

Meeting of the Incorporation Review Ad Hoc Committee  
Town of Menasha - Municipal Complex - Arden Tews Assembly Room  
Wednesday, May 14, 2014 - 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

Call to Order

Committee Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Secretary Seidl noted those present: Chair Jones, committee members Andrew, Coughlin, Nemecek, Raddatz, and Renard. Other staff present: Town Administrator Jeffrey Sturgell, Attorney Roger Clark, and Community Development Director George Dearborn. There were 8 attendees.

Discussion

1. Chair Jones gave an overview of the work ahead and identified that he would like to see this process wrapped up by December 2014.
2. The committee agreed upon the proposed meeting dates as presented by Secretary Seidl: June 9, June 23, July 9, July 30, August 18, September 3, September 29, October 22, November 3, November 17, December 10, December 22. Motion passed.
3. Committee members questioned the mention of control of assets in the statutes. Legal counsel clarified what is meant by assets and that the state would not approve including any "islands" of property on the East side of the Town.
4. Ms. Andrew asked if the Cities of Appleton and Menasha had been asked if they would contest the incorporation. Town Chairman Youngquist was present in the audience and reported he had a meeting with the Mayors of these cities and that he clarified that a committee had been formed to explore incorporation. City of Appleton Mayor Hanna indicated the city would not object, and could not object, provided that we abide by the boarder agreement. City of Menasha Mayor Merkes was noncommittal. Legal counsel noted that the Town's agreement with the City of Appleton includes a non-contest clause; the agreement with the City of Menasha does not include such clause.
5. Chair Jones asked if we would meet the standards for incorporation. Administrator Sturgell commented that he believes the Town would meet all of the standards as we have more services such as police and fire than many communities that have incorporated, and said the big question before the groups is if we want to move forward with the process. Legal counsel supported Administrator Sturgell's position and stated the question is what part of the Town should be incorporated.
6. Discussion focused on incorporation across a river and if there is precedent. Legal counsel stated there is precedent and Wisconsin law precludes annexation across a lake but not a river.
7. Legal counsel advised that the Town's agreement with the City of Menasha states that if they annex property south of 441, they have to give the Town property north of 441. In the past the City of Menasha has not been willing to consider our requests to even out boundaries through even swaps of population and land.
8. City vs. Village - one difference is cities have a three mile radius of control of development from their boundaries; villages have a 1.5 mile radius.
9. Tasks ahead: Sustainability of the remnant, proposed boundaries, pros and cons of incorporation, and public input on West and East side.
10. The committee requested Administrator Sturgell provide some statistics and valuation data of the remnant's viability comparing it with other towns in the state by June 9 meeting.

11. Legal counsel will do some research as to the impact of incorporation on the sanitary district for the June 9 meeting.

**Adjournment**

At 7:30 p.m., **MOTION:** Andrew/Renard to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Seidl, Secretary