

## **Village residents like plan**

**By Ben Woodson/Times Sentinel writer**

When Gene Thompson, chairman of the government reorganization committee, came to the monthly meeting of the Village Resident's Association Tuesday, Feb. 5, to explain the reorganization plan, he found a receptive audience. Not everyone had made up their mind yet, but most people thought it was a good idea.

"It gives you still having a Village, but also having a larger border of controlling what is going on around you," Thompson said.

The plan would give the town planning and zoning control of Eagle and Union townships, and President of the VRA John Tousley said that was the most important reason to support it.

That's the same reason most others at the meeting gave for supporting reorganization.

Ted Schrader of Zionsville said he doesn't know enough to make a final decision, but he likes that one government will have control of the whole area of the Zionsville Community Schools, especially since the schools are such a large amount of the property taxes.

Gregg Barth of Zionsville said it will help Zionsville better manage its growth.

"It will add discipline to what up till now has been haphazard," Barth said.

Jennifer Buchor of Zionsville said she likes the plan because the town will be able to be more proactive in attracting the right kind of development.

Greg Allen of Zionsville said Zionsville doesn't currently have the land to attract enough business development, which would lessen the burden of property taxes on homeowners. Commercial development helps to lower school property taxes because businesses pay the taxes without adding more students.

By expanding the town's borders, that gives more acres for new business development, he said. He used the Medco Health Solutions building as an example of the type of business he would like to bring to Zionsville. Medco will build a 318,000-square-foot mail order pharmacy in Anson expected to open in 2009.

Even if these Village residents like the idea of government reorganization, some worried that other residents won't feel the same way. For the plan to be enacted, a majority of the voters in each area — Eagle, Union and Zionsville — must approve it. Allen worried that in the more rural areas in Union Township some people won't like the plan and the three governments will have to work hard to sell it.

But that isn't the worst scenario in his mind. He said Whitestown could start to annex more land in Eagle Township just to make sure to get as much as possible before government reorganization.

"That scares me ... and I am fearless," he said.

Last year, Whitestown annexed a portion of western Eagle Township, angering some of the area's residents. That annexation spurred the Eagle Township Board and Trustee to begin the discussion about

government reorganization.

If passed, the plan won't become effective until Jan. 2, 2010, and Allen wanted to know what could be done to stop Whitestown from annexing more land in Eagle Township until then.

"Nothing," Thompson responded. There are some legal arguments that could possibly stop a future annexation, but there is no guarantee. The only thing that can stop future annexation for good is voters saying "yes" to government reorganization.