

Summary Notes
Meeting of the Pewaukee Merger Advisory Committee
Wednesday, November 19, 2008
6:00 p.m., SEWRPC Offices

In attendance at the initial meeting of the Pewaukee Merger Committee were, representing the Village of Pewaukee, President Chuck Nichols, Trustee Paul Evert, citizen member Mark Muehl, citizen member Tom Houck, and Administrator Scott Gosse. Representing the City of Pewaukee were Alderperson Roger Hathaway, citizen member Dan Sanford, and citizen member Dave Swan. SEWRPC Advisor Phil Evenson chaired the meeting. Several members of the public also attended the meeting and were invited to make comments.

Mr. Evenson gave a brief overview of the process leading up to the creation of the Merger Advisory Committee. He focused in particular on the interim report concerning this matter given at a public meeting held on July 23, 2008.

On behalf of himself and Pewaukee City Administrator Tammy LaBorde, who was unable to attend the meeting, Mr. Gosse then led the members of the Committee through a hypothetical budget of a merged Pewaukee community that the administrators had put together early in 2008. The bulk of the meeting consisted of discussion concerning this hypothetical budget and the assumptions that the administrators made that underlie that budget. Discussion also focused on capital cost savings that could be effected through a merger of the two communities, particularly in the area of avoiding the construction of redundant water supply facilities by the City of Pewaukee. It was concluded that the City, in the absence of any movement toward merger, very likely would commit to construction of those redundant water supply facilities in the fall of 2009. Consequently, it was understood that time was of the essence with respect to the consideration of any merger activities.

The meeting concluded with a brief discussion of the timeline of the work of the Merger Advisory Committee. A consensus was reached that it would not be possible to conduct the envisioned necessary work that would enable the Village Board and City Council, should they choose to do so, to place a merger referendum on the April 2009 ballot. Since there is no fall general election, it was the consensus of the Committee that any potential for a merger referendum in the Pewaukee communities would necessitate a special election later in 2009.

The meeting concluded with a consensus that Mr. Evenson would invite representatives of the Ruekert & Mielke firm to the next meeting of the Committee for the purpose of discussing possible next steps in the merger process. Such next steps would be premised upon the condition, best expressed by President Nichols, that any cost savings that could be effected through a merger of the two communities would be shared equally between the taxpayer groups in those communities, supported by a technique that would effectively blend the differential tax rates of the two communities together over a relatively lengthy period of time.

Submitted by Philip C. Evenson

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