



City of Saratoga Springs

MAYOR'S OFFICE

CITY HALL

474 Broadway

Saratoga Springs, New York 12866

Telephone 518-587-3550

Fax 518-587-1688

SCOTT T. JOHNSON
Mayor

SHAUNA M. SUTTON
Deputy Mayor

THERESE CONNOLLY
Executive Assistant to the Mayor

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, March 20, 2009

CONTACT: Scott T. Johnson 518-587-3550 ext. 2520 or 518-860-9984

CITY'S FAIR, HONEST AND REASONABLE CONTRACT OFFER REJECTED BY CSEA-DPW UNION

City of Saratoga Springs Mayor Scott T. Johnson today reacted to the City CSEA-DPW declaration of impasse regarding the current employment contract negotiations between that union and the City, "During these times of great economic uncertainty, it is critical to protect the City's taxpayers from increasing labor expenses, while at the same time ensuring a high level of services. I am disappointed to learn that the DPW union rejected the City's most recent offer."

The City's offer to the Union included Salary increases of 1.5 % in the first year, 2.5% in the second year and an option for a 3% increase in the third year provided employees increase their contribution 5% toward their health care costs. These increases would help protect DPW workers salary from inflationary pressures. Currently over 50%, 49 out of 95, of the DPW workers make no contributions to their health insurance premiums. The City's proposal also includes no current layoffs for DPW workers. The City had already agreed to a number of the union's demands but drew the line when higher raises were demanded.

"Declaration of impasse in our negotiations, despite the diligent, ongoing efforts by the City, my office and our entire negotiating team is truly unfortunate," said Mayor Johnson in response to this news. "For months, the City has engaged in good faith negotiations with the DPW union, offering compromises and proposals which are not only responsive to the union's demands, but which reflect the deteriorating economic climate facing our City, State and Nation. Our latest offer represents a fair, honest and reasonable proposal to our hard-working employees."

The City's proposal is within the budget adopted by the City Council and would not change the zero percent tax increase in this year's budget, which was previously passed by the Council. "This proposal is fair to the citizens of the City of Saratoga Springs. This proposal is fair to the CSEA-DPW union workers, as well. Our community is not immune from today's economic uncertainties. Therefore, we drafted a proposal that was beneficial to our public works employees, and which would keep the City fiscally sound." Johnson continued. Other than the salary increases, the only proposal put forth by the union was adoption of a Canadian drug plan. The Union leaders could not, however, assure the City that any members of the union would actually join the plan. "The union's rejection of the proposal without a meaningful counterproposal forces negotiations to enter mediation through the New York State Public Employment Relations Board. I am hopeful that the PERB process facilitates a cost effective resolution. To concede to further demands by the Union will only raise the likelihood of layoffs. I am discouraged at the delay the union has caused the City and it's citizens," Johnson concluded.

###