

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WILLIAMS  
CITY OF AUBURN  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING 1-20-10  
APPROVED**

Chairperson, Betty Owen welcomed everyone to the Auburn Williams Intergovernmental meeting.

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Betty Owen at 7:00p.m. at the Township office.

Committee Members present: Tom Paige, Ron Kohn, Jim Dominowski, Paul Wasek, Tom Putt, Eric Larsen, and Betty Owen.

Committee Members absent: Bill Reder, Rebecca King.

Others Present: John McNally.

**2. Introduce New Member**

B. Owen introduced Eric Larsen the mayor of Auburn. She also mentioned that Paul Wasek is now the Township supervisor and Tom Paige is a trustee; both remaining on the committee.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**4. Committee's Purpose**

B. Owen reviewed the history of the formation of the committee and its purpose. In 2007, the Auburn City Commission and the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Williams recognized that future revenues will decrease due to the national and local economy and agreed that it was time to look toward methods to deliver essential governmental services in the most cost effective way to the residents, businesses and property owners.

July 2, 2007 - The City of Auburn passed a Resolution to Consolidate Governmental Services with Williams Township.

August 14, 2007 The Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Williams passed a Resolution Supporting Intergovernmental Cooperation.

April 24, 2008 The Township and the City held a special joint meeting and agreed that the two communities were looking for opportunities to cooperate and combine services, where feasible to expand services to the all residents. It was clear that there was not intent to combine governmental units.

It was at this meeting that the Auburn – Williams Intergovernmental Advisory Committee was established by both governmental units.

It is the Auburn – Williams Intergovernmental Advisory Committee's purpose to identify areas of mutual interest of both municipalities and carefully research the possibilities of combining the effort in those identified areas if good service can be derived while being economically feasible. The Committee should look at all aspects of operations; i.e. administration, public works, police protection and equipment. The goal is to determine if a cost savings can be realized while offering the citizens the same or better level of service.

This Committee shall follow the rules of the Open Meetings Act, keeping minutes and posting the dates of the meetings. This Committee is strictly advisory to the Township and the City and has no authority to make or change policy.

## **5. Review and Approval of Minutes**

### **Special Joint Meeting June 17, 2009**

T. Putt made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. P. Wasek supported the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **6. Update on Committee Recommendations**

### a. Law Enforcement/Medical First Responder

It was reported that the deputies and the Auburn officers are MFR certified. The coordination of when the LEO is called for this is being worked out by the Fire Chief and the Bay County 911 director.

### b. Township

P. Wasek advised that the two communities are cooperative assisting the Fire Department. It was agreed that the City would do the snow/ice removal for the fire department and the Township will continue to do the grass cutting and yard work. It was stated that there have been a few glitches in the snow removal, but this has been discussed and a better means of communications has been developed.

P. Wasek also stated that as an outcome of the committee meetings, their deputies now report directly to the township office, rather than going to the Sheriff's Department first. This is saving about two hours per day.

### c. City

E. Larsen stated that a Police Advisory Committee was formed to review information. He wants to see the citizens decide what will happen with the city police department. He stated that he would like to have the final decision in May. It was asked if the question goes to the vote of the citizens, would the vote be only an advisory vote per the City's by laws. It was stated several times that this committee put a great deal of effort into researching the topic and would be a good resource for the City's new committee.

T. Paige provided Response time information at the request of the general public in attendance of the Joint meeting held June 17, 2009. See the attached report (Exhibit A). T. Paige stated his frustration as a

Williams Township Trustee that a sharing agreement for police protection has not been reached with the City of Auburn since sharing officers will provide a substantially reduced response time in an emergency for citizens in both Williams Township and Auburn for far more hours each and every day. T. Paige believes that residents expect government units spend resources wisely and to work together when it makes sense for all partners.

## **7. Discuss Possible Future Topics of Cooperation**

### **a. AWFD Snow Removal/Grass Cutting**

As mentioned earlier, this is already a cooperative effort between the two communities as well as the Fire Department, Recreational Department and the Building inspections.

As discussion continued the following ideas were offered:

- a. City Scape, if the city is going to do the corner of Midland and Garfield Roads the Township would like to consider participation. The work is being done with the DDA. E. Larsen will advise them of the potential interest express by the Township.
- b. Use of equipment, especially in emergency situations – having a Bill Back policy.
- c. City is buying a new truck to pick up leaves – the township is interested in possible use limited to some subdivisions.
- d. Determine the assets of both communities and assist in development of a media package for the city and township as one region to interest new business and residents.

It was agreed that B. Owen should contact the City Administrator and the City DPW Supervisor requesting they attend the next meeting to consider the township interest in leave removal.

## **8. New Business**

T. Paige advised the committee that Hampton Township and the City of Essexville are going to join the West Bay County Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant sewer system in 2010. This will add more customers which will spread the cost of improvements and plant costs. Hampton Township and Essexville will join the City of Auburn, Williams, Monitor, Frankenlust, Bangor and Kawkawlin Townships as owners of this regional facility.

## **9. Public Comment**

J. McNally stated that he was glad to hear the thoughts given this evening and he hoped that the committee would continue as it is important for the city and township to cooperate.

## **10. Next Meeting**

It was agreed the next meeting would be February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

## **11. Adjournment**

R. Kohn made a motion to adjourn at 8:29. T. Putt supported the motion.

### Exhibit A

In order to better understand the “coverage” or response time issue questioned at the June 17<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting, call records were obtained from Bay County Central Dispatch. Actual call data from March 1, 2009 through June 17, 2009 was analyzed and the following facts were extracted regarding emergency response times for calls within the City of Auburn.

- The average response time for the Auburn Police Department is 2 minutes, 21 seconds, with a high of 8 minutes 32 seconds.
- The average response time of a contracted Williams Township Bay County Sheriff Deputy is 4 minutes, 1 second, with a high of 10 minutes.
- The average response time of a non Williams Township Bay County Sheriff unit is 14 minutes, 10 seconds, with a high of 23 minutes, 50 seconds.
- The normal response time range of a Michigan State Police unit is 15 to 20 minutes with a high of 24 minutes, 10 seconds.
- Michigan State Police calls have dropped dramatically since the end of April likely due to restrictions of the State’s budget.

Based on the Central Dispatch data, a citizen in the City of Auburn, or for that fact a citizen in Williams Township, that requires a police officer at midnight, or at 8:00 a.m. on a Saturday, will wait an average of over 14 minutes. The average response time would be reduced drastically if an officer were on duty in Auburn or Williams Township. We know that with the current model it is extremely rare that an Auburn Officer or a Williams Township Sheriff Deputy is available to respond at midnight or on a Saturday morning.

This data supports the committee’s findings that covering more hours in both Auburn and Williams Township will result in a **significantly quicker response time** within Auburn and Williams Township for many more hours every day.

Respectfully submitted to the AWIAC:

Tom Paige

1/20/2010