



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Lee Holloway

Chairman of the Board

November 13, 2006
For Immediate Release
Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager 414/278-4051
harold.mester@milwcnty.com

BOARD CHAIRMAN RESPONDS TO ATTACK ON MANAGEABLE COUNTY BUDGET

County's budget is fiscally responsible and balanced

Milwaukee, WI – On Friday, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker said the County Board's 2007 Budget is out of balance and irresponsible. Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway disagrees, saying the County Board's 2007 Adopted Budget adds resources to make sure it's NOT out of balance. Holloway said, "We've added these resources to make sure the job gets done efficiently, preferably with county workers, or without if need be."

The Board is being responsible in labor negotiations. It's using a stick-and-carrot approach to create incentives for AFSCME union workers to accept new wage and benefit proposals. The County is still waiting for the union to agree to a wage and benefit proposal that has been offered to them. It's a plan already approved for other union and non-union employees, as well as retirees. Without that agreement, AFSCME employees will continue to pay less for health care coverage than other union and non-union employees.

The Board's 3.64% tax levy increase is in line with increases in other counties and municipalities in southeast Wisconsin. "In comparison to surrounding local governments, our Budget is reasonable and manageable," Holloway said. Taxes are slated to increase almost ten percent in Walworth County next year.

The County Board has made a commitment to perform due diligence for the nearly half-a-billion dollars in pension obligations. The Board did not strike or modify any of the County Executive's proposed language regarding the pension obligation bond proposal. The Board did, however, insert additional safeguards to ensure that all potential risks are fully documented, including an actuarial analysis of the impact it may have on the pension fund.

The County Board will consider any vetoes from the County Executive this Wednesday, November 15th at 1:30 p.m.

###