

Windsor dives deeper into incorporation talks



Early resident feedback indicates support for governmental switch

By Lauren Anderson
Associate Editor

Having gauged resident interest in a governmental structure change at a series of town meetings, Windsor officials will begin exploring the financial impacts of becoming a village.

The board of supervisors voted unanimously last Wednesday in favor of authorizing a financial analysis of town-wide incorporation. The scope of the study will include potential start-up costs, ongoing expenses, staffing

and tax implications associated with a possible change.

Board Chair Bob Wipperfurth said that community feedback from the input sessions last month indicates residents are interested in the town moving forward with incorporation and several wanted to know what a governmental structure change would mean financially for the municipality.

"For those who attended there was overwhelming support for us to further pursue incorporation," Wipperfurth said.

Those who spoke in favor of incorporation said the change would allow Windsor to have local control of its zoning and protect its boundaries from further annexation, Wipperfurth said. He added that preservation of

Windsor's identity and heritage was an "overriding theme" among those who support incorporation.

"The thought process among some of the people was that if we were to merge or consolidate [with DeForest] we would somehow lose our identity," Wipperfurth said.

Fourteen years ago, the town conducted a financial impact study on merging with the Village of DeForest but decided not to continue in that direction. Today, DeForest officials continue to express interest in a merger or consolidation option.

Although the town is taking the next step toward incorporation, Wipperfurth said the Windsor board still wants to check in with its neighbor

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about its exploration process. The DeForest and Windsor boards will discuss the town's public input sessions at a joint meeting Sept. 10.

"We told the village that we would report what we found out - and I know the village is still wanting to pursue talking about a merger/consolidation - so until that discussion, I want it to be known that there are no foregone conclu-

sions," Wipperfurth said.

"Just because we authorized the study to be done," Wipperfurth added, "that does not mean we are pursuing incorporation. It's just another step in our fact-finding mission."

Wipperfurth said a timetable isn't set for the fiscal analysis, but once the supervisors receive it, they will review it and determine their "further course of action."

"This is a work in progress," Wipperfurth said. "I know there may be people from neighboring communities that think we've made up our mind, but I want to assure people that's not the case."

DeForest Times Tribune

8-28-14