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The Wave of the Future

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## Winnebago County Board Proposes Resolution on Potential Sales Tax Ordinance

[Winnebago County, WI] – The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors will consider a resolution at it's meeting tonight that would direct county staff to draft an ordinance to enact a countywide sales tax for possible action at the October 21<sup>st</sup> County Board meeting.

The resolution is being introduced by Winnebago County Board Supervisor and Vice-Chair Chuck Farrey (Town of Vinland) and, if adopted, would not itself implement a sales tax. Instead, it would instruct staff to prepare draft ordinance language and accompanying analysis so that supervisors and the public may review the potential impacts before any decision is made.

"This step begins a conversation but does not finalize any outcome," said County Executive Gordon Hintz. "I will be giving a presentation planned months ago, to ensure supervisors have the necessary information in front of them, including legal requirements, revenue projections, pros/cons, and possible uses, before considering whether a sales tax is in the county's best interest."

Under Wisconsin law, counties are authorized to impose a sales tax of 0.5% on taxable goods and services. Revenue from such a tax is used to offset property tax levies, fund capital projects, or support long-term financial stability. The Board will discuss the resolution tonight at 6pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the County Courthouse. If adopted, staff will return at a later meeting with the draft ordinance language and analysis for further consideration.

"I am committed to the long-term best interests of the county," said Executive Hintz "and if the Board proposes a thoughtful plan to utilize sales tax revenues to provide meaningful property tax reduction & long-term financial stability for the county I would consider supporting it."

Executive Hintz will be available to the media at 5:30pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Winnebago County Courthouse. Executive Hintz will give presentation on the sales tax to the board. It can be viewed in advance here.