



3 September 2009

Richard Meyer
1201 Grove St
Menasha, Wisconsin 54952

Dear Mr. Meyer,

On behalf of the employees of the city of Menasha, and especially the department of public works, I would like to thank you for your letter of August 28th. I have shared your letter with the public works department staff and they too are very appreciative of your kind words.

We are fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated group of people working for the city in our public works department. With skills ranging from snow plowing, to concrete and asphalt, general construction and building maintenance, utility maintenance, sign installation, and sanitation our staff has a diverse skill set that suits the city's needs well. Information was given to the common council the evening of August 16th regarding outsourced recycling costs in the town of Menasha. This information showed that their cost was 8% higher than our cost using city staff, and the town doesn't have a drop off site which is included in our lower costs.

This being said, we continue to strive for efficiencies throughout every department to keep the services provided to you at a high level and at a reasonable cost. Through the budget process this year we are taking new approaches that will save overtime hours, search out energy efficiency projects (the first of which is already approved saving \$6000 annually on lighting costs), review rental fees for athletic facilities, and search out new sponsorship/fundraising opportunities (in light of the success of the K9 project last year).

Menasha is a great place to live and work, it will continue to be so with the efforts of our staff, and citizens like you.

Sincerely,

Donald Merkes

Cc: Common Council