

Community Update with Mayor Nickels

5-10-2009

“State Budget Concerns”

This past week I went down to Madison to meet with Governor Jim Doyle, along with several other Mayors, to discuss the upcoming state budget.



It was reported to us that the state is another 1.5 billion dollars in deficit due to unexpected shortfalls in revenues. From March 08 to March 09, revenues were down 52 % than expected, and that is where the numbers began to accrue.

The Governor also informed us that shared revenues would also be decreased again this year. Originally, he has suggested a 1% cut in shared revenue, but now is warning that that number may be closer to 5%.

He did not give specific numbers because he does not have them yet, but we hope to have definite numbers early this week.

The City of Manitowoc receives around 6 million dollars of shared revenue annually, and that money is used in the general budget for all different types of items.

We all understand that we are going through difficult times, which is why the common belief shared by the Mayor's around the state is to not raise property taxes. By not doing so, we face some very difficult challenges to balance our budgets at a local level.

I will be sitting down with our Finance Director this week to begin the budget process for the City of Manitowoc. This is earlier than usual, but due to the circumstances I want to begin as soon as possible to hammer out all the details that will be discussed over the next few months.

Also in regards to the budget, we have applied for over 6 million dollars worth of stimulus monies in several different areas. One grant we have already been awarded was for \$500,000 dollars in harbor dredging.

Other requests include S. 10th street, the 21st street viaduct, and habitat restoration at Silver Creek.

We hope to hear about the status of these requests in the near future.

This upcoming week I will be meeting with Greg Buckley and his Department Heads to discuss the relationship between Manitowoc and Two Rivers, and to discuss Stimulus Grant Funding Activities and Opportunities for both our cities.

I also have several different meetings, and will be awaiting more specific answers in regards to Governor Doyle's budget, and how it will ultimately affect Manitowoc.

Community Update with Mayor Nickels

As always, please feel free to contact my office at anytime with any questions, comments, or concerns. My assistant is Anne Brogan and she can help you in any way if I am not available. The number is 686-6980. My office is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. until noon; it is closed from noon until 1:00 for lunch, and open again from 1:00 until 4:30.

