WAUKESHA COUNTY

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT



For the Year Ending December 31, 2016

WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN

Waukesha County Executive

Paul Farrow

(Term Expires April 2019)

Board of Supervisors

(Terms Expire April 2018)

Paul L. Decker	
James A. Heinrich	First Vice-Chairperson
David W. Swan	Second Vice-Chairperson

James Batzko	Richard Morris
Michael A. Crowley	Larry Nelson
Kathleen M. Cummings	Duane E. Paulson
Timothy Dondlinger	Thomas J. Schellinger

Jennifer Grant Jeremy Walz
Keith Hammitt Steve Whittow
Christine M. Howard Chuck Wood
Darlene M. Johnson Peter M. Wolff
Robert L. Kolb Ted Wysocki

Thomas Michalski William J. Zaborowski William A. Mitchell David D. Zimmermann

About the cover:

Waukesha County 's Bugline trail connects Menomonee Falls on the east to the Town and Village of Merton on the west. The 16-mile trail provides a year round scenic route for people who want to bike, walk, run or stroll with children and pets. Users can connect to nature, community restaurants, downtowns and shopping areas. Bridge and water views are of the Bark River in the Town of Lisbon.

Cover photos by:

Norm Cummings, Director of Administration

Composition and Layout by:

Nicole Armendariz, Press Secretary/PIO to the County Executive

The entire CAFR can be found at http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/cafr

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY OF WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

PREPARED BY:

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTING DIVISION/BUSINESS DIVISION

WAUKESHA COUNTY WISCONSIN

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT TABLE OF CONTENTS

Year Ended December 31, 2016

INTRODUCTORY SECTION	
Letter of Transmittal from County Executive and Director of Administration	1
GFOA Certificate of Achievement in Financial Report	
Department Heads of Waukesha County	
Officials of Waukesha County	
Organizational Chart	
FINANCIAL SECTION	
Independent Auditors' Report	15
Required Supplementary Information	
Management's Discussion and Analysis	21
Basic Financial Statements	
Government-wide Financial Statements:	
Statement of Net Position	33
Statement of Activities	34
Fund Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheet – All Governmental Funds	37
Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds to the	
Statement of Net Position	38
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances –	
All Governmental Funds	39
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes	
In Fund Balances – Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities	
Statement of Net Position – All Proprietary Funds	44
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position –	4.0
All Proprietary Funds	
Statement of Cash Flows – All Proprietary Funds	
Statement of Assets and Liabilities– Agency Funds	
Notes to Basic Financial Statements	55
Required Supplementary Information:	
General Fund:	
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual - General Fund	OF
Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) Wisconsin Retirement Systematics	
Schedule of Employer Contributions – Wisconsin Retirement System	
Notes to Required Supplementary Information	90
Supplementary Information:	55
Non-Major Special Revenue Funds:	
Combining Balance Sheet – All Non-Major Special Revenue Funds	105
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance –	100
All Non-Major Special Revenue Funds	106
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual –	
Aging and Disability Resource Center Contract Fund	107
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual –	
Federated Library Fund.	108
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual –	
CAFÉ Shared Automation Fund	109
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual –	
Walter Tarmann Fund	110
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual –	
Land Information System Fund	111

WAUKESHA COUNTY WISCONSIN

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT TABLE OF CONTENTS

Year Ended December 31, 2016

FINANCIAL SECTION (CONTINUED)	
Supplementary Information (Cont.):	
Non-Major Special Revenue Funds (Cont.):	
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual –	110
Transportation FundSchedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual –	112
Community Development Fund	112
Debt Service Fund:	113
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual -	
Debt Service Fund	117
Capital Projects Fund:	117
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual –	
Capital Projects Fund	121
Non-Major Enterprise Funds:	121
Combining Statement of Net Position – All Non-Major Enterprise Funds	125
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position – All Non-Major	120
Enterprise Funds	126
Combining Statement of Cash Flows – All Non-Major Enterprise Funds	
Internal Service Funds:	
Combining Statement of Net Position – All Internal Service Funds	132
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position – All Internal	
Service Funds	134
Combining Statement of Cash Flows- All Internal Service Funds	136
Agency Funds:	
Combining Statement of Assets and Liabilities – Agency Funds	142
Combining Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities – Agency Funds	144
General Long Term Debt:	
Schedule of Long Term Debt	
Schedule of Debt Service Requirements	152
Capital Assets Used in the Operation of Governmental Funds:	
Capital Assets Used in the Operation of Governmental Funds	
Schedule by Function and Activity	
Schedule of General Capital Assets by Function and Activity	159
Accumulated Depreciation of Capital Assets Used in the Operation of	
Governmental Funds – Schedule By Function and Activity	160

WAUKESHA COUNTY WISCONSIN

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT TABLE OF CONTENTS Year Ended December 31, 2016

STATISTICAL SECTION	
Table 1 – Net Position by Component – Last Ten Fiscal Years	164
Table 2 - Changes in Net Position - Last Ten Fiscal Years	166
Table 3 – Fund Balances - Governmental Funds - Last Ten Fiscal Years	170
Table 4 – Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds – Last Ten Fiscal Years	172
Table 5 – Equalized Value of Taxable Property – Last Ten Fiscal Years	174
Table 6 – Direct and Overlapping Property Tax Rates – Last Ten Fiscal Years	176
Table 7 – Principal Taxpayers – 2016 and Nine Years Prior	178
Table 8 – Property Taxies Levied and Collections – Last Ten Fiscal Years	179
Table 9 – Ratio of Outstanding Debt to Equalized Valuation and Debt Per Capita –	
Last Ten Fiscal Years	181
Table 10 – Legal Debt Margin Information - Last Ten Fiscal Years	182
Table 11 – Computation of Direct and Overlapping Debt	184
Table 12 – Demographic and Economic Statistics – Last Ten Fiscal Years	186
Table 13 – Ten Largest Employers – 2016 and Nine Years Prior	187
Table 14 – Full-Time Equivalent Budgeted County Positions by Functional Area – Last Ten Fiscal	Years 188
Table 15 - Miscellaneous Operating Indicators - Last Ten Fiscal Years	190
Table 16 – Capital Asset Statistics by Functional Area – Last Ten Fiscal Years	192

Paul F. Farrow
County Executive



June 2, 2017

The Honorable Chairperson of the County Board and Members of the County Board of Supervisors County of Waukesha Waukesha, Wisconsin

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are pleased to submit the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of the County of Waukesha, Wisconsin for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. Waukesha County management is responsible for all information presented in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and to the best of our knowledge and belief, the enclosed data is accurate in all material respects and is reported in a manner designed to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the various funds of the County. All disclosures necessary to enable the reader to gain an understanding of the County's financial activities have been included.

This report consists of management's representations concerning the finances of the County. Consequently, management assumes full responsibility for the completeness and reliability of all the information presented in this report. To provide a reasonable basis for making these representations, management of the County has established a comprehensive internal control framework that is designed both to protect the County's assets from loss, theft, or misuse and to compile sufficient reliable information for the preparation of the County's financial statements in conformity with GAAP. Because the cost of internal controls should not outweigh their benefits, the County's comprehensive framework of internal controls has been designed to provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance that the financial statements will be free from material misstatement. As management, we assert that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, this financial report is complete and reliable in all material respects.

The CAFR represents the culmination of all budgeting and accounting activities engaged in by management during the year, covering all funds of the County and its financial transactions. It is organized into three sections: Introductory, financial, and statistical.

- The introductory section includes this transmittal letter, the County's organizational chart and a list of principal officials.
- The financial section includes the independent auditors' report, management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), the audited basic financial statements, disclosure notes, required supplementary information, and supporting statements and schedules necessary to fairly present the financial position and the results of operations of the County in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The MD&A is prepared by management to provide a narrative introduction, overview, and analysis to accompany the basic financial statements. This letter of transmittal is designed to complement the MD&A and should be read in conjunction with it.
- The statistical section includes selected financial and demographic information, typically presented on a multi-year basis.

County policy, in accordance with state and federal requirements, is to provide for an annual audit of the financial records of the government by a competent certified public accountant. In addition to meeting the requirements set forth above, the audit was also designed to meet the requirements of the Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) and the State Single Audit Guidelines issued by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. The independent auditors' report on the basic financial statements is included in the financial section of this report. The auditors' reports related specifically to the single audit are included in a separately issued single audit report.

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PROFILE OF THE GOVERNMENT

Waukesha County was incorporated in 1846 under the General Laws of the State of Wisconsin. Since 1991, the County has operated under a County Executive form of government. The County Executive is responsible for the administrative functions of county government. A Board of Supervisors is the governing body of the County and is responsible for the legislative control of the County. The County provides a full range of services, which include justice and public safety; health and human services; environment, parks and education; public works; and general government services.

The County is required to undergo an annual single audit in conformity with the provisions of the Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) and the State Single Audit Guidelines issued by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. Information related to the single audit, including the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards, findings and recommendations, the independent auditors' reports on internal controls and compliance with applicable laws and regulations, is available as a separate document.

FACTORS AFFECTING FINANCIAL CONDITION

Local Economy

Waukesha County is located in southeastern Wisconsin, directly west of Milwaukee County and 100 miles northwest of Chicago. The County has the third highest equalized property tax base and is the State's third most populous county. The County is second in the State for per capita income. The County covers an area of 576 square miles and consists of 8 cities, 19 villages and 11 towns. The City of Milwaukee (one of the eight cities) has one parcel, a manufacturing plant, in Waukesha County on property annexed to allow access to Milwaukee sewer and water. The County's 2016 population is 396,449.

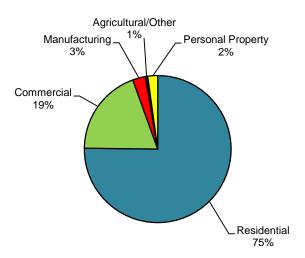
The County's history of sound financial management, a diverse and growing tax base, low unemployment, and a low debt burden suggest why Moody's Investors Service and Fitch, Inc. have enough confidence in the County to issue the highest rating of Aaa/AAA respectively on the County's long-term debt.

The County's equalized property value increased by 3.5% from the 2015 valuation. In 2016, the County experienced the third consecutive tax base valuation increase since 2008. Prior to 2009, the County had not experienced a tax base reduction in over 30 years. Annual changes are shown in the table below.

	Equalized Value	%
<u>Year</u>	(including TID's)	<u>Change</u>
2016	\$51,937,555,000	3.5%
2015	\$50,187,624,500	2.4%
2014	\$48,995,016,900	3.8%
2013	\$47,217,366,700	-1.1%
2012	\$47,739,764,800	-3.7%
2011	\$49,552,562,500	-1.5%

The graph on the following page shows the change in the equalized value of property by classification over the past five years. Residential classifications had the largest change from the 2015 valuation, with an increase of \$1.3 billion, or 3.5% which was mostly inflation. The graph on page 5 shows annual average employment within the County.

WAUKESHA COUNTY, WISCONSIN Equalized Value by Classification (Includes Tax Incremental District Value) 2016



Mix of Equalized Value by Class of Property (Millions of Dollars)

Real Estate	<u>2016</u>	<u>2011</u>	% Change
Residential	39,052	37,329	4.6%
Commercial	10,021	9,525	5.2%
Manufacturing	1,460	1,336	9.3%
Agricultural/Other	278	286	-2.8%
Total Real Estate	50,811	48,476	4.8%
Personal Property	1,127	1,077	4.6%
Grand Total	51,938	49,553	4.8%

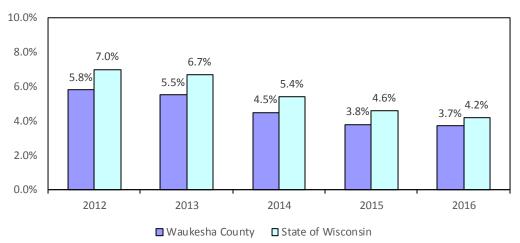
Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue

Residential property accounts for approximately 75% of the County's total tax base, so the value of residential building permits has been a good indicator of future year tax base increases.

	Waukesha County Residential Permits	
<u>Year</u>	Value in Thousands	Number
2016*	\$344,269	916
2015	301,244	813
2014	245,830	710
2013	230,391	671
2012	192,414	566
Source: U.S. Department. of Commerce *Preliminary		

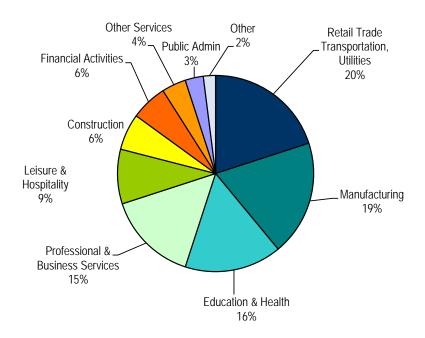
As the chart below shows, the County unemployment rate has remained consistently lower than the State of Wisconsin.

Unemployment Rate



Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development – Bureau of Workforce Information

WAUKESHA COUNTY, WISCONSIN 2016 Employment Diversification



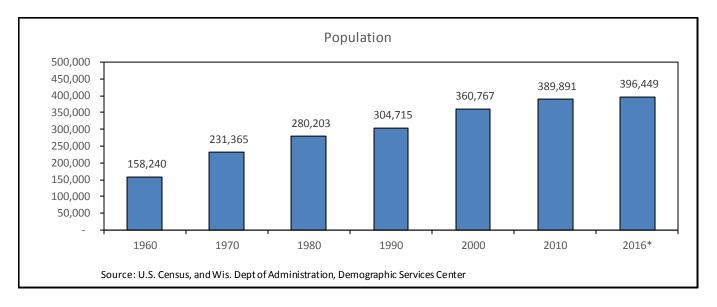
Number of Employees in Selected Categories

	2016 (1)	2015
	(NAICS)	(NAICS)
Retail Trade, Transportation, Utilities	48,377	47,395
Manufacturing	42,803	43,832
Education & Health	38,837	39,508
Professional & Business Serivces	36,836	35,066
Leisure & Hospitality	21,828	20,357
Construction	15,832	14,269
Financial Activities	16,022	15,586
Other Services	8,270	8,350
Public Administration	6,436	6,069
Other	5,466	4,620
TOTAL	240,707	235,052

(1) 2016 numbers are as of 3rd quarter, 4th quarter is not yet available

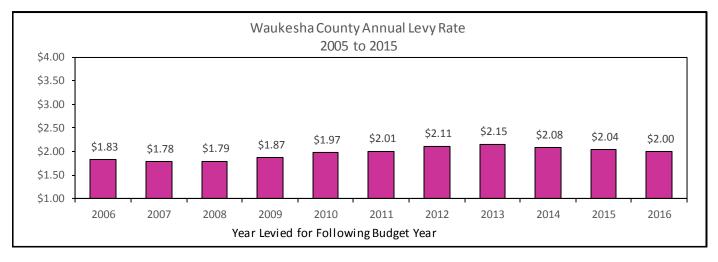
Source: The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Bureau of Workforce Information

Population has continued to increase. The 2016 population is estimated at 396,449, an increase of 1.7% from the 2010 census.



Property Tax Levy Rate

The County's tax levy rate, which had decreased for 18 consecutive years--from tax year 1989 to tax year 2007—increased in the six-year period from 2008-2013 and decreased in 2014-2016 due to an increase in property values and a small tax levy change.



The County also has available an unlevied 0.5% local option sales tax, with an annual estimated value in excess of \$35 million.

Tax Levy Limits

Wisconsin law limits local tax levy increases to the County's increase in its total property tax levy by the percentage change in the County growth in equalized value based on the net new construction value between the previous year and the current year. The 2016 Waukesha County Budget meets the tax levy limit.

See note 3 for further information.

Long Term Financial Planning

To plan for the future, the County engages in a strategic planning process which focuses on long term planning and the desire to be a mission driven organization continuously improving its services and operations.

The County develops a five-year capital projects and debt financing plan. In addition, a five-year operating budget plan is developed which incorporates key assumptions, significant strategic budget initiatives and budget drivers.

The County has processes to identify and plan for recurring operational needs for the following: building and grounds maintenance; vehicle and equipment replacements; technology and transportation infrastructure, jail equipment replacement and highway pavement maintenance.

Major Initiatives

The 2017-2021 Capital Projects Plan includes \$36.4 million for the first phase (2017-2020) of construction on eight new courtrooms. An additional \$6.4 million of the plan is dedicated to existing park roadways maintenance and \$3.9 for a new multi-use trail. The new multi-use trail is being mostly funded in federal, state and municipal revenues, covering 95% of the project costs. Another \$39.3 million or 40% of planned 2017-2021 capital spending is dedicated to highway improvements. This will be combined with \$46 million of Federal funds. Federal funding is not included in the County Budget since it is managed and accounted for by the State Department of Transportation with the County paying its share directly to the state.

Financial Information

Management of the County is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal controls designed to ensure that the assets of the County are protected from loss, theft, or misuse and to ensure that adequate accounting data is compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The system of internal controls is designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that: (1) the cost of the control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and (2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

Budgeting Controls

The County maintains budgetary controls, with the objective of ensuring compliance with legal provisions as embodied in the annual appropriations budget, which is adopted by the County's Board of Supervisors and approved by the County Executive. Activities of the General, Special Revenue, Debt Service, Capital Projects, Enterprise and Internal Service funds are included in the annual appropriation budget. Budgetary control is maintained by a formal appropriation and encumbrance system. Expenditures cannot legally exceed appropriations at the agency level, pursuant to s65.90, Wisconsin State Statutes. Proprietary fund budget controls are maintained at the agency/fund level. However, the County has chosen a more restrictive control within agency budgets in the governmental (general and special revenue) funds. The annual budget approved by the County Board is by agency appropriation unit in each fund. An appropriation unit is a group of account classes (e.g. personnel, operating, interdepartmental) within an agency. Purchase orders and/or payment vouchers which would exceed the appropriation unit are not released until additional appropriations are available. As demonstrated by the statements included in the financial section of this report, the government continues to meet its responsibility for sound financial management.

AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Awards

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the County for its comprehensive annual financial reports for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015. This was the twenty-ninth consecutive year that the government has achieved this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current comprehensive annual financial report continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

In addition, the County also received the GFOA's Award for Distinguished Budget Presentation for thirty of the past thirty-one fiscal years beginning 1987 through 2017 (the 1996 Budget was not submitted). In order to qualify for the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the County's budget document was judged to be proficient in several categories including policy documentation, financial planning, organization and communication.

Acknowledgements

The preparation of this report on a timely basis could not be accomplished without the efficient and dedicated services of the Department of Administration's Accounting, Business, Budget, and Administrative Division's staff. We would like to express our appreciation to all members of our staff, including Accounting Services Manager, Lawrence Dahl; Principal Financial Projects Analyst, Danielle Igielski; Principal Financial Projects Analyst, Robert Ries; Financial Analyst, Kayla Kaboskey; Budget Management Specialist, William Duckwitz; Administrative Services Coordinator, Linda Gebhard; and Administrative Assistant, Susan Scholl, who assisted and contributed to the preparation of this report.

Appreciation is also expressed for the excellent assistance received from our independent auditors, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP. We would also like to thank the County Board and Finance Committee Chairpersons, the County Board of Supervisors, and the Finance Committee for their interest and support in planning and conducting financial operations of the County in a responsible and forward thinking manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul F. Farrow County Executive

Morman A. Cummings Director of Administration



Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

Waukesha County Wisconsin

For its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended

December 31, 2015

Executive Director/CEO

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WAUKESHA COUNTY

Department Heads as of December 31, 2016

	Administration	Norman A. Cummings
*	Deputy Chief Judge	Jennifer R. Dorow
*	Clerk of Courts	Kathleen A. Madden
	Corporation Counsel	Erik G. Weidig
*	County Board Chairperson	.Paul L. Decker
*	County Clerk	Kathleen O. Novack
*	County Executive	. Paul Farrow
*	District Attorney	Susan L. Opper
	Emergency Preparedness	Gary Bell
	Federated Library	Connie Meyer
	Health & Human Services	Antwayne Robertson
	Medical Examiner	Lynda M. Biedrzycki
	Parks & Land Use	Dale R. Shaver
	Public Works	Allison M. Bussler
*	Register of Deeds	James R. Behrend
*	Sheriff	Eric J. Severson
*	Treasurer	Pamela F. Reeves
	University of Wisconsin-Extension	Jerry Braatz

* Elected Position

OFFICIALS OF WAUKESHA COUNTY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BOARD YEAR #171 (2016)

(Term Expires April, 2018)

Chairperson	Paul L. Decker
First Vice Chairperson	.James A. Heinrich
Second Vice Chairperson	David W. Swan

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Paul L. Decker, Chairperson James A. Heinrich, Vice Chair Christine M. Howard Larry Nelson David W. Swan
Peter M. Wolff
David D. Zimmerman

FINANCE COMMITTEE

James A. Heinrich, Chairperson Timothy Dondlinger Thomas A. Michalski Richard Morris Duane E. Paulson, Vice Chair Steve Whittow Ted Wysocki

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Christine M. Howard, Chairperson Darlene M.Johnson Robert L. Kolb Duane E. Paulson .Vice Chair Jeremy Walz Chuck Wood William J. Zaborowski

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Larry Nelson, Chairperson Jim Batzko Michael A. Crowley, Vice Chair Jennifer A. Grant Thomas A. Michalski William Mitchell Jeremy Walz

JUDICIARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Peter M. Wolff, Chairperson Jim Batkzo Michael A. Crowley Kathleen M. Cummings Vice Chair Timothy Dondlinger Jennifer Grant William J. Zaborowski

LAND USE, PARKS, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

David D. Zimmerman. Chairperson Kathleen M. Cummings Keith Hammit Robert L. Kolb William Mitchell Thomas J. Schellinger Ted Wysocki

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

David W. Swan, Chairperson Keith Hammit, Vice Chair Darlene M.Johnson Richard Morris Thomas J. Schellinger Steve Whittow Chuck Wood

Waukesha County Organizational Chart

