

don't believe that would happen. The last thing I think that the city would want to do is to go to CIR if they can't first negotiate a compromise because that's expensive for everyone involved. It takes time. The ruling that might potentially come out, which could come out two to three years down the line, actually, is a crapshoot and anybody who can avoid that, I guess, rolling of the dice, if you will, will try to but sometimes you just hit an impasse and you don't have any choice.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: And I agree in my experience that that is, in fact, the case with rational parties on both sides. That would be the...

SENATOR HALL: That's a prerequisite.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: But would you agree that this might provide some incentive; if you are fairly close, you thought you were within a reasonable band of what the CIR might rule, that there is at least some incentive, if they're tight budgets...

SENATOR HALL: Well, there...

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...if they get a ruling that...

SENATOR HALL: Potentially you could argue that. The fact of the matter is though if you're that close you're going to pay for it one way or the other. You're either going to pay for it built into the budget in terms of your mill levy or you're going to come back after the fact, if we should adopt this amendment, hopefully, and then have to have a public hearing and say, look, because the CIR ruled this way, we have to raise property taxes in order to pay for it.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: And then my last point, I just want to clarify, this...if expenses associated with this would not fall outside, you would have to, in fact, have taken it to the CIR and received some sort of a determination by them. If you got there and you had a marriage at the courthouse steps, any expenses that are associated with up to that point in time you could not...

SENATOR HALL: They would not qualify under this amendment. It reads the final order, judgment, ruling or award of the Commission of Industrial Relations, which means you've had to walk through that process.