City of Menasha • Office of the Mayor
Donald Merkes, Mayor
dmerkes@ci.menasha.wi.us

Menasha

10 April 2015

Village of Harrison
Attn: Travis Parish
W5928 Hwy 114
Menasha, WI 54952

Dear Mr. Parish,

It is disappointing to hear that the Village of Harrison and the Town of Harrison would rather let the courts decide the boundaries of our communities than work together in the best interests of our residents and property owners. It is the City of Menasha's desire to work with our neighbors to find cost effective ways to provide services and enhance the quality of life for the people who live here. The decision by your boards to not continue discussion certainly dampens the spirit of cooperation that people in the Fox Valley expect and are normally eager to engage in.

In 1999 the City of Menasha and Town of Harrison entered into an agreement that defined the growth areas for both communities as well as leaving an undefined area along the lakeshore. This stipulated that areas west of Lake Park Road were in the City's growth area and were expected at some point become part of the City and that areas east of Lake Park Road would remain in the Town. This agreement worked well for over a decade with each community growing in their respective areas. Let us not forget that this original agreement was a compromise for both communities with the City desiring the boundary to be Coop Road and the Town fighting all annexations. The agreement allowed cooperative solutions to be reached for plowing, stormwater, water, sewer, trails, police, and other items that were in the best interest of both communities.

When the Village of Harrison began incorporation proceedings, and even within the incorporation application, they assured the City of Menasha that all preceding agreements would remain in place that the Town of Harrison and City of Menasha had agreed to. The City of Menasha was also assured that discussions about the future of Waverly Sanitary District would ensue. Unfortunately, this has not been the case as the Village of Harrison has annexed parcels including islands in what had been agreed upon as City growth area. The City will continue to vigorously contest all annexations by the Village of Harrison in the agreed upon City growth area. Since 1999 Menasha has not annexed east of Lake Park Road in good faith with our boundary agreement. We expected Harrison to act in good faith to said agreement as well.

The checker-boarded fragmented boundaries that the Village of Harrison is currently creating are not in the best interest of any of our residents. Permanently setting boundaries that are not regular and continuous will result in higher costs for roads & plowing, police, fire, and utilities in both communities. Costly litigation drains resources that could be better used to provide amenities and services to our residents rather than giving that money away to lawyers.

140 Main Street • Menasha, Wisconsin 54952-3151 • (920) 967-3600 • Fax (920) 967-5273
www.cityofmenasha-wi.gov

The City of Menasha is asking for the same that was envisioned in 1999.

- That the area designated as the City's growth area become part of the City on a date certain.
- A discussion on the best way to provide service and governance to the lakeshore area west of Lake Park Rd. which was in neither community's growth area.
- A discussion regarding the future governance, structure, and/or service area of Waverly Sanitary

It is my hope that the boards will reconsider and discuss what is truly in the best long term interests of both of our communities to be able to provide cost effective quality services to all of our residents. No one wins in the costly game of litigation. It is our intent to continue to be good neighbors and hope that is your intent as well. Working together on a boundary and the future of the Waverly Sanitary District is the best way to cement a lasting friendship and cooperative spirit.

Sincerely,

Donald Merkes, Mayor

Cc: Jim Salm, Village of Harrison President
Darlene Bartlein, Town of Harrison Chairperson