

Approved

Communities of Zionsville Area for Better Government

Minutes of August 25, 2007 Meeting

The meeting of August 25, 2007 of the Communities of Zionsville Area for Better Government was convened at 8:30 a.m. at the Meetinghouse located in Stonegate. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gene Thompson. Present at the meeting were board members Gene Thompson, Michael J. Andreoli, Joe Turk, Alan Townsend, Jay Parks, Jim Longest, Steve Freeland and Allan Rachles. Kevin Schiferl was not in attendance.

Minutes for the initial organization meeting of the committee of June 9, 2007 were posted. Upon motion made, second and unanimously adopted, the minutes of the June 9, 2007 meeting were adopted. The minutes for the meeting July 21, 2007 had not been prepared nor posted.

The following agenda items were considered:

1. **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE-** Alan Townsend, Committee Chairman, submitted a written report which focused on procedural issues as well as attempting to create a timeline for committee work. A copy of the Timeline for committee work is available in the office of the Secretary of the Communities of Zionsville Area for Better Government. A discussion ensued as to a realistic timetable to place committee recommendations on the primary ballot in the spring or in the fall of 2008. Allan Rachles felt strongly that a fall ballot would allow more time for committee action and review of the recommendations and would suggest a much larger voter turnout to decide this very important issue. While this would be a legislative decision, it was noted that unless the reorganization would become effective during the calendar year 2008 due to the Federal Census, the reorganization would then be delayed until January 2, 2010. It was the hope of the committee that a vote could be conducted not later than the fall of 2008. Finally, the Governance Committee Chairman reported that Thomas Peterson and Scott Alexander were added to the Governance Committee.
2. **HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE COMMITTEE-** Steve Freeland, Committee Chairman, made a presentation and submitted a written report. Steve Mueller was invited to participate on the committee. Mr. Freeland reported that the committee members have had a meeting with Fire Chief Jamie VanGorder and Town Marshall

Rick Dowden. As to the organization and service territory issues of the Fire Department, there are currently 15 Firefighters and the Zionsville Fire Department currently services Union and Eagle Townships, although there are presently no contractual arrangements in place to serve Union in 2008. Chief VanGorder expressed his desire to maintain the fire protection territory as it currently exists. Town Marshall Dowden provided information that the Zionsville Police Department currently has 18 Officers which included the Town Marshall. Although the Police Department's territory is contained within the town's governmental boundary, the Police Department responds to approximately 20 runs per day in Eagle and Union Townships combined. Town Marshall Dowden projected an additional cost of up to \$4,000,000.00 to provide similar coverage and manpower for all of Eagle and Union Townships. Possibilities of a collaborative relationship between Zionsville Police Department and the Boone County Sheriff's Department need to be explored. However, the Sheriff's Department may have limited manpower to entirely service the needs of unincorporated Eagle and Union Township.

3. **FINANCE COMMITTEE-** The written Finance Committee report was submitted by Chairman, Joe Turk. The Finance Committee has been extremely active in accumulating data regarding any benefit and/or detriment to consolidation from a fiscal standpoint. Mr. Turk indicated that the Finance Committee has preliminarily concluded that the consolidation will not provide any immediate financial benefit. As such, a consolidation may have other benefits, including longer term financial benefits. In fact, Mr. Turk indicated, due to road maintenance needs, a potential financial short-fall may present itself after consolidation. One of the major issues that needs to be investigated and was discussed by the entire committee had to do with road maintenance and road maintenance funds. Mr. Andreoli indicated that funds for road maintenance, county wide and within the municipalities, are generated by specific formulas that may or may not be transferable. Mr. Andreoli is going to be meeting Tom Kouns, the Boone County Highway Superintendent, to accumulate some information with regard to how the motor vehicle roads fund and local road and street funds are calculated, collected and budgeted. This information will be shared with the finance committee.

4. **INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE-** Mr. Andreoli, Committee Chairman, advised that the Infrastructure Committee had met prior to the meeting. Resource information was obtained from Ed Mitro, Town Manager, as it relates to the town's sanitary

sewer planning area as well as road infrastructure and thoroughfare plans. As the town of Zionsville planning area to the north extends to County Road 300 and 146th Street, the boundary between Eagle and Union Township, questions remain as to how appropriate infrastructure, namely sewer service, can be achieved to promote appropriate growth and development north of County Road 300. Also, it appeared that the town of Zionsville's master sewer plan did not contemplate a sewage treatment plant on the northern part of its planning area to serve potential development to the north and along US 421. The Infrastructure Committee had discussed private or quasi private utility services perhaps meeting the need in northern Union Township as a more cost effective feature than extending municipal Zionsville services up into Union township. Also, the discussion of road maintenance was had by the Board and the information obtained from Mr. Kouns, County Highway Superintendent, will not only be valuable to the Finance Committee but also the Infrastructure Committee.

5. **LAND USE COMMITTEE-** Jay Parks talked about issues being dealt with by the Land Use Committee, including coordinating and working with the county and revising its comprehensive plan; reviewing the process and procedures by which a consolidated entity will provide comprehensive zoning services in the area not otherwise covered by the Zionsville comprehensive plan. The Subdivision Control Ordinances and enforcement of Zoning Codes and Ordinances and whether this might best be done within the confines of Zionsville's current Zoning Ordinances or whether new Ordinances would have to be created. Mr. Andreoli, in general discussion, also raised the issue of impact fees and how this might be appropriately handled under a new entity versus utilizing the impact fees currently established by the town of Zionsville.

6. **PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE-** Steve Freeland, Chairman of the Park & Recreation Committee, advised the Board that the Park and Recreation Committee has been meeting regularly and generally concluded that advantages and benefits exist with the consolidation. A review of the park master plans already in existence from Eagle and Union Townships and Zionsville show a set of common goals and analysis making consolidation of the Park Boards a sensible and beneficial exercise. The interconnectivity of the park systems, existing and yet to be developed, in Zionsville, Eagle and Union Townships has the potential of creating a quality of life for the residents that will foster appropriate growth and development and a

continued desire for people to want to live in southeastern Boone County. A limiting issue of overall consolidation of the political entities may be a concern among some Union Township residents as to whether they should pay for the current park system within Zionsville. The extent of this concern will have to be further gauged and discussed in that the Zionsville park system is utilized not just by Zionsville residents, but all those who are in need what any given park may have to offer. Further, Bill Grosse, a committee member, has offered that the one natural feature that southeastern Boone County has in common in all three political entities is the Eagle Creek Water Shed. The committee believes that encouraging the development and interconnectivity of the Eagle Creek Water Shed will be a fundamental hallmark of the park system that could ultimately be created through consolidation. Consolidation may also provide benefits in seeking charitable donations of land that may ultimately become part of a consolidated park system. Further, large chunks of undeveloped land offer further opportunities for a consolidated park system to seek land from the development community to meet specific, as opposed to general park needs.

The Committee Chairman, Gene Thompson, discussed the need to try to establish meeting dates in September, October and November in order to keep the committee on a timeline to provide its written report to the various legislative bodies before the end of 2007. Calendars would be circulated in order to find dates that would accommodate the greatest number of committee members to attend. Also, copies of all written committee reports are available by Board Secretary, Michael J. Andreoli, Andreoli & Jacob, 317-873-6266 or Ed Mitro, Town Manager for the Town of Zionsville.

Upon motion made, seconded and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Andreoli

