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ORDINANCE: Amend Winnebago County General Code Section 5.04 (2)(a) pertaining to Cremation Permit Fees

TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. 59.36 provides in pertinent part that "the board shall set the fees for all services rendered by the coroner or medical examiner"; and

WHEREAS, prior to 2012 the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors established \$150.00 fee for the issuance of a crematory permit; and

WHEREAS, in mid-2015, the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors raised the permit fee to \$200.00 but the passage of Wis. Stat. 59.365 prohibited the fee increase. Wis. Stat. 59.365 provided in pertinent part; and

WHEREAS, "(1) From July 14, 2015 to April 17, 2017, the board may not charge an amount that exceeds the amount that was actually charged on April 17, 2015 ...

(2) If on or after April 18, 2017, the board increases the amount of any of the fees specified in sub. (1)(a) to (c), any such increase may not exceed the annual percentage changed in the U.S. consumer price index for all urban consumers, U.S. city average, as determined by the U.S. department of labor, for the 12 months ending on December 31 of the year before the increase."

WHEREAS, the costs associated with materials and professional supplies for the Coroner's Office have increased by the fees related to the cremation fees have remained the same; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. 365 allows a yearly increase and it is the Coroner office's recommendation to implement two increases: the immediate increase based on the 2021 Consumer Price Index and a proposed increase in 2023 based on the 2022 Consumer Price Index.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS: that Section 5.04 (2)(a) be amended to allow a \$10.00 increase in the cremation permit fee, raising the permit fee to \$160.00.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Winnebago that said amendment to the General Code of Winnebago County shall become effective as the date following the date of publication.

Fiscal Note: This ordinance change will increase revenue in the Medical Examiner's Office by approximately \$12,500 per year.

Respectfully submitted by:
JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Committee Vote: _____

Respectfully submitted by:
PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Vote: _____

43 Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of Those Present**

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46 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2020.

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Jonathan D. Doemel
Winnebago County Executive