

Northville Budget Committee refines brainstorming session

Revenue ideas to be reviewed next

By Pam Fleming • STAFF WRITER • September 23, 2010

Still considered to be a work in progress, the Northville **Citizens** Budget Committee looked at ways to reduce expenditures Sept. 16.

This meeting was an attempt to refine a brainstorming session on Sept. 13. Several items were thrown out, and others were determined to be a medium or high priority.

At this stage, committee members are only asking Pat Sullivan, city manager, and other staff members to provide them with more information on items before moving forward.

The committee meets again at 7 p.m. on Sept. 27 at city hall to review ways to increase revenue.

The committee is only looking at ways to cut expenditures and increase revenue in the general fund.

Residents are encouraged to attend the budget committee meetings to offer their input. The committee hopes to be able to make some recommendations to city council by around the first of November.

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Eliminate vehicle allowances for city officials, and instead use a fuel-efficient pool car.
Make all clerical staff part-time, and make the fire chief's position part-time.
Initiate up to a 15-percent salary reduction for non-union employees.
Use compensatory time rather than overtime pay.
Freeze all overtime pay. Negotiate a new two-tiered wage scale and benefit scale for new employees.
Eliminate any carryover vacation time or sick pay.
Eliminate longevity pay.
Provide an early retirement incentive for eligible employees.
Request a 5-percent reduction with union employees.
Consider 12-26 furlough days a year for city employees.
Remove the city council stipend or suggest a stipend give-back.
Contract out DPW work. Outsource holiday decorations work and trash pickup for special events.
Eliminate all city equipment and outsource such services as street sweeping and leaf pickup.
Consolidate duplicate services with township.
Return \$250,000 allocated to Northville DDA back to the Public Improvement Fund. Hire an outside firm to manage energy use.
Reduce number of city vehicles, such as DPW and police.
Less mowing or "no-mow" zones for city property.
Try to get a 10-percent reduction in cost from vendors, including auditors and legal services.
Reduce the non-personnel budget by 10-15 percent.
Combine purchasing with other communities to save money.
Review shared services (parks and recreation, senior services, Northville Youth Assistance).
Eliminate labor attorney from labor negotiations.

Ideas

Following are some ideas being bantered about in the meetings:

Possible joint purchase of health care and using a third party administrator for health insurance. Freeze health care at current levels. Drop health insurance stipends for retirees age 65 and older. Increase employee contributions to health insurance. Insure employees only, not family members. Raise deductibles and co-pays on health insurance. Move to HAP or an HMO on health insurance.

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