

**ONEKAMA DISINCORPORATION COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012, 10 A.M., TOWNSHIP HALL**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Suzanne Schwing.

Recording Secretary Mary Lou Millard called the roll: Al Taylor, Steve Szilvagy, representing the Township, Mary Reed, Schwing, Roger Burger, representing the Village. Absent: Rosalind Jaffe of the Township, Paula Fortin of the Village.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Add Taylor's summarization of the Plan after Approval of Minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Szilvagy, second by Reed to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2012 meeting with the following corrections: Page 2: Paragraph 6, third sentence: Consensus to leave the issue alone, "Schwing voted no". Page 3, Paragraph 13, third sentence, insert "low" in front of "turnout". Page 4, third paragraph, first sentence: insert "a low" before "super majority vote."

PLAN SUMMARIZATION BY TAYLOR: Taylor presented and reviewed the process to move forward with the plan for the edification of the Township Board.. He outlined the Disincorporation Process, pointing out the Commission approved the plan March 26 after 2 ½ months of effort. The report is ready for review and modification if required by either the Township or Village. If the Village and Township approve the plan it can still be modified before the Aug. 7 election. He asked: if disincorporation is approved, is this the plan you would approve? The Plan must provide an orderly process for 13 elements as required by statute. He pointed out the non-controversial elements of the plan and, the remaining elements of the Plan. Collateral Matters were identified as being impacted by disincorporation; these are outlined in the report. He said the elements have options as to how they can be implemented. The majority of commissioners thought value of park land is indeterminate. There is no mechanism in place for specific use of the funds outside of snow plowing. Several collateral matters were identified as being impacted by disincorporation , these are outlined in the report. Current Village funds would be maintained separately from Township funds and used for Village needs.

Schwing: I voted no on the plan. A lot of work went into it and it is a good plan. The land has deed restrictions but the land has value. The Village is giving the Township \$11 million worth of assets. The Village saves \$31,000 by eliminating the Clerk, Treasurer and Council. Some statements are a misrepresentation of reality. It is a good plan. If the Township or Village vote against it, it doesn't mean it's a bad plan, they may have other issues.

Taylor: The misrepresentation referred to in the report is a personal issue. We made sure the statement is legal and we are not involved with liability.

SEWER ADVISORY BOARD: Taylor said the board would be comprised of five members from within the village boundaries, four from the public, one a business property owner. Terms would be for two or three years. The Village Council would appoint the board before the report is voted on. Discretionary money- where would you like it spent? It would be left up to this board; it hasn't been allocated to any fund.

Meister said the committee would exist for as many years as the discretionary money is available. The Plan is very sound and answers village questions and does not give opinions.

Taylor said the Plan is on the Onekama website-- Onekama..Info.

Wisniski discussed what a park is worth. He said the park still belongs to Onekama. There's no dollar value, it's there for everyone. You can't put a dollar value on it.

Schwing said the control and operation of the park would be under the Township, not the Village. Everyone uses the park. Absolute control will be under the Township because the Village would no longer exist. Having autonomy and control is important to the village. Absolute control would be under the Township.

Wisniski: It is public, no ownership . It's all in the same pot.

Motion by Szilvagy, second by Taylor to adopt the resolution pending Township approval. The vote was unanimous to accept the Plan.

Taylor said the resolution needs to be in the body of the plan and in the executive summary,

Szilvagy said put it under Fiscal Impact? Taylor responded yes.

Motion by Schwing, second by Szilvagy to rescind the commission's consensus at a March 9, 2012 meeting and adopt the Sewer Advisory Board as presented: two users, two non-users. Request that this be incorporated as a summary of the Village Funds Advisory committee and attach the resolution to the plan.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS: Szilvagy: This is indeed disincorporation and it is taking a village that is incorporated to disincorporation, which is removal of offices. Nearly two per cent of the Township population serves in an elected capacity; in the Federal government, that would be five million people. Do we really need that many to run this community? The real thrust of the vote is how much representation do we need for 1,600 people?

Schwing: The Village Council is out there doing the work. The Township depends on volunteers . The Council felt it needed seven members.

Reed: This is a good document, it's the best we could do. We had good legal counsel. I have a better understanding of what the Village and Township do.

Schwing: I learned a great deal and leaned how important our officials are. Referring to Page 4 in the March 26 minutes, Schwing asked Taylor what his comment meant.

Taylor said the vote we are asking is: Is this an acceptable plan? We all get the same vote. If you thought you wanted a 2/3 vote that's what you should have done.

Schwing: About the petitions in effect – the Village couldn't get enough petitioners so two township people passed them out. It's not totally a village petition.

Taylor: I don't believe anyone was coerced into signing a petition. They could have done this without spending approximately \$90,000 and hundreds of hours. They could have gone to the Council. If you wanted a two-thirds vote, you didn't need the commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT : Rick Gulch asked about the village boundary signs. Szilvagyai said they would stay. Gulch asked what happens if the county takes over the township and is then absorbed by the state.

Rudy Milasich commented on what he believes our violations of the statutes for the village secretary, chairperson, number of commission members; suggested Township get a legal opinion from its attorney.

Taylor: We had these comments; we had legal advice on this. Our by-laws state clearly on the issue of alternates. We have not gone down this path blindly.

Alice Hendricks: Wants to address the village funds advisory committee regarding discretionary funds.

Schwing reminded the Commission that it will meet with the Village Council on Wednesday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURN: 11:12 a.m.

Submitted by

Mary Lou Millard
Recording Secretary

Chairman

Date