

Approved
Work Session Minutes
June 23, 2010

Immediately following the Merger Commission Public meeting, the work session meeting began. In attendance were Mike Shank, Tom Frantz, Charlie Schwegman, Howard Ackerman, Linda Hummel, Donna Hellmann, Bill Berry, Ron Folkerth and Robert Portune (advising attorney). Not in attendance were Joan Gallagher and Sam Staley. Others in attendance were Jim Martin, Katherine Ullmer, Karen Shroyer, Jim Tharpe, Bob Loudermilk, Denise Toth, Heath Williams and Scott Bryant.

Discussion of Article 4 – Personnel in the Terms and Conditions draft document was presented by Mike Shank. Mike read Sam Staley’s email regarding his input on the topic to the commissioners and attorney in attendance. The group discussed at length a number of wording variations for Article 4. Mr. Portune offered his input regarding merit systems, personnel policies with regard to hiring, firing, seniority, etc how collective bargaining impacts mergers. The final decision reach by the commission is to take the Article 4 – Personnel wording from the Terms and Conditions of Merger for Randolph Township/Village of Clayton (1996) and change the names of the township and city to reflect Sugarcreek Township and Bellbrook. In addition the language regarding equivalent or better wage in No.1 Employment –item A will be removed. (Attachment)

The next item of discussion dealt with Article 7 – Finance. Mike Shank presented two options that were offered by Mr. Portune. (Attachments) In Option 1 the current Bellbrook City Council would vote in their July 12 meeting to put a tax levy on the ballot for November 2nd. In order for the merger to take effect the voters must approve the merger and the tax levy. If the Bellbrook City Council doesn’t put a tax levy on the ballot for November 2nd then Option 2 will be used. Option 2 would place the tax levy on the ballot after November 2010 election and on or before the November 2011 elections. This tax levy must pass to let the merger go forward. The commission agreed to go with Option 1. Mike Shank will present Option 1 to the Bellbrook City Council at their July 12 meeting. If the Bellbrook City Council doesn’t put a levy on the November ballot then Option 2 will be used.

Mr. Portune brought to the commission’s attention information he received from the State Department of Tax Equalization. The new taxed properties via merger will be treated as “new construction and increase the tax revenue collected from the additional levy. But the state did caution that making the effective date of the merger January 1, 2012 would push back the increase of this revenue to September of 2012. If the merger becomes effective on July 1, 2011 then the increase of this revenue would begin January 2012. The commission agreed that a July 1, 2011 effective date was in the best interest of the citizens.

There was discussion on how to explain the tax information in dollars and millage. Mr. Portune will present some options at June 30th work session meeting.

Mr. Portune corrected a statement from the last meeting regarding narrative notification to the voters of the Terms and Conditions. He said it is optional not required. The commission agreed to discuss the options after the Terms and Conditions are in final form.

The rest of the work session was spent addressing language in the Terms and Conditions document. In Article 6- City Services, item #6 will be changed from Cable Television to Franchise Agreements. The "New City" will be changed to "New City of Bellbrook". Sugarcreek will be changed to one word.

The items addressed in the work session will be incorporated into the Draft of the Terms and Conditions document that will be sent to Mr. Portune for his review. He will present his comments at the next work session meeting on June 30, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectively submitted by Donna Hellmann