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James E. Herbst
819 E. Fathom Place
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Common Council
City of West Allis
7414 West Greenfield Avenue
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

RE: Retiree Health Insurance Open Enrollment

Dear Alderpersons:

I am writing in regard to the packet of information mailed out by the Human Resources Department which included the application form for the 2016-2017 retiree health insurance plan. According to the letter which accompanied this packet, retirees must return the application to the Human Resources department no later than February 10, or face financial penalties. Although the postmark on the packet was dated January 25, I did not receive it until February 3. The reason for this is because I spend part of the winter months in Florida and I have my mail forwarded.

Given the amount of information to digest in this packet, it is extremely difficult to make an informed decision and get it back to the Human Resources Department by the February 10 deadline.

Some years back, I asked the Department to look into digitizing this information and transmitting it as an email attachment to those who had "signed up" for such a delivery method. This would have the added benefit of saving on postage (According to the postmark, the postage was \$3.18 per packet. Multiplied by the approximately 500 recipients, that comes to nearly \$1,600). Regrettably, I never heard back regarding my suggestion.

I do not understand why my suggestion was not implemented. It seems to me this is no different than what my auto insurance carrier and property insurance carrier are now doing. Almost all insurance companies no longer send out "hard copies" of their policies, unless specifically requested by the customer.

I am sympathetic to your honorable body regarding the many difficult decisions you are faced with in the coming year. But it seems to me that this would be a no-brainer.

Respectfully/


Jim Herbst

email Alderperson
R. Grill
A. Key
M. Schultz