

CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE
Organizational Meeting
Tuesday, August 24, 2010
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall

Members Present:

Paul Cox
Phil Gregg
Bob Ratchford
Jodi Moisan
John Mogush
Ed Smith

Others Present:

Town Staff Members
Members of the Public

John Mogush was elected Chairman of the Consolidation Committee. Jodi Moisan volunteered to act as the recording officer/secretary.

The Consolidation Committee will operate under Indiana Code 36-1.5 which can be found at www.in.gov.

The purpose of the Consolidation Committee is to explore options and make recommendations for government consolidation between the Town of Yorktown and Mt. Pleasant Township. The benefits of consolidation may include the possibility of cutting costs by not duplicating services and also to keep services and equipment in the community.

The Consolidation Committee will look to other communities that have already or are in the process of consolidating such as Greenwood, Zionsville, and Fishers. This is in order to avoid the pitfalls these communities experienced in their consolidation. We are seeking information on what has been successful for them and to attempt to avoid the problems they experienced. However, our consolidation will be unique in order to better serve the needs of our community.

The Committee is developing a plan that will impact the town and the surrounding community in the coming decades. The Indiana State Legislature has authorized consolidation under IC 36-1.5. Our goal is not to raise taxes, but to build in protections including creating a framework to protect farmland.

It is not the purpose of consolidation to force services on those who do not want them and it is not the Committee's intent to spread service into the rural areas of the community.

Both the Town and the Township are in support of consolidation. The committee is not trying to build larger government but is attempting to streamline it by combining services provided by the Town and the Township.

Administrative Items:

- Create email contact list for committee members.
- Record meetings either with video or audio. If we choose audio recording, we are able to utilize the equipment that the Town Council uses. We will check with Yorktown High School to see if there is a class that would like to be involved in filming our meetings.
- A consolidation section will be added to the Town's website to provide information and to allow the public to post comments in order to solicit input.
- A budget will need to be established for legal fees and other costs. Hopefully, by researching successful consolidation plans by other communities, we will be able to minimize these expenses.
- We will need to hire a law firm to assist with the consolidation. Chuck Townsend, who did Zionsville's consolidation, was mentioned as an option. Also mentioned were Barnes & Thornburg and Ice Miller. Having legal services on retainer and hiring an attorney who has previously worked on a consolidation may help keep costs down. We will get estimates on these services and will check with Greenwood to see who handled their legal work.
- Greenwood has their consolidation plan posted on their website. It was suggested that everyone on the committee read Greenwood's plan to get a better understanding of what we would like to do.
- To better handle the volume of information we will need and in order to move forward the committee was divided into Study Groups. Each group will be headed by one of the committee members and will include volunteers:

Paul Cox

Police
Fire
Emergency Medical

Phil Gregg

Water
Sewer
Trash
Storm Water

Bob Ratchford

Finance
Poor Relief

Jodi Moisan

Parks
Recreation

John Mogush

Basic Government Structure
Planning and Zoning
Economic Development
Press Releases

Ed Smith

Street
Cemetery

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.