

Approved
Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Merger Study Commission
Work Session Minutes
May 12, 2010

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mike Shank and Joan Gallagher Co-Chairpersons of the Merger Study Commission.
2. Sam Staley, Linda Hummel, Tom Frantz, Donna Hellmann, Howard Ackerman, Ron Folkerth were present. Bill Berry and Charlie Schwegman were not present.
3. Others present were, David Helling, Scott Bryant, Bill Schieman and Mark Schlagheck.
4. The main topics of discussion focused on the Conditions of Merger.
 - A. An important question is “Whether a Merger will be supported by voters because of the cost, \$101/\$100,000 house in the City and \$ 225/ \$100,000 house in the Township?” These amounts which were based on a Staffing model by Mercer Inc. were challenged. Several Commissioners thought that a merger would save money. At the April 26, 2010 Work Session there were suggestions that the Conditions of Merger could refer to Revenue Neutral and Staffing Neutral. At the May 5, 2010 MSC regular meeting Mike Shank indicated that another suggestion was to make the Conditions of Merger designate Revenue and Expense Neutral.
 - B. Clearly the finances of a merged Bellbrook-Sugarcreek needed to be discussed. There was a general feeling that the Commission didn’t understand what Revenue and Expense Neutral meant since these were terms that the general public didn’t understand. Dr. Staley appreciated our concerns and proposed that Expense and Spending Neutral for the first 2 years of the merged entity would be the way to proceed. He volunteered at the next Work Session scheduled for May 26,2010 to summarize three possibilities of finances in understandable terms, which could be discussed and presented at the June 2, 2010 Regular Meeting.
 - C. The Annexation Impact study was discussed by Dr. Staley. He indicated that Barry Tiffany would be presenting a Preliminary Report at the June 2, 2010 meeting, followed by an External Review

by Dr. John Blair, an economist from Wright State. At this time the Commission will ask Mark Schlagheck to estimate expenses corresponding to the time line of the Annexation Impact Study.

- D. The possibility of Political Wards for the merged government was discussed as a result of e-mail correspondence between Mayor Mary Graves and Charlie Schwegman. Generally speaking the Commissioners present thought that since Bellbrook and Sugarcreek for all practical purposes were equal in population this would not be necessary. In fact the thought was that Wards would be a source of continuing old conflicts between the City and the Township. Everyone thought that people who had the best qualifications and interest of the community would be elected
5. Generally Speaking the Merger Study Commissioners were pleased with the progress of the meeting. Mr. Shank reminded that the next Work Session was scheduled for May 26, 2010. He suggested another work session after the scheduled regular MSC meeting on June 2, 2010 and asked the Commissioners to bring their schedules to the next work session. The Work Session was adjourned at 9 PM