

Incorporation Process Following the January 17, 2012 Public Hearing

On May 9, 2012 the Boundary Commission reviewed all materials received at the January 17, 2012 public hearing and during the 30 day public comment and 7 day rebuttal periods following the meeting. The Commission voted 5-0 to recommend that the Director of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs approve the Village's cityhood petition with the revised boundary that was presented by the Village and Webster Township.

The Commission met again on June 13, 2012 and approved the draft "Summary of Proceedings, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law" which made a recommendation to the Director that he approve the petition with the revised boundaries and order the incorporation proceedings to continue. The Director signed this order to start the 45 day referendum period on July 13, 2012. The final order of approval does not become "final" until the expiration of the referendum and potential voting period.

Referendum Period

From July 13, 2012 through August 27, 2012, citizens may gather signatures of 5% of the Village's registered voters in order to place the question of whether or not the incorporation process should continue on a future election ballot.

If enough signatures are gathered, the petition is reviewed by the Boundary Commission and if it is approved, the Commission orders an election to be held on the next available date (4th Tuesday in January, 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in May, 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in August or 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November). The question of whether the process should move forward is placed on the ballot as a yes or no vote.

If there are not enough signatures gathered to place the question on a future ballot during the 45 day period, a vote on the question would not be scheduled, the final order of approval becomes final and the Boundary Commission orders that election be held to elect a Charter Commission.

If there are enough signatures gathered during the referendum period, and the result of the scheduled vote is against continuing with the incorporation process, the Village's incorporation process ends.

If the result of the scheduled vote is in favor of the Village incorporation process continuing, the final order of approval becomes final and the Boundary Commission orders that an election be held to elect a Charter Commission.

Selection of Charter Commission/Creation of City Charter

Village voters will elect a nine member Charter Commission to write the Charter (or governing document) for the new City. Those interested must file petitions with 20 signatures from Village residents.

Once the Charter Commission is elected they must meet within 10 days after the election, select officers, and establish the rules for their proceedings including how vacancies will be filled.

After the Charter is drafted it is sent to the Michigan Department of Attorney General for a review that the proposed charter is in compliance with Michigan law. Once the Charter is approved by the Attorney General, Village voters will vote on whether or not to accept the document. At this election they will also elect a new slate of Elected Officials (titles dependent on new Charter).

If the Charter passes the Village officially becomes a City.

If the Charter does not pass within three years of the date that the Director's Final Order approving the incorporation becomes final, then the process ends.