

**ONEKAMA DISINCORPORATIONMEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2012, 3 P.M., FARR CENTER**

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. by Chairman Suzanne Schwing.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Recording Secretary Mary Lou Millard called the roll: Al Taylor, Steve Szilvagi, representing the Township; Schwing, Roger Burger, Mary Reed, representing the Village. Absent: Rosalind Jaffe of the Township, Paula Fortin of the Village. Also present: Village Council President Bob Blackmore, Township Supervisor David Meister.

Eric Luper was the facilitator; Attorney Peter Doren also was present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Taylor asked that: 1.Before final approval, the disincorporation team meet with Village and Township officials to review the entire report and answer any questions or provide any needed clarification, and 2: Have Doren and Luper provide a clarification to the Village and Township officials on what exactly they are voting on. Items 1 and 2 will be discussed after Number 6 on the Agenda-Approval of final draft of Disincorporation Plan.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2012 MEETING:** Consensus of the commission to accept the minutes with the following corrections: Page 1, under Supervisor Meister: delete the phrase “to ask the commission”; Page 2, last paragraph, change “streeets” to “streets”; Page 5, second paragraph: remove semi-colon from Schwing's name; add a line for “Facilitator” and “Date”.

**FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT:** Howard Hughes asked that pros and cons be pointed out, many who will vote do not attend these meetings. He said the issue is what is the best form of government for this area.

Jaffe arrived at 3:10 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-CONTINUED:** Milasich referred to state statutes regarding no provision in state on alternates, clerk should take minutes, chairman appointment; Rod Hudson referred to three options for consolidation of governments and statement on road maintenance.

**APPROVAL OF FINAL DRAFT OF DISINCORPORATION PLAN:** Members' corrections are: (listed by members- not in numerical page order):

--- Szilvagi:Capitalize “village” in Village of Onekama on Page 1, second paragraph; list reference to “attachments” with a parenthesis around the referenced attachment. On Page 10, last paragraph, replace “at least as well as the Village” with “standards employed by the Village”; Page 14: paragraph 7, last sentence: remove the word “distributions”. On Page 17 under Property Tax, first bullet, insert

“approximately” before the \$95,000; under Sewer Charges, second bullet, insert “approximately” before \$235,000. Page 27 add more space in the table format to separate the dates; Page 31 under Sewer System, first paragraph, change “teach” to “each”.

---Reed: Under Collateral Matters, add reference to Attachments 9 and 10.

--- Burger: Page 1, third paragraph, third and sixth lines, change “will” to “would”; Page 24, last paragraph, change “Jan. 31, 2012” to “Feb. 12, 2012.”

Consensus to approve all previous changes to this point.

---Schwing: Page 1, paragraph 5: Questioned transfer of assets to township as “custodian”. She said the township is the owner, not custodian. Consensus was not to change this; correct “mils” to “mills”. On Page 2, first paragraph, change to “Onekama Township board represents 1,329 citizens, which includes 918 citizens outside the village.” Page 2, last paragraph, change “based” to “base”. Also on Page 2, first paragraph, add: The plan offers a financial model showing that the township should be financially sustainable and the 5-mill property tax eliminated for the foreseeable future because of the commendable job the village board has done maintaining the village assets and accumulating fund balance.

Schwing brought up the issue of the township merging into the village. Luper referred to the CRC (Citizens Research Council) report which outlines the options. Consensus to leave the issue alone. On Page 3, fifth paragraph, first sentence, Schwing questioned the amount of \$100,000. Consensus to have Luper ascertain the new figure and insert it into the report.

On Page 3, last paragraph, Schwing questioned the \$455,000. Meister said in 2011 the Township board asked the Village for its priority road repairs needed. He said for the first time in recent history the Township has contributed to road improvements (\$62,000) in the village in 2011.

Schwing asked on Page 4, list of Commission members, that “Chair” be placed after her name. Page 8, she said there is no attachment for assets and value and no attachment for the sewer board letter. Consensus to add a list of personal properties on Page 8. Schwing voted no.

Under Attachment No. 6, Schwing said there is no copy of minutes from the county road commission.

---Taylor: On Page 1, last paragraph, change “promises” to “commitments; Page 3, footnote questioned; on Page 4, Fortin’s appointment questioned; Page 19 under Government Expenses, Taylor said the \$25,000 listed included improvements done before the disincorporation process began, which is why there is only a \$5,000 increase listed in the bullet reference. Page 23, under Expenditures-Contingency, for 4/1/12-3/31/13 change \$20,000 to \$40,000 and the total from \$410,612 to \$430,612. On Page 31 under Sewer System, second paragraph, last sentence, add “conditional” before “borrowing”.

Under Land Use and Planning, Taylor gave an update/progress report on the proposed combined zoning ordinance being prepared by the Onekama Community Planning Commission.

Doren made corrections on Page 5: change “unlikely” to “likely” and “happens” to “does not happen”.

Taylor asked if the plan is adopted can changes, amendments and modifications still be made? Doren said yes.

Doren said he and Luper reserve the right to correct typos, etc. in the plan.

**Motion** by Szilvayi, second by Jaffe to adopt the resolution approving the Disincorporation Plan. Roll call vote: Al Taylor, yes; Rosalind Jaffe, yes; Suzanne Schwing, no; Mary Reed, yes; Steve Szilvayi, yes, Roger Burger, yes. Motion carried.

Ratification dates are April 3 for the Township Board, April 18 for the Village Council.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:**

Taylor: We have spent about 400 hours in time to work on this. If the report is factually correct, it is not a “no” vote. They have a responsibility to see it (the report). If the village has a problem and wants to vote no, we ought to sit down and explain. I propose a meeting with the village and the township if they have questions.

Consensus to schedule a special meeting with the Township and Council for 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 3 at the township hall to answer any questions from both governmental units. The meeting is open to the public.

Taylor requested that the report of this meeting and the new, corrected plan be given to each board and council member to review prior to the meeting.

**ROLE OF DISINCORPORATION COMMISSION AFTER FINAL PLAN IS APPROVED:**

Doren said the Commission should stay in place until the plan is ratified by the Township and the Council vote, or until the Aug. 7 election, whichever is earlier.

Consensus to agree with this statement by Doren.

**SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT:** Comments from Hudson regarding “inaccurate” minutes, and regarding assets and liabilities, from Rick Gulch regarding a super majority vote is better; Milasich stating a super majority vote should be done; Alice Hendricks, every vote counts.

Meister said in a super majority, it is two against, how can you approve a plan and ask for a super majority? He said Luper and he did a five year budget, showing a potential \$900,00 savings in 12 years. E did the best we could on current figures, he said.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:**

---Taylor: If the village wanted a super majority, you had the right to vote, don't waste our time.

---Jaffe: I hope to invite the board as a group to come to the meeting.

---Schwing: We asked last summer at a public meeting if we can have a super majority. We were told no. I can't say there was a pre-conceived plan to go through and waste our time, then bring it up for a 2/3 vote. Public is concerned that the turnout at a primary is a turnout of village residents. They want a super majority- don't insult our intelligence. They have every right to decide on a super majority..

---Reed: A super majority is a smaller number making the decision.

Szilvayi: When we started this was listed as consolidation. Government is better when it works simply. There's less chance referring to it as disincorporation. There's two votes- one for the Village, one for the Township. I'm trying to make sure that things that happen in Onekama are good for Onekama.

---Burger: Thanked Millard for her efforts and work as Recording Secretary.

---Taylor: I have no problem with a super majority vote. I do have a problem with people not reading the law and putting us through all this. I have no trouble with the public being confused; I do have a problem with officials.

---Schwing: Asked that the following statement be included minutes, just as she wrote it:

"Our commission minutes have been inadequate at best.

It is both unfortunate and telling when I cannot get my own statements into the minutes without a vote against me.

Therefore I will not waste the public's time, the commission's time or my time correcting errors today for last week's minutes.

I want each of these statements in today's minutes. Do I make myself perfectly clear, Mr. Doren?

Thank you,

Suzanne Schwing, Chair. 3/26/12"

Doren asked to address some issues:

He said the Village and Township appointed alternates. There has been one vote. No alternate voted. In all cases but one it was by consensus.

The Village Clerk deputized Mary Lou Millard to do these minutes; there is nothing wrong with deputizing.

Dan Behring did resign.

---Schwing: I am for openness and transparency; I am for public opinion. Thank you members of the public, Doren, Luper and commissioners for your hard work. I am sorry some things did not get added.

**ADJOURN:** 6 p.m.

Submitted by  
Mary Lou Millard,  
Recording Secretary

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Facilitator

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Date