

## **City budget to be released today**

Sunday, June 7, 2009

**ATTLEBORO** - The city will learn its financial fate today when Mayor Kevin Dumas delivers the 2010 budget to the city council at a special meeting scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

While Dumas and one of the biggest city unions declined to reveal details of the spending plan that has to cope with deep cuts in local aid, there were indications that a deal has been worked out, possibly involving unpaid furloughs, to avoid a number of layoffs and to hold on to critical city services.

Firefighters union President Brian Dubuc said he's "optimistic," and if all goes according to a tentative deal, the outcome could be better than expected just a week ago.

"If it goes through the way I think it will, I think the city of Attleboro and the taxpayers will be very pleased," he said.

Dumas has been meeting with each union and each city department over the past 14 days, trying to find some way to avoid as many as 60 layoffs. Prior to a state Senate decision not to increase local aid as expected, Dumas said he had been able to formulate a budget without layoffs.

All that changed about two weeks ago, when the Senate decided to increase taxes but not to use the proceeds to pump money back into local aid.

That decision lopped about \$1 million out the city's budget, forcing Dumas to scramble.

All told, the city must overcome about a \$2.3 million loss in local aid and other revenue reductions. About \$700,000 of the cuts were made this year, leaving a deficit of about \$1.6 million for 2010.