

TUA NEWS RELEASE

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HIGH SALARIES AND LAVISH PENSIONS TO MAKE MILLIONAIRES OF MANY SHAWANO-AREA GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

SHAWANO--Employees of the Shawano School District, City of Shawano, and Shawano County enjoy high salaries with fringe benefits and, when they retire, will have lavish, gold-plated retirement programs, while local taxpayers suffer through the worst economic climate since the Great Depression, charged Taxpayers United of America (TUA) in a just-published report. Huge pension payments will literally make some of these government retirees millionaires.

“The average personal income in Shawano County is a scanty \$28,000, and the county’s median home value is a paltry \$123,000. The unemployment rate as of May is a brutal 8.7 percent,” said Christina Tobin, TUA Vice President. “But while Shawano taxpayers are suffering, **Todd Carlson**, of the Shawano School District, pulls in an annual salary of \$127,992 plus fringe benefits of \$43,867. When he retires, his estimated annual pension including Social Security will start at \$115,594. Over a normal lifetime, he will collect over \$2,427,474 in total pension payments.”

Fringe benefits include charges paid by local taxpayers, such as Social Security taxes, health insurance premiums and retirement contributions.

“**Gary Cumberland** of the Shawano School District also is doing very well compared to taxpayers who pay his salary. His annual salary is \$104,912 plus fringe benefits of \$39,326. When he retires, his estimated annual pension including Social Security will start at \$98,836, and over a normal lifetime, he will collect over \$2,075,556 in total pension payments.”

“City of Shawano government employees also are enjoying high salaries and lush retirement programs. **James Stadler**, Administrator, pulls in an annual salary of \$99,450, and when he retires, his estimated annual pension including Social Security will start at \$94,709. Over a normal lifetime, he will collect over \$1,988,889 in total pension payments.”

“Topping the list of Shawano County government salaries is **Anthony Kordus**, Corporation Counsel, pulling in \$88,401 a year. When he retires, his estimated annual pension including Social Security will start at \$85,475. Over a normal lifetime, he will collect over \$1,794,975 in total pension payments.”

Wisconsin’s pension system is making wealthy individuals out of public employees at taxpayer expense,” said Tobin. “New government hires should plan and pay for their own retirements with 401(k) plans and Social Security, just as workers in the private sector.”