

August 11, 2006

Dear Wausau Resident:

Your City Government is constantly facing challenges that require us to balance the provision of public services and facilities against ever-increasing costs. As the price of gasoline, electricity, asphalt, paint, health insurance, and other purchases increases, we are faced with the necessity of either cutting the level of services to reduce costs or attempting to generate additional revenue. One method of generating more revenue is to require all property owners, including nonprofit organizations, to pay for certain types of services like stormwater management. Another method is for residential property owners to be billed separately for the cost of garbage collection and recycling rather than the City paying these costs with property tax revenue.

To help give City officials an idea of how a cross-section of our community feels about City operations and potential service cuts, we are asking you to complete the enclosed survey. The results of the survey will be used by me, the Common Council, and City staff to prioritize services and improve financial planning and management of City Government. You are one of only 2,000 people in the community to receive this questionnaire; therefore, your feedback is very important.

The survey may look long but it is very easy to complete. **Please help us by taking about 10 minutes to fill it out and return it in the enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope by August 30, 2006.** Your participation is crucial to ensuring that we properly evaluate City services and develop a plan for financing the activities of City Government.

Thank you in advance for participating in this community effort.

Sincerely,

Jim Tipple, Mayor
City of Wausau

Enclosures