



Photo by Jake Kurtz

Windsor supervisor Monica Smith and DeForest trustee Jeff Miller at last Wednesday's joint meeting.

Two sides supportive at recent joint session

By Jake Kurtz
Editor

Windsor supervisors continue to explore possible changes to the town's governmental structure, an effort that multiple DeForest village trustees applauded at a recent joint session involving the two boards.

The DeForest Times-Tribune first reported May

22 that Windsor officials were weighing three options for the township: continue with the status quo, possibly merge with DeForest, or incorporate to become its own village.

Those options were a popular topic of discussion last Wednesday evening at DeForest Area Public Library as representatives from both sides gathered

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for their quarterly joint meeting.

Windsor board chair Bob Wipperfurth explained that he and fellow supervisors are currently on a "fact finding" mission and plan to hold listening sessions with residents and town staff in upcoming months to consider the town's options.

"There are some opportunities to grow this region in northern Dane County and I think it can be done under all three scenarios," Wipperfurth said. "And we would like to take a look at that."

DeForest trustee Jeff Miller was supportive of Windsor's plan to consider all options, saying "it's a good step for you to take a look at." Trustee Paul Blount called the consideration "great and appropriate."

"I think it's good for you to go down that road," Miller continued. "You should explore all options. You owe that to your residents."

"Whatever of the three you choose, I support you as long as it's in the best interest of your residents," trustee Ken Clark said.

DeForest and Windsor have a cooperative agreement in place that runs until 2030. Whatever path Windsor ultimately opts for, Wipperfurth assured those present that the town and its leaders will "maintain cooperation" with neighboring municipalities.

In the specific case of incorporation, Wipperfurth said few changes would be noticeable should Windsor go that route.

"We would love for the Village of DeForest to support us in any of the three options we've outlined here," Wipperfurth said.

Village board president Judd Blau specifically asked what Windsor hoped to gain with possible incorporation. Wipperfurth said it is imperative for Windsor to protect its borders and financial base.

"We have lost thousands of acres to annexations in the past," Wipperfurth noted.

Sup. Don Madelung said Windsor has grown to become "one of the more

sophisticated townships in Wisconsin" and many residents don't want to lose their standalone identity. Sup. Bruce

Stravinski also said there is a strong desire by Windsor to preserve the town's agricultural base.

"We want to ... protect a lot of things we feel and value," Madelung said.

On the subject of combining with DeForest, Wipperfurth said Windsor residents "are not ready to merge, or call it a

new entity, or consolidate."

"That's what I'm hearing," Wipperfurth continued.

As for the cordial mood enjoyed at the joint session by both sides, Sup. Monica Smith said she hopes that is a sign of things to come.

"We enjoy working with you," Smith remarked. "We have a high regard of respect for all of you and we're working together. That's the message we need to send to our residents."

"Whatever of the three you choose, I support you as long as it's in the best interest of your residents."

Ken Clark,
Village Trustee