Village of Pentwater
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CITY STUDY COMMITTEE
PARK PLACE @ 310 NORTH RUSH STREET
NOVEMBER 18, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.

I. ROLL CALL
Chairperson Ressel-Hodan called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.
Council Members Present: Trustee Dave Bluhm and Trustee Claudia Ressel-Hodan.
Ad-Hoc Members Present: Kyle Jensen, Sue Johnson, Mary Marshall, Kathy O'Connor.
Absent: Amy LaBarge on Zoom.
Also, Present: Clerk/Treasurer Rande Listerman, Village Manager Chris Brown.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion by Bluhm approved by Marshall to accept the agenda as presented.
Motion approved. All Ayes.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 15 AND OCTOBER 21, 2022.
Motion Marshall by supported by O'Connor.

Voice Vote: Yes:
Nays: 0. Motion approved 7 - 0.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS
A. CLARIFICATION OF TIMELINE OF STUDY COMMITTEE.
The attention of the committee is to publish and present their findings to the Village Council by April 2023.

B. DISCUSSION OF WHY TO STUDY – Dave Bluhm and Amy LaBarge.

- The Village functions much like a city already. Example: The Village operates our own Water and Sewer systems plus a Police Department.
- Cities are higher in the hierarchy of government.
- State Constitution recognizes Cities, Townships and Counties.
- Village residents have long raised the question of why we need to have two governments, is there a way to consolidate and streamline?
- Can we eliminate dual taxation for duplication of administration and facilities?

- The Village tax base from increased property values has grown significantly compared to the Township.

- Opportunity to qualify for grants and other programs offered to Cities.

- General Law Village to Home Rule City allows flexibility to create a Charter specifically tailored to our needs. Sec 117.4 Civic, artistic, Culture activities and the use of public funds.

- Allows for control over Assessing & Board of Review.

- Lack of control over some funding decisions made by Township with the Village portion of their tax base.

- Elimination of confusion over Zoning & Ordinance Authority.

Important Take Aways:
The need to be transparent and provide "factual information" to the Council in monthly reports. Keep communication going with the council and the public while waiting for the process to be completed.

C. TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT – Kathy O'Connor.
Kathy O'Connor highlighted the Pentwater Township Ad Hoc City Committee meeting. The committee recommended to the Pentwater Township Board to consider a proposal from the Citizens Research Council of Michigan for $8,000. The Pentwater Township Board did approve the proposal at the November 17, 2022, meeting. The committee also set the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. for their meeting dates.

D. REPORT ON ENGAGEMENT PROCEESS BY THE VILLAGE OF DEXTER AND MANCHESTER – Mary Marshall and Dave Bluhm.
Dave and Mary shared highlights from their report submitted in writing. The report is attached to the minutes.
Notes: Discussion was held on the difference between a 4th Class & 5th Class Home Rule city which is in Public Act 279.

E. REPORT ON THE ANNEXATION PROCESS – Sue Johnson.

F. UNDERSTANDING REVENUE SHARING – Kyle Jensen.

G. DISCUSSION OF PRO'S AND CON'S STRUCTURE.
The committee agreed they need to begin thinking about the structure of the report to the Village Council. Mary Marshall stated we do not need to reinvent the formula. She will pull from the City of Jonesville and Village of Manchester reports and create an outline for the committee to review and make comments on.

December's meeting assignments:
Mary Marshall will develop an outline based on the information her and Dave Bluhm presented from Jonesville and Manchester.

Chris Brown will define the difference between the 4th Class and 5th Class Home Rule City.

Kathy O'Connor will make copies of the Legislation and all the links.
Kyle Jensen and Rande Listerman will put some numbers to the potential increase in Revenue Sharing.

Sue Johnson will prepare an outline of the dissolving of the Village Charter – Pro's and Con's.

Discussion was held on the final content of the report to the Village Council.

Dave Bluhm reminded everyone the objective is a fact driven document void of any emotion given to the Village Council with a recommendation to continue with the process or not continue with the process. The public forum portion of the process will be handled by the Village Council if they decide to move forward with the process.

H. SET THE NEXT MEETING DATE.
The Committee agreed to meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at 10:00 A.M. at Park Place Meeting Center for the following dates, December 16th, 2022, January 20th, February 17th, March 17th, and April 21st, 2023.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS
None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 12:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rande Listerman, MICPT, CPFIM, CPFA, MiPMC
Clerk/Treasurer