Village of Pentwater
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City Feasibility Study Committee
City Form of Government Study by The Citizen Advisory Committee
Park Place Community Center
310 N. Rush Street
April 26, 2023, 1:00PM
Meeting Minutes

I. Roll Call:
Chairperson Ressel-Hodan called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Council Members Present: Dave Bluhm (1:01 P.M.); Kathy O'Connor.
Ad Hoc Members Present: Kyle Jansen; Amy LaBarge and Claudia Ressel-Hodan.
Absent: Mary Marshall.
Also Present: Clerk/Treasurer Listerman.

II. APPROVAL OF THE Agenda
Motion by O'Connor, supported by Jansen to approve the agenda as presented.

III. Approval of the Minutes
Motion by O'Connor, supported by LaBarge to approve the minutes from June 13, 2023.

IV. Correspondence.
None.

IV. Unfinished Business:
None.

V. New Business:
1. Overview of the Process.
Chairperson Claudia Ressel-Hodan shared an overview of the process for today's meeting.

2. City Feasibility Report – Discussion and Q & A – Committee Members.
The committee members took turns reading the questions from the FAQ and the committee member responded with the answers. The written version is on the village website under the City Feasibility Study committee tab for the community to review.

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3. Audience clarifying questions on FAQ.
Members of the public asked for the following questions to be clarified:
1. Why is Chester Street part of the township and the village?

4. Public Comments
Norm Shotwell, 474 E First St. – I am in favor of small one government. I offered up to the President of the Village and the Township Supervisor to form a committee with 2 citizens from each entity to meet and see if it is feasible to become one.

Ron Beeber, 6231 Ridge Rd. – I want to compliment the township for paying the Citizen Research Council to do a report for the township. The organization conclusion are on page 20 of the townships report and they stated:
"Because Pentwater Township has a relatively rich property tax base and levies taxes at relatively high rates, it will have more resources than surrounding townships or similarly sized townships throughout Michigan."
A 3rd party survey noted that "relatively high rates" if the village became a city, it would not be bad for them.

5. Committee Recommendation to the Council.
Motion by LaBarge, supported by Jansen that City Feasibility Study Committee recommends that the Village Council pursue incorporation as a city and take the next steps toward the goal of City form of Government.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: 5. LaBarge, Jansen, Bluhm, O'Connor and Ressel-Hodan.
No: 0. Absent: Marshall.

General Discussion about additional community comments heard today.
Amy LaBarge the committee put a lot of time over this last year into this issue that council tasks us to research. I lot of impressive work was completed by some talented individuals.
I have learned enough that there is value in going forward.

Trustee Dave Bluhm - I support moving forward. I truly believe this issue should be in the voters' hands. I would like to address the erroneous information and bias that has been placed on social media. Let's get the facts out there and let the voters decide. If it takes more time to get the facts out, then so be it.

Kathy O'Connor – I was on team Norm when this process began. However, after spending so many months learning the process of how our government works it makes sense to move forward and place this in the hands of the voters.

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Chairman Claudia Ressel-Hodan – I chose to request to form a committee to research this issue. After learning about the process, I think the key, which is cooperation, would be much better between the two entities if the expectation is laid out and clear for both government bodies.

Kyle Jansen – I want to echo it belongs in the hands of the voters.

VII. Public Comments:
None.

VIII. Committee Comments:
None.

IX. Adjournment There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.

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