

Approved
Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Merger Study Commission
Work Session Minutes
June 30, 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, Bill Berry, Donna Hellmann and Ron Folkerth were present. Howard Ackerman and Charlie Schwegman were not present.
3. Others present were Scott Bryant, Tracy Messer, Karen and Jason Shroyer, Jim Tharpe, Drew Kenny, Steve Knopp, Denise and Tim Toth, Katherine Ulmer, Mark Schlagheck , Barry Tiffany and Robert Portune.
4. The first topic of discussion was an e-mail sent from Barry Tiffany concerning Storm Water issues and Limited Home Rule. Mr. Tiffany indicated that Karen Hawk from the Greene County Sanitary Engineering stated that Bellbrook has their storm water program and is currently Phase II compliant. It would only change if the population were to grow over 100k residents.
5. There was discussion regarding the possibility of the Township Trustees putting Limited Home Rule on the November ballot. None of the Commissioners objected to this. They felt that the Trustees had to do what was necessary to protect the Township. There was some concern that if a Merger was also placed on the ballot it would be confusing. Although this would be the case, Limited Home Rule can only be placed on the ballot for the General Election in November.
6. The main topics of discussion then focused on the Conditions of Merger
 - A. Dr. Staley generally agreed with all the Conditions of Merger but was wanting to possibly still set limits on the level of spending of a new government. It was indicated that this was not legal or not enforceable. Mr. Schlagheck stated that the Finance Article was based on the financial analysis that he previously presented to the Commissioners and indicated that a 6 mill additional levy was necessary to support a Merger. Dr. Staley said that he was interested in the transparency of the level of spending.

- B. There was also a question from Dr. Staley of whether the New City would honor the Transition Commission. Mr. Portune indicated that there would be some Political Risk of Non-Compliance.
7. Generally speaking there was discussion as to whether a Merger would indeed provide a general quality of life comparable to or better than that which the residents of Bellbrook and Sugarcreek currently enjoy. A straw vote was taken with each Commissioner indicating what they thought. There was a range of thoughts from No Merger, to Let the Voters Decide to Undecided.
 8. There was discussion for having one or two Public Hearings on the Merger question and Conditions of Merger. Mrs. Gallagher volunteered to check availability of the Middle School for Thursday July 8 and Saturday July 10, 2010. Notification could be done by Web-site, Township Code Red, City Television and newspapers.
 9. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.