

Mayor Hedglon's Special Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Notes
July 28, 2009

Attending:

Mayor Hedglon
Bob Pryor
Bruce Herb
John Reinhardt
Kevin Salerno
Shirley Lomery
Paul Newsom
Al White
Charlie Donovan
George Clark
John Little
Jean Coolican

Absent:

Sarah Marshall
Kent Johnson

Meeting commenced with a welcome of new committee member Al White, who is representing the Second Ward and John Little, who is representing the PBA and was previously unable to attend.

Charlie Donovan then nominated John Reinhardt to be the Vice-Chairman of the committee and George Clark seconded the motion.

Mayor Hedglon informed the Advisory Committee that there is now a copy of the budget on the City of Oneida website: www.oneidacity.com.

There was continued discussion of the committee's responsibilities. The Mayor reiterated that he would like more input on the various city services and the need versus the want for such services. Paul Newsom expressed concern that the committee did not have enough information and that it would be helpful to be able to manipulate that information. The Mayor stated that he would prefer the committee to not get into too much detail, that they should consider the information from a broad perspective. The Mayor did also state that he would get more information for the committee, including the organization chart for the city as well as a list of city services offered.

Mayor Hedglon stated that in 2008 he asked that all departments give him a list of responsibilities. He also requested that from those lists, department heads suggest what could be cut from the budget. He will request this again in 2009, also asking that the department heads prioritize those responsibilities from most crucial down to least crucial.

Al White noted that from 2004 through 2009 there was around a 30% increase of expenses while only about 26% increase in revenues for same period. Al also requested a report reflecting what the 2009 expenses to date are, at least through June 30. He felt that possibly longer term projections – either of 3 or 5 years – could be helpful in making decisions that impact the budget. It had already been determined that in the short term, the city is covering expenses but in 3 years, the General Fund could be depleted. Several members of the committee also felt more budget detail by department could assist decision making.

There was a brief capital project discussion about how many had been deferred over the years to the detriment of the city. Case in point – the roof at City Hall. A new goal for the city was offered up – Come up with a way to save money for future projects as opposed to borrowing for those projects. Madison County has been able to do this with their Solid Waste Disposal department.

Bruce Herb made a note that an additional source of revenue for the city could be an increase in fees charged or charging for items not previous charged for – an example would be requiring General Contractors to be licensed in the city in order to perform work.

Meeting was then adjourned. Next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 12, 2009, instead of the usual Tuesday meeting.