



Finance and Insurance Committee
May 12, 2014
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Minarcin at 5:55pm. Mr. Minarcin, Dr. Ruse, Mr. Wagner, and Finance Director Freeman were in attendance; City Administrator Ciecka entered the meeting later.

A draft Estimate of Revenues for 2015 was reviewed by the committee, Mrs. Freeman and Mr. Ciecka. There are no new revenue sources anticipated for 2015. Income taxes are projected to continue to increase, while state shared revenues are expected to continue to decline. The Committee approved the 2015 Estimate of Revenues, and agreed to present it to Council at the May 27 meeting for approval.

The special assessment for street lighting was also evaluated by the Committee. Recent collections, costs, and future plans were considered. Based on this information the Committee discussed whether to decrease, maintain, or increase the current assessment. It is the Committee's recommendation that the special assessment be maintained at its current level (designed to generate \$210,000 per year).

A report from R.I.T.A. was given in response to several questions that had been raised by Mr. Minarcin. First, responding to questions raised by a constituent Mr. Minarcin wanted to identify the amount of income tax collected from minors under the age of 18. The individual would like the City to consider waiving taxes for students under 18 who are working and going to school trying to get a start in life. R.I.T.A. is unable to identify receipts from taxpayers based on age, because no age information is collected on tax forms. Mrs. Freeman looked at the tax codes of our neighboring community and was unable to identify any community that currently waives municipal taxes for minors. If no changes are made to standard tax forms, a waiver of taxes could be handled by a rebate of taxes at the end of the tax year. The committee will continue to look at this issue and collect data.

Secondly, the question was raised about what R.I.T.A. is doing to insure that the problems with on-line filing which occurred this year do not repeat. R.I.T.A. Member Relations reported that until 2014 the website for e-filing had operated with 10 MGs of bandwidth. Usage had been monitored and R.I.T.A. had not experienced traffic greater than 2MGs at any time. In 2014, usage jumped dramatically and all 10 MGs were in use the last few days before the filing deadline. This bandwidth was immediately increased to 50 MGs, which should allow 10,000 taxpayers to be on the system at the same time. Analysis of the situation and the need for further steps is still on-going.

Mr. Wagner requested that the Committee look at the possibility of lowering taxes for new small businesses to encourage economic development. It was noted that Maumee has a job creation ordinance that allows for tax reductions or tax rebates for businesses that create new jobs. Mrs. Freeman will research Maumee's tax code and report at the next meeting.

Mrs. Freeman stated that the auditors have completed all of their on-site review and they have indicated that the city should receive another clean audit with no findings.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Dr. Ruse. The meeting ended at 6:35pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 6:00pm on July 14, 2014.