

**DEXTER CITY STUDY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

**THE VILLAGE OF DEXTER
VILLAGE COUNCIL**

COPELAND BOARD ROOM – 7720 DEXTER-ANN ARBOR ROAD

- 1) Take attendance, and approve minutes from September 6, 2006

Attendance:	Beal	Bellas	Coy	Flowers
	Foster	Gergely	Gochanour	Jones
	Miller	Rush	Sprague	Stivers
	Vickers	Wall		

Absent: Conlin, Stacey, Waggoner, and Wensel

- 2) Report from Financial Committee

Committee: Bart Wall, John Coy, and Gary Gochanour

Guest Speaker: Marie Sherry, Village Treasurer-Finance Officer

Handout- Tax Terminology

John Coy and Marie Sherry went over the Tax terminology handout (copy attached to minutes). Marie shared the history of the Treasurer position prior to her appointment. Mary Carter, a private bookkeeper was contracted to reconcile the village books on a monthly basis. Although Mary did an excellent job, bringing reconciliation in-house with Marie's appointment has provided a much more effective means for staff to analyze and manage the village's finances. Marie mentioned that tax collection responsibility under the current village/township overlap consistently demonstrates a lack of coordination in the system and translates into customer service issues.

John Coy handed out and reviewed the "Snap Shot" of Current Tax Collections document. A copy of the document is attached to the minutes. The Finance Committee collected data and developed this format to illustrate what the current tax collections are for both Scio and Webster Township. Also provided was a projection for increased cost to become a City, which were estimated at \$86,000 annually. The committee will undertake further refinement of this data. The committee looked at several scenarios for increasing revenue (to cover the increased cost to become a City) while keeping taxes same or reducing taxes to residents in the village.

Option 1 shows the impact of rolling the 1.45 millage currently collected by Township into the village operating millage, which generates new revenue for village of \$333,511 and keeps tax burden same for residents. Revenue is more than needed to cover the projected incremental annual costs of \$86,000.

Option 2 looks at increasing village operating millage by .25 mills and collecting a 1% administrative fee. This option would reduce taxes to residents on average \$140 annually and would potentially generate new revenue for the village of \$139,344. Again more than needed to cover the incremental annual costs of \$86,000.

Option 3 looks at collecting a 1% administrative fee without an additional millage increase. This option could potentially generate new revenue for the village of \$94,000 and on average reduce individual taxpayers tax burden by \$163 per year. Option 3 would require more aggressive fiscal management to make sure new annual expenses i.e. assessor and elections are kept in line with the revenue generated to support them.

Committee asked for further refinement of the projected costs be undertaken. Specifically look at the level of appraiser we would need and confirm the projected cost for contracting. Look at problems Chelsea had that we can avoid. Look at transition issues facing the Treasurer and other personnel if we become a City.

Will costs change for legal fees and consultants if we become a City? These costs are being aggressively managed (consistently analyzed and scrutinized) and will continue to be managed to provide the best value for the dollar spent regardless of our city vs. village status.

Answer the question for the average person, how will becoming a City affect me?

Look at what percent of Webster and Scio's annual revenue is represented in the "snap shot" data.

3) Review Q & A Sheet- Additions or changes will be indicated with the date in bold.

4) Tasks for the next meeting and set meeting date.

Next meeting date was set for October 2nd. This date was cancelled due to the death of John Wensel.

Request that more negatives on becoming a City be explored; find someone to talk about the negative impact. Not being able to vote in township elections was provided as a negative.

Invite Donna Palmer, Scio Township Treasurer to tell us why we should stay in township. Make sure townships know what the Committee wants.

Invite Sparta Village to attend our meeting and discuss why they chose not to pursue City status.

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Dettling
Village Manager