

**Approved**

**COMMUNITIES OF ZIONSVILLE AREA FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT**

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2008 MEETING**

The meeting of February 27, 2008 of the Zionsville Area for Better Government was convened at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Zionsville, Indiana. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gene Thompson. Present at the meeting were Board Members Gene Thompson, Michael Andreoli, Alan Townsend, Jay Parks, Jim Longest, Steve Freeland, Joe Turk and Allan Rachles. Kevin Schiferl was not in attendance.

Minutes for the December 13, 2007 meeting will be available prior to the next meeting. Audio for the December 13, 2007 meeting has been posted on our web site ([ibccn.org/reorg](http://ibccn.org/reorg)).

The following sub-committee reports were considered:

1. **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**– Alan Townsend (Chair, Union), Kevin Schiferl (Eagle), Allan Rachles (Zionsville), Tom Peterson, Scott Alexander

Alan Townsend introduced Mike Claytor of Crowe Chizek who was contracted to work on the Plan of Reorganization. Mr. Claytor indicated that the new council districts contained in Exhibit D of the Executive Summary were constructed using 2000 census numbers, as required by law. Mr. Claytor indicated that these council districts would be changed following the 2010 federal census and new districts drawn prior to municipal elections in 2011. Mr. Townsend indicated that the expansion of the Town Council to seven members, with the current Eagle and Union Township Trustees filling the new positions, has been very well received.

The Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and Park Board for the New Zionsville should have adequate representation from the expanded geographical area. Despite the fact that the specific composition of these boards are governed by various state laws, it is anticipated that the broad authority given to the New Zionsville under the Local Government Reorganization laws will allow flexibility in naming members to these boards.

After a discussion of various questions from the audience, Chairman Thompson indicated that he would like to see each of the working sub-committees revisit and update the language in the Executive Summary. These updates should be sent to Alan Townsend, Governance, so that a Plan of Reorganization may be prepared for our consideration on Wednesday, March 12, 2008.

2. **HEALTH SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE** – Steve Freeland (Chair, Zionsville), Gene Thompson (Eagle), Joe Turk (Union), Steve Muller, Rick Dowden (Town Marshall), and Jamie VanGorder (Fire chief).

Steve Freeland, Chairman, reported that he attended the Special Town Council meeting on February 11 and has received written reports from Marshall Dowden and Chief VanGorder. Marshall Dowden has indicated that reorganization might diminish the Town Council's support of community policing ideologies as councilors take on responsibilities for a larger geographic area. Chief VanGorder indicated that reorganization would mean a fire territory would no longer exist as a separate taxing entity and the fire budget would be merged into the Town's budget. Citizens would no longer see the cost of fire/EMS/ rescue services listed separately on their property tax bill.

This Committee has received confirmation from the Boone County Sheriff that they would continue to police the rural service districts of the New Zionsville. We believe the dual service districts, town and rural, will be well received by the citizens since it assures that they will continue to receive their current level of service.

3. **FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Joe Turk (Chair, Union), Allan Rachles (Zionsville), Gene Thompson (Eagle), Mike Shafer (School Corporation), John Seever, Keith Gambrel, Larry Greenwalt

Joe Turk indicated that the Finance Committee met on February 26 to review several questions which had been raised by the governing bodies. A report, prepared by Umbaugh & Associates, indicated that the COIT (County Option Income Tax), would be added together under a reorganized consolidated budget. The 2008 share of COIT is Zionsville (15.47%), Eagle (.49%), Union (.31%) and Fire Territory (9.16%). With reorganization, if budgets remained unchanged, the Town's COIT would be 25.43% which is the sum of the separate shares.

Legislation is currently pending at the State House on property tax reform and although we don't know what the reform will be or how it will impact future revenues, the Finance Committee believes that the impact will be unaffected by a reorganization.

A key working element of reorganization is the establishment of two service districts: town and rural. After further discussion, the Finance Committee removes the option for the new governing council to waive the contiguous requirement when modifying rural service districts.

As clarification, when the requirements for reclassification are satisfied, the rural district shall become a town district.

As of the effective date of the reorganization, any outstanding debt will continue under its existing terms and will be paid by the taxpayers who were originally responsible before reorganization. Town of Zionsville debt as of 12-31-07 was 12,940,000. Eagle Township does not have any outstanding debt and Union Township has approximately 1,504,500. Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) bonds are not included in any debt calculations.

4. **INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE** – Jim Longest (Zionsville), Mike Andreoli (Eagle), Jay parks ( Union), Scott Robison (Zionsville Schools)

Jim Longest reported that after receiving additional feedback from Zionsville Streets Department Superintendent, Lance Lantz, the Infrastructure Committee has revisited its initial recommendation and would now recommend a less complicated approach. Therefore, instead of transferring responsibility for all township roads to the Street Department and having it contracted for services, the committee recommends that the road inventory in the rural service district remain with County Highway. The road inventory would be updated and transferred to the Town Street Department following a reclassification of an area from a rural to a town service district.

In the November minutes, the Infrastructure Committee outlined various ideas concerning how sewer service might be handled throughout the New Zionsville. In conclusion, the Infrastructure Committee recommends that sewer services should be decided by the Town as part of the planning process as to when, how and what type of sewer service might be available.

5. **LAND USE COMMITTEE** – Jay Parks (Chair, Union), Kevin Schiferl (Eagle), Jim Longest (Zionsville), Bob Bostwick (Zionsville School Corp), Charles Anderson.

Jay parks indicated that the Land Use Committee believes that reorganization will empower local citizens to oversee the developments which occur in their larger community. The area covered by the New Zionsville Planning Commission will coincide with the Zionsville School Corporation boundaries and a school representative will always be a member of the Planning Commission.

The Boone County Comprehensive Plan, which already includes the Zionsville Plan, will initially be used for the rural areas of the New Zionsville. In addition, existing county zoning will be used for the rural districts and town zoning for the town service districts. Membership on the Planning Commission, to the extent permitted by state law, should be comprised so as to reflect the geographical area in which development is likely to occur. This consolidation will give us greater control over the consumption and use of our surrounding lands.

6. **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE** – Steve Freeland (Chair, Zionsville), Alan Townsend (Union), Mike Andreoli (Eagle), Bill Gross, George Tikijian

Chairman Freeland reported that reorganization will facilitate a larger and interconnected park system which would serve both Township areas. Citizens from the entire area would enjoy more recreational opportunities and would financially support them. Representation on the Parks Board, to the extent permitted by law, should include residents in the rural service district.

The cemetery maintenance budgets from Eagle and Union Townships would be used by the Zionsville Parks Department to care for the cemeteries.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael J. Andreoli