency. A gold-backed world reserve currency would be attractive to many nations, many of which are unhappy with petrodollars. As the United States dollar has been the world's reserve currency for decades, it has enabled the US government to act irresponsibly, printing money instead of making difficult financial decisions.

What is a person to do as the buying power of the dollar weakens? Planning to live in an inflationary economy would be wise. Moving away from dollar-denominated assets would be prudent.

Can we expect leadership from Washington, D.C.?

"The Administration asks Americans to believe that it can raise income, corporate and death taxes, smother the private sector with regulations, kill the fossil-fuel industry and fill the regulatory agencies with activists fundamentally hostile to the nation's economic system and it will have no effect on economic performance. But much of what the president is doing will impede the recovery, reduce economic capacity, and fuel inflation." -- Analysts Phil Gramm and Rick Scott

Dave N.

MAY MEETING NOTES

Election Integrity in the State of Wisconsin

Jim Fitzgerald (Fitz), Chairman of the Republican Party of Brown County, spoke about election integrity in the state of Wisconsin.

One of the activities he's been involved in most recently has been election integrity in the state of Wisconsin. He has been participating in an ad hoc committee called a State Task Force to define the various tweaks and modifications and changes that absolutely need to be made to our state election laws.

One of the first things they did was to go out to a sampling of our leadership and our membership, asking them to identify what issues do they think need to be looked at, moving forward.

There were over 40 election reform topics that came up that have been identified for further study. Then, after looking at them, they were broken down into six different topic areas.

It's not a question of who won or who lost the election, but it's a question of faith or loss of faith in the democratic promises of our election system. If we lose the integrity of the ballot box and we lose your trust, we could make the argument that everybody becomes disenfranchised.

Let's talk about the disenfranchisement of the American public, the electorate that's been disenfranchised by this whole mess. There are currently 24 election bills that are being looked at in Madison. There are 20 plus more under consideration in the legislature right now.

We start with ballot drop boxes. The election reform task force has stated that we don't want any. We don't need them. Never did. Why do we have them now? And of course, what does the opposition hang on us? "You're disenfranchising a group of voters".

Did we disenfranchise that many people in the first 246 years of our history in this country?

The election reform task force has asked for clarification that a pandemic does not make everyone indefinitely confined. First and foremost, no one individual should have the unilateral decision-making authority to absolutely change the rhythm and flow of an election.

We've got to be thinking about the ballot chain of custody. It's very, very important that valid chains of custody exist. Where are the ballots coming from? Who had them last? Where are they during the hours from election closing or central count closing to the next morning?

The task force would like to see the implementation of signature verification included in this bill or a subsequent bill. For transparency, they recommend adding a requirement to chapter nine of the Statutes that absentee ballot applications be provided during a recount and add that ballot applications are subject to the public records law. Municipal clerks want to begin canvassing absentee ballots at 7:00 AM on the Monday before an election. They must stop counting at 10:00 PM.

The task force recommended an amendment to expressly prohibit "correcting" any ballots returned in violation of the law. Not cure them. Not change them. Not comment. Don't conflict. No. They either meet what is required or they don't. If they don't, they don't get counted. Period.

Another issue that deserves attention is long-term care facility voter integrity. What is important here is the requirement that long-term care facilities need to notify a resident's family of whether the special voting deputies will visit.

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SUPPORT THE BCTA

**New Members are Always
Welcome.**

www.BCTAxpayers.Org

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.

JUNE MEETING NOTES

NEW WATER OPERATIONS QUESTIONED

Fred Krumberger, a member of the Village of Suamico Public Works Commission, presented his observations about the costs and operations of New Water. Green Bay Metropolitan Sanitary District (the Met) and NEW Water are the same entity.

NEW Water is a government-sanctioned monopoly. It does not answer to voters or to any elected officials. It does not answer to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. It shows no regard for its ratepayers. NEW Water provides sewage treatment services to municipalities in Brown County. The municipalities maintain sanitary sewer systems servicing residential, commercial, and industrial customers within their municipal limits. Municipalities bill their residential, commercial, and industrial customers. The Municipal sewer systems pay a fee to NEW Water for wholesale sewage treatment services.

For about six years, Fred has served on the Village of Suamico Public Works Commission. The Commission oversees the Suamico Water and Sewer Utilities. Every Fall, the Commission must approve the Sewer Utility's rates for the new year. The story is always the same. Costs incurred within the Village are either flat or actually decreasing. However, annual double digit increases from Green Bay Metropolitan Sanitary District dba NEW Water drive rates higher.

NEW Water seems to have forgotten that they are a waste treatment utility. Their current mission statement says they are "A Water resource utility serving NE Wisconsin through pollution prevention, operational innovation, and community outreach." There is no mention of efficiency, cost control or transparency.

In 2021, NEW Water's fees to Brown County Municipalities will exceed \$37 million. For 2021, five communities have seen double-digit increases. All Brown County municipalities received 2021 increases from NEW Water that were multiple times the inflation rate.

A federal study of wastewater rate increases across the United States for the same time period (10 years) showed that about 90 percent of the studied wastewater utilities had increases less than NEW Water. About 12 percent of the studied wastewater utilities actually had rate decreases.

NEW Water has spent hundreds of millions of dollars in capital expenditures, but its own numbers show that the cost per pound of contaminant removed has gone up instead of down.

In the past 10 years, fees paid by Brown County municipalities are up on average by 65.5 percent, yet the total pounds of contaminants removed by NEW Water have declined by 14 percent. We are paying more for less.

Since 2012, NEW Water's office and administrative costs have increased more than four times the inflation rate. Contract services and spending on consultants increased by 4.6 times the inflation rate.

County Executive Troy Streckenbach appoints and repeatedly reappoints NEW Water Board members. Troy has resisted calls from a committee of Brown County municipalities who have asked for input into NEW Board Member appointments.

A better solution is a change to Wisconsin law to provide proportional representation on the NEW Board. A "carve-out" to Wisconsin Statutes 200.09 (b) has already been done for the sewage treatment utility in Dane County.

Here are some recommended remedial steps:

- ✓ NEW Water needs to refocus on its core business. Its Board should rewrite the mission statement to reaffirm the focus on efficient sewage treatment.
- ✓ NEW Water management needs to install performance metrics to assure that ratepayers are getting the results that they are paying for.
- ✓ There needs to be annual, specific, measurable objectives for efficiency, productivity, and expense control.

Dave Nelson, Secretary

"Government does not solve problems, it subsidizes them."

Ronald Reagan

The TAX TIMES

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Meeting Location

The Village Grille, Allouez

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Thursday - July 15, 2021 BCTA Monthly Meeting.
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez

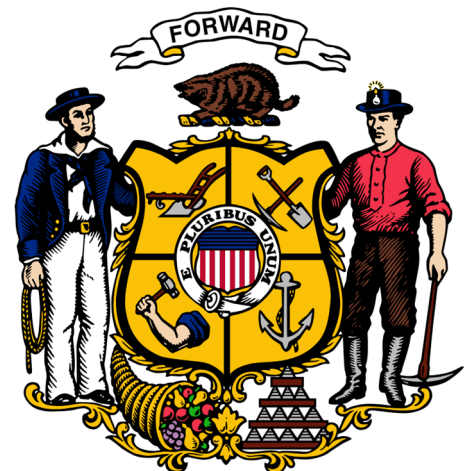
Thursday - Aug 19, 2021 BCTA Monthly Meeting.
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez
Attorney Anthony LoCoco, WILL

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.

July - Aug 2021



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