

ONEKAMA DISINCORPORATION COMMISSION MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012, 9A.M., FARR CENTER

The meeting was called to order by Village President Bob Blackmore at 9 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

OATH OF OFFICE: Village Clerk Ruth Hudson administered the Oath of Office to: Alternate Mary Reed, Suzanne Schwing, Roger Burger, representing the Village; Rosalind Jaffe, Dan Behring, Al Taylor, Alternate Steve Szilvagy, representing the Township.

Also present: Township Supervisor David Meister, Commission Attorney Peter Doren, Village Treasurer Nikki Jach, Recording Secretary Mary Lou Millard.

Blackmore expressed gratitude to the commissioners for their willingness and efforts in working on the commission.

BACKGROUND REVIEW: Blackmore explained the purpose of the Disincorporation Commission is to prepare a report required under Act 3 of the Public Acts of 1895 about issues involving the disincorporation of the Village into the Township. He said this (January 10, 2012) meeting will be primarily devoted to establishing the rules, schedule and scope for the Commission. He stressed that no vote is allowed, except that the final disincorporation request requires a “yea” or “nay” vote. Otherwise the commission’s responsibility is to address the following issues:

Methods for dealing with land use and zoning within the village; Payment for indebtedness of the Village; Disposition of the Village’s real and personal property and other assets; Disposition of all public records of the Village; Transfer or termination of Village employees; Jurisdiction over the Village’s roads, sidewalks and any public easement, including street lights and snow removal; Jurisdiction over traffic control; Provision of any special assessments within the Village; Transfer or termination of public utilities and public services of the Village; Regulation of orderly transfer of responsibilities for any special districts; Provision for any authorities that the Village has established or in which the Village is a member; Findings as to the fiscal impact of dissolution upon the Township and residents of the Village; Process for resolution of any disputes that may arise in the process of disincorporating; The effect disincorporation may have on property values, public shared service levels and costs, and local property taxes.

Blackmore appointed Reed as a regular member on the commission and Paula Fortin, former regular member, as the alternate, for the Village.

Blackmore appointed Schwing as Chairman of the Commission.

ELECTION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS: It was decided that because a court stenographer is being hired to take minutes, that a recording secretary and a treasurer are not necessary. Schwing requested a Chairman Pro Tem, and appointed Berger as Chairman Pro Tem. Jaffe was named as timekeeper. **Motion** by Reed, second by Jaffe to accept the decisions on the officers as presented. Motion carried.

GRANT: Meister said questions have been asked as to why the township applied for a grant. He said that the Township applied for “pre” and “post” grant funds. If the Village does disincorporate, there would be no money for it to disburse. The Township takes care of the grant—pre-disincorporation; the Village would send the bills to the Township. The Township would act as the fiscal agent. Eventually the Township Board would approve the bills. He said the township has received word about partial grant funding; the amount is not known as yet.

Schwing asked that the commission receive the grant information for its next meeting.

FACILITATOR: Consensus of the commission is that the Chairman and Attorney work together to secure a facilitator for the meetings.

ESTABLISH COMMISSION BY-LAWS: Doren discussed and explained the portions of the Draft of “Onkama Disincorporation Commission Formation, Process, Purpose and Operating Rules”. He said the board can use “Consensus” for its decision-making, but the final disincorporation request requires a “yea” or “nay” vote. Roles of alternates were also discussed. Consensus is to have the attorney provide input on the Draft, do the research on issues under Act 3., and present the data to the commissioners for their review and study.

Also, in Act 3, under Section 74.23e Disincorporation plan, number (a) Taylor and Reed volunteered to work on interim land use plan and interim zoning of the property within the limits of the village; Berger and Jaffe volunteered to work on (b), provision for payment of all indebtedness of the village, including any outstanding judgments, or judgments that may result from pending or future litigation to which the village may become a party.

All commissioners are also asked to look at (c) disposition of real and personal property and other assets, including funds, deposits and investments.

Meister reminded the commissioners that “you are not making decisions on what you believe or on your opinion; you are on a fact-finding mission, not making new policies. Basically it is research”.

ADOPT A SCHEDULE FOR MEETINGS: The commissioners decided to meet every Monday at 3 p.m. in Farr Center, with the exception of Monday, Feb. 27, which will be an evening meeting at 7 p.m. in Farr Center. The next upcoming meeting is Monday, Jan. 16 at 3 p.m. in Farr Center. If there are any changes to this schedule, the changes will be posted at the Village and Township. All meetings are open to the public. Schwing said

the commission plans to have additional informational meetings during the summer, to receive questions and comments from the public, prior to an election.

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE: Meetings of Disincorporation Commission—January through April, 2012; Community Forums Regarding Disincorporation—To Be Determined; Transmittal of Disincorporation Commission Plan to Township and Village Board—April-May, 2012; Approval by Boards—May, 2012; Election—Aug. 7, 2012.

Schwing instructed the commission to review the Draft and review the Law (Act 3 of Public Acts of 1895) for the next meeting.

WEBSITE INFORMATION: The minutes and any other applicable information on the Disincorporation Commission will be posted on Onekama’s website, under “Village Disincorporation Commission.-Minutes”.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Comments received from Steve Szilvagy, Alice Hendricks and David Meister.

ADJOURN: 11 a.m.

Submitted by
Mary Lou Millard,
Recording Secretary

Suzanne Schwing, Chairman

Date