

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WILLIAMS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING – April 24, 2008**

The Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Williams held a special joint meeting with the Auburn City Commission on Thursday April 24, 2008 at the Township Hall. The agenda is attached Exhibit A.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Tom Paige, Supervisor at 10:05 a.m. The city of Auburn was called to order by their Mayor and roll was taken. Board of Trustees present: Paige (Supervisor), Hoverman (Treasurer), Charney (Clerk), Putt (Trustee), and Wasek (Trustee).

Excused: Plant (Trustee) and Schrott (Trustee).

Also present: Catherine Mullhaupt, MTA; Mary Charles, MML; and Bill Mathewson, MML.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was said in unison.

III. Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

IV. Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

V. Introduction of Guests

T. Paige introduced Catherine Mullhaupt, Lead Member Information Liaison, Michigan Townships Association; Mary Charles, Information Analyst, Michigan Municipal League; and Bill Mathewson, Legal Counsel for the Michigan Municipal League, and thanked them for attending the meeting.

VI. Roundtable Discussion

T. Paige made some opening remarks about intergovernmental cooperation already taking place with Auburn, i.e., the Auburn/Williams Recreation Association, and the Auburn/Williams Fire Department. The city also contracts with the township for administration of the Michigan State Building Code by having the township building inspector and electrical inspector issue building, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits on their behalf. The township also completes inspections as required by Michigan law.

He then provided information about how Auburn became incorporated as a city in 1948. A referendum vote was held in 1947; it passed and residents were given the opportunity to receive water from the city of Midland. Williams Township receives water from Bay City and is billed through the Bay County Department of Water & Sewer.

Millage rates differ as the city is solely responsible for paving and maintaining their streets, whereas, the Bay County Road Commission maintains township roads, for a fee.

The township and the city should continue to explore opportunities to work together that make sense for both communities. If areas of mutual interest are identified, then the city and township should carefully explore the possibilities. He reiterated that quick and hasty decisions should not be made without fully understanding the ramifications.

John McNally, Mayor, stated that the city initiated the process to explore the possibility of joint police cooperation. The township contracts with the Bay County Sheriff Department for two full time deputies while the city has a two man department of their own. He feels that the residents of both communities could potentially receive better police service/coverage with a combined department.

Bill Reder, Auburn City Commissioner, stated that it has never been discussed to dissolve the city form of government. The resolution was passed by the city commissioners to discuss joint cooperation and combination of services, where feasible, in order to expand services to all of our residents.

Paul Wasek asked about legal issues and stressed that residents from both communities must be involved.

B. Mathewson stated that intergovernmental cooperation does not require a vote by residents, only resolutions from both governing boards.

C. Mullhaupt stated that the Attorney General has ruled that ballot advisory questions are illegal.

Formulation of an intergovernmental advisory committee was discussed in order to further explore areas of possible cooperation between both governmental entities. Committee meetings will be posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and the public will be encouraged to attend.

The general structure of the advisory committee was then contemplated. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the advisory committee would be comprised of John McNally, Mayor, and Tom Paige, Supervisor, along with one other elected member of both the township board and city commission. Two residents from each municipality will then be chosen, for an eight member committee.

C. Mullhaupt suggested that parameters of the advisory committee be discussed during the first meeting, and then reminded those present that each legislative body is responsible for any decisions that are ultimately made.

Ann Machelski, City Commissioner, departed at 11:00 a.m.

Each governmental unit will appoint a member to the advisory committee at their next meeting.

Both units of government have newsletters that will soon be mailed and resident volunteers may indicate a willingness to serve on the information gathering committee. It is anticipated that formation of the committee may not be complete until June.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VIII. Adjournment

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10.a.m.

Williams Charter Township

Amy Charney, Clerk

Tom Paige, Supervisor