



September 10, 2015

Dear Town of Windsor Resident,

Recently, the Wisconsin State Legislature created a new statute that allows the citizens of rapidly growing towns, like Windsor, to decide whether their town should incorporate as a village. This legislation gives the residents of the Town of Windsor an extraordinary opportunity to decide how best to preserve the town's unique identity.

Under the statute, prior to incorporating as a village, town electors must first be given the opportunity to vote on the question of incorporation in a referendum. As a result of the unanimous action by the Windsor Town Board on August 20, 2015, residents will have that opportunity on November 3, 2015 when a referendum asking "Shall the Town of Windsor become a village" is held.

Over the past year, Town officials held numerous listening sessions that examined the impacts of numerous governance models, including incorporating as a village, and heard extensive public comment. By an overwhelming majority, residents felt that incorporating as a village provided Windsor with the best opportunity to preserve the character of the community while promoting sound economic growth.

The Board's action authorizing the November 3, 2015 referendum vote comes directly in response to citizens appeals to preserve Windsor's unique rural and agricultural identity, and to protect our diverse mix of agriculture, local businesses, residential housing, and park/conservancy areas. In addition, a recent independent fiscal analysis commissioned by the Town Board revealed that incorporating as a village brings numerous additional benefits, including:

- **Securing Our Boundaries.** Windsor has made tremendous strides with neighboring communities by entering into Cooperative Boundary Agreements which temporarily prevent annexations. However, once these agreements expire, there is no guarantee that they will be renewed and annexation attempts could once again begin at significant cost to Windsor residents. If Windsor incorporated as a village, it would have the tools necessary to permanently protect its boundaries.
- **Protecting Our Tax Base.** Without the ability to permanently secure our boundaries, our community's most valuable land could be subject to annexation. As land is annexed, our tax base would also be eroded and would result in increased costs to provide services for residents. If Windsor incorporated as a village, it would have the tools necessary to preserve its tax base and to provide services at no additional cost to its residents.
- **Managing Growth and Development.** As a town, Windsor does not have the ability to manage growth in an orderly way that allows for long-term planning and preservation of its natural and agricultural areas. If Windsor incorporated as a village, it would have the ability

to oversee planning and development independent of other jurisdictions and in a way that reflects the community's true long-term needs.

- **Unifying Local Zoning and Land Use.** Currently, Windsor is subject to zoning and land division review ordinances in two separate jurisdictions (City of Sun Prairie and Dane County). Land division review is further complicated by Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Review for lands in the Village of DeForest ETJ review boundary. If Windsor incorporated as a village, it would have the ability to make its own zoning and land use decisions without additional and expensive delays while applicants seek additional approvals from other governmental units that duplicate services. If Windsor became a village, it would become a one stop shop for planning and land use matters.
- **Continuity of Leadership and Services.** By incorporating as a village, Windsor will be able to maintain its experienced leadership team, which will enable continuity of service to its residents.

Over the next several weeks you will hear much more about this important referendum. We will provide numerous opportunities for residents to learn more about incorporation as well as to provide input. In addition, I encourage you to review the independent fiscal analysis we commissioned and to visit www.windsorwi.gov/votenov.3 for more information.

November 3rd is rapidly approaching and we encourage you to learn more about incorporation. We hope all of Windsor's electors will be a part of history and will vote November 3rd.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Wipperfurth
Windsor Town Chairperson