

Summary Notes

Meeting of the Pewaukee Merger Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

6:00 p.m., Pewaukee High School

In attendance at the fourth meeting of the Pewaukee Merger Advisory 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 Mayor Scott Klein, Alderperson Roger Hathaway, citizen member Dave Swan, citizen member Dan Sanford, and Administrator Tammy LaBorde. SEWRPC Advisor Phil Evenson chaired the meeting. Also in attendance at the meeting were the following members of the consultant team assisting the Committee: William J. Mielke and Christine Cramer from Ruckert & Mielke, Inc., and Lawrie Kobza from the Boardman Law Firm.

Mr. Evenson referred to the amended summary notes of the Advisory Committee's meeting of December 17, 2008, and the summary notes of the Advisory Committee meeting of February 4, 2009. On a motion by Mr. Evert, seconded by Mr. Swan, and carried unanimously, the amended summary notes of the meeting of December 17, 2008, were approved. On a motion by Mr. Klein, seconded by Mr. Houck, and unanimously carried, the summary notes of the meeting of February 4, 2009, were approved.

Mr. Evenson noted that the consultant team had prepared their report setting forth the results of a Municipal Consolidation Tax Rate Feasibility Analysis. He further noted that this report had been provided to Committee members about one week in advance of the meeting. He then called on Ms. Cramer to present the report to the Committee and those members of the general public who were in the audience. With the aid of a Power Point presentation, Ms. Cramer then went through the findings and recommendations made by the consultant team. This included a summary of the alternative ways in which the City and Village of Pewaukee might consolidate while sharing the expected cost saving benefits of such a consolidation. She concluded her presentation by laying out the consultant team's recommendations for consideration by the Advisory Committee. These recommendations are:

1. Seek legislation to allow the creation of a special taxing district for consolidation.
2. Conduct a study of the future capital projects needed for the utilities with and without consolidation. This study would not only provide more information about the benefits of

consolidation, particularly for City sewer and water customers, but would also help determine how much cash could be withdrawn from the Village utilities to create a tax reduction fund.

3. Conduct a study investigating the creation of a street utility district that would fund a higher level of street related service within the Village area.
4. If legislation to create a consolidation tax district is unsuccessful, it is recommended that the City and Village pursue a combination of (a) using a portion of utility reserves to offset the tax levy, and (b) creating and collecting funds through a street utility district that provides a higher level of street related service within the Village area.

Her last comment was that should the City Council and the Village Board decide to submit a consolidation proposed to their respective electorates, the consolidation arrangements can be structured to ensure that property tax rates for City and Village residents would not increase owing to the consolidation and, thereby achieve the Advisory Committee's basic objective of sharing consolidation benefits with both groups of taxpayers.

After a few questions by Committee members of the consultant team, Mr. Evenson then opened up the discussion to all those members of the general public in the audience. The public comment and question period went on for about 45 minutes, with members of the consultant team fielding questions about their findings and recommendations and with members of the Advisory Committee hearing the reaction of the general public to the team's findings and recommendations.

Following the public comment period, Mr. Evenson then returned to the Advisory Committee and invited each voting Committee member to share with his fellow members and the general public his reaction to the consultant team's findings and recommendations. In general, the comments of all of the Committee members indicated that they believed that the consultant team had performed well their assignment, that there appeared to be ways in which a consolidation of the two municipalities could proceed so that taxpayers in both municipalities would share the benefits of consolidation, and that they were prepared to forward the consultant team's findings and recommendations to the Common Council and Village Board with a recommendation that those two bodies proceed to take the next steps in this matter as outlined by the consultant team.

A motion to the foregoing effect was then made by Mr. Sanford, seconded by Mr. Evert, and carried unanimously, with an understanding -- as expressed by Mr. Evenson -- that he and the two Administrators would work with the consultant team to develop a scope of work and budget for the next activities and share that material, together with a short cover report from the Committee, with the Committee members prior to transmitting these materials to the Common Council and Village Board on behalf of the Committee, it being further understood that should any member of the Committee desire a meeting to discuss the followup scope of work and budget prior to transmitting the materials to the Common Council and Village Board, such a meeting would be scheduled by the Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. with the understanding that the next meeting would be held at the call of the Chair.

Submitted by Philip C. Evenson

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