

Chair

Dear :

Recently, two committees of the Southeastern Wisconsin Stadium District Board voted to approve funding from a contingency account for the installation of new ribbon video screens inside Miller Park. Initially, I asked each of my two appointees to vote against the expenditure.

After further review and information provided by Mike Duckett, it became clear that the current lease requires the stadium district board to install the system because more than 75% of the ball parks in Major League Baseball have them installed or have contracts to have them installed by the start of the 2006 season. Legally, the lease drafted nearly a decade ago obligates the stadium district board.

At the time, I believe that the lease was put in place to insure that Miller Park remains a "state-of-the-art" stadium. Looking at the black and white (or black and yellow) score board in the old County Stadium, it was clear that the new ball park should not fall far behind the rest of the baseball world.

Still, as some point, there has to be a distinction between what is needed to operate a "state-of-the-art" facility and what is really being done just to bring in more revenues for the ball team. I am a great fan of the Brewers, but I also believe that the taxpayers must be protected in this lease agreement.

Having said that, I propose that the stadium district board seek to renegotiate the terms of the lease with the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club. With new ownership and a new agenda, I think that there maybe numerous areas were a new lease can be beneficial to both the Brewers and the taxpayers.

Specifically, I am interested in seeing that the lease reflect the importance of using segregated funds for essential stadium operations. In addition, I think the taxpayers of the five counties are very interested in any plans that can move the end of the .10% tax sooner than 2014.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to talking with you about this issue.

Sincerely,

Scott Walker
Milwaukee County Executive

CC: Members, SEWSDB