

**Greenwood City/White River Township Merger Study Committee
Monday, January 26, 2009 – White River Township Trustees Office**

Attending: Paul Reed, Pat Sherman, Dr. Eric Kapke, Forrest Chambers, Don Handlin, David Payne

Absent: Dale Tumey

Chairman Pat Sherman called the meeting to order at 5:15pm, followed by a prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Don Handlin.

The Minutes from the meeting held on January 15, 2009 were unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Pat Sherman advised that the first order of business is the creation of Study Committees. Mr. Sherman had discussed this with the attorney involved in the reorganization of the City of Zionsville and two adjacent townships. Mr. Sherman asked him for input and advice in regards to what committees should be formed. A listing obtained from Zionsville of their committees included: Finance, Health, Safety and Welfare, Parks and Recreation, Planning and Land Use, Governance, and Infrastructure. The attorney indicated he would not change the committees if he were to do another reorganization. Mr. Sherman asked for Committee Member discussion and input on these six committees.

One of the members inquired how many people were appointed to each committee. Mr. Sherman replied that Zionsville had 5 to 7 members on each, as that seemed to be a manageable number. Mr. Sherman then asked each member if they were in agreement with the proposed committees, with each answering that they were. He then asked for motion to approve the six committees listed above. It was moved and seconded that these committees be approved. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

Regarding the appointment of Merger Committee Members to the six committees just approved, Mr. Sherman distributed a copy of proposed committee members that he had compiled based on the resumes he had received from each member. He advised that the first person named under each committee title would serve as chairman of that committee. Mr. Sherman placed himself on each committee so in the event the Chair could not attend; he could fill in and also observe the progress of the committee. The committees composed by Mr. Sherman are as follows:

Finance – Paul Reed, Don Handlin, Pat Sherman
Health, Safety and Welfare – Forrest Chambers, Eric Kapke, Pat Sherman
Parks & Recreation – Eric Kapke, Forrest Chambers, Pat Sherman
Planning & Land Use – Dale Tumey, David Payne, Pat Sherman

Governance – Don Handlin, Dale Tumey, Pat Sherman
Infrastructure – David Payne, Paul Reed, Pat Sherman

It was moved and seconded to approve the committee members as proposed. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Rules of the Study Committees were discussed, with each committee being discussed separately, followed by issues to be considered.

Finance – Paul Reed, Chairman

- fiscal impact to WRT
- fiscal impact to Greenwood
- fiscal impact on combined community
- the impact for rural district vs. urban district
(impact on township level, combined community level and on county level)

Mr. Reed asked if study committee meetings will be open to the public, and if so, if they are governed under the Open Door Law like the Merger Committee meetings. Mr. Sherman stated that he has talked with the Zionsville attorney, as well as City Attorney Koons-Davis concerning this. (He hopes that the Merger Committee will be compiling a budget in the near future to allow for the hiring of legal advice.) The attorney for Zionsville said they did not follow the Open Door Law for study committees because they never had more than 3 main committee members in attendance at any one time; therefore, a quorum was not present. Mr. Sherman suggested asking for resumes from interested citizens who would like to serve on the study committees, and then populate the study committees with those people. He suggested the possibility of having study committee meetings on the same day and time in a general place, such as Greenwood or Center Grove school libraries or something along those lines.

Infrastructure – David Payne, Chairman

- Roads
- Drainage
- Utilities
- The impact for rural district vs. urban district
(some services will not be available in rural areas and utilities may not be extended)

Planning & Land Use – Dale Tumey, Chairman

- Review of the Department of Community Development (Planning & Zoning, Engineering)
- Review of same County offices
- Greenwood zoning vs. Johnson County zoning (rural vs. urban)
Plan to show what would be used: County or City

- Board of Zoning Appeals – what it looks like now and what it will look like if merger takes place

Governance – Don Handlin, Chairman

- Greenwood government/Johnson County government/WRT Government (i.e. library districts, parks, etc.)

Mr. Sherman pointed out that several issues will be addressed by two or more committees, concerning different angles, but dealing with the same types of questions.

Health, Safety and Welfare – Forrest Chambers, Chairman

- Study of current service (police & fire)
- Study of current ordinances (County vs. City)
- Cemeteries
- Township assistance
- Nuisance complaints (County vs. City; rural vs. urban)

Parks & Recreation – Eric Kapke

- Review parks departments in City and County, WRT
- Park land inventory for City and WRT
- Districts (urban vs. rural)

Mr. Sherman asked each chairman to review their committee duties and advise of anything else that needs to be added, requesting an e-mail to everyone so that it could be added at the next meeting.

The Committee Members discussed the best way to advertise a request for resumes from citizens who want to be on the study committees. It was mentioned that possibly the newspapers would print something about it. It was noted that Mayor Henderson would not like any of his department heads to be members of any of the study committees, as he would rather have the department heads available for input that any committee needs. A question was presented concerning WRT Board Members serving as study committee members. Mr. Sherman suggested that it might be better if they also were not members of a specific committee but rather available to assist with information and questions. Mr. Sherman offered that anyone wanting to submit a resume for consideration could e-mail it to the City's website (greenwood.in.gov) or mail it to the Mayor's office, 2 N. Madison Ave., Greenwood, IN 46142. Mr. Jay Marks, WRT Trustee, also offered to accept resumes through his office (whiterivertownship.org or whiterivertownship.com). The deadline for resumes to be turned in was set at February 9, 2009.

Both the WRT Trustees Office and the City have offered areas in their buildings for use by study committees to meet with staff, etc. A question was raised about how expenses will be paid and whether the City pay initially, with WRT reimbursing them at a later date. Mr. Sherman advised that it is his understanding that whichever entity having the most population is to pay initially, with the other reimbursing them at a later date. In this

case, the larger would be the City. He pointed out that a budget needs to be compiled and presented to both WRT and the City outlining the proposed expenses of the Merger Committee.

Mr. Sherman discussed his thoughts concerning "Business as Usual". In business, if mergers and acquisitions are involved, the first item to be prepared is a Letter of Intent. In that letter, both parties set ground rules. He stated that he would like to receive the Member's feedback, and then draft a letter from the Committee to the WRT Board and Greenwood City Council that ask them to do "business as usual" and continue this business as if this were an acquisition and merger in a civil sense. Mr. Sherman explained that an example of this is that major transactions, such as bond issues, selling land, etc., are not done by either entity until the study is complete. As it is not clear if annexations are included in this type of transaction, this committee does not have legal authority to stop such activity from happening. He added that annexations may not take effect in a year prior to a decennial census; therefore, no annexations can take effect in 2009. January 2, 2010 is the earliest date an annexation can take effect.

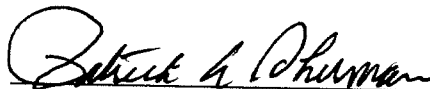
The targeted timeframe for the Merger Committee to complete their reviews and make recommendations is 8 months, in order to for this issue to be considered on the 2010 May Primary ballot.

Mr. Sherman recommended two people he would like to bring on board to help the Merger Committee: Forrest Mellot and John Griffin. He is asking them to help keep the Committee on track with the timeline and help keep everyone focused. They will act as project managers.

The Committee decided that consideration of the resumes will include both WRT/City citizens on each of the 6 committees, along with a good rural/urban mix.

Jay Marks, WRT Trustee, suggested enlarging the number of members on the committee considering police/fire issues. He is concerned that firefighters/policeman will want to be on the committee, taking up those spaces available for citizens. Mr. Sherman advised that as the committee is an investigative team, they will be interviewing the fire/police chiefs, etc. Those individuals do not need to be on the committee, as it should be compiled of citizens.

With no further business before the Committee, it was adjourned at 6:45pm.



Patrick A. Sherman
Chairman