

August 3, 2009  
Markey Township Special Meeting

AGENDA: Joint Meeting the Citizens for Township Consolidation,  
Markey Township Board members, Lake Township Board  
Members, Denton Township Board members and  
Roscommon Township Board members

Dave Emmons, Citizens for Township Consolidation (CTC), began introductions around the main table.

The meeting was called to order @ 7:04 for all the Townships by their Supervisors.

Roscommon Township:

Diane Randall, Tom Akin, Barbara J. Stevenson, Mary Ann Hose, Tammy Muckenthaler

Denton Township:

Craig Cotterman, Carol Asher, Paula Fuller, Carolyn Pietchak, Gary Williams

Lake Township:

Stan Christler, Cindy Russo, Jim Maiani, Janet Duwe

Markey Township:

Esther Rons, Larry Hagerty, Sherry Ciaramitaro, Joe VanOstenbridge

The CTC was represented by several individuals at the main table. Mr. Emmons thanked the townships for agreeing to meet with the CTC. He stated that the two groups should not be enemies, that they were just citizens looking for the best type of local government. They were testing the consolidation idea to see if the method would reduce taxes paid by all citizens of the four townships. The idea was to originally consolidate the whole county. They decided to concentrate on the four townships surrounding Houghton Lake instead. He stated, as an initial concept, that four fire departments were probably necessary, but not 4 fire chiefs, and that perhaps the police departments should be looked at.

Randall remarked on the materials brought by the CTC, the agenda and the “yellow book” and asked if the book represented the plan.

Language for a possible petition was read from the literature and a description of the course of action prescribed by law and the book was explained. The CTC group stated they were looking for an open discussion of the idea of consolidation.

Several members of the public pointed out omissions in the hypothetical budget presented in the book such as fire department costs, staffing, building ownership and maintenance, ambulance services, office staffing, missing committee responsibilities, and zoning administration.

CTC members reiterated that they were still researching the whole concept and would be grateful for the answers to just such questions.

Discussion continued from several persons present regarding many more issues: centralized offices, customers services, school taxes, amount of the tax bill that actually went to township administration, becoming a charter township, shifting tax collecting responsibilities to the county, spreading, equalizing and reducing costs, existing cooperative efforts (HLIB, HLSA HLBA, HLAA,JPC) and the possibility of more joint ventures, population density, changes, and needs, loss of local voice and representation, tourists and part time residents.

The CTC had presented an agenda with questions for the townships. Mrs. Jarvi, CTC, asked if they could be answered (see attached). One by one the Townships addressed the questions based on the unique position of each township and each budget.

Mr. Emmons announced the location and date of the next CTC meeting, August 10, 2009 at 7:00PM, Houghton Lake Senior Center.

Motion made by Rons, seconded by Hagerty. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.

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Larry Hagerty, Supervisor

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Esther Rons, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting of the Markey Township Board