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Silvis council hears dark forecast for state payments

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By Seth Kabala, correspondent@qconline.com

The Illinois Municipal Review has made a prediction for the amount of state revenue coming to cities this year, and according to Silvis Mayor Bill Fox it's "not real rosy."

At Tuesday evening's city council meeting, aldermen started off the new year on a down note, with Mayor Fox reporting the lobbyist group has predicted falling levels of income per capita and further delays in payments to local governments throughout the state through the end of fiscal year 2011, which occurs April 30, the lone bright spot shining on motor fuel tax collections, which increased by 5.1 percent over the previous year.

The 2011 Numbers:

- Local share of state income tax: \$77 per person, \$79.38 in 2010
- Municipal share of state motor fuel tax: \$25.30 per person, \$25.06 in 2010
- Local share of the state use tax: \$11.65 per person, \$11.91 in 2010

The Illinois Municipal Review said public officials should change their normal delay-of-payments expectations to four months rather than two, which is the usual delay. It also cautioned that the estimates provided were based upon no 10 percent reduction in the municipal share of income tax distributions, talk of which has taken place in recent months, stemming from a projected fiscal year 2011 budget deficit of \$6.4 billion.

"That's what they're hoping for us to get," Mayor Fox said. "But we don't know. We just don't know."

In other business:

- Council approved the bid opening dates for the Fair Acres sewer extension and 1st Avenue drainage projects for Feb. 3 at 2 p.m. and Jan. 27 at 2 p.m., respectively.
- Council approved a change order from Miller Trucking and Excavating for \$2,178 for

work performed on the 10th Street raw water main. Alderman Matt Carter, 2nd Ward, said savings came from a change to less costly materials.

— Police Chief Bill Brasche reported that the department's annual Christmas Shop with a Cop program was a success, giving each of the 16 children involved \$100. Chief Brasche called the program "all kinds of quality entertainment from old guys who don't know how to wrap presents."

— City Inspector Tom Lupinski said construction of the new 10th Street fire station is moving along. Much of the iron and steel work has been completed, and the sides are being framed for upcoming masonry work, he said.