

STANDING TALL

Linebacker Will Gahnz (right) and the Norski defense came up big in DeForest's season opening win against Fort Atkinson



RIVERFEST RETURNS

Mark your calendars as the sixth annual family festival filled with nature-themed activities and special events returns Saturday, Sept. 12 beginning at 1 p.m. at Conservancy Commons Park



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Supervisors vote to initiate incorporation procedure

Board's focus now shifts to informing residents of November referendum

By Joe Pruski

DeForest Times-Tribune

Mark your calendars: A special election to determine the future governmental structure of the town of Windsor will be held Nov. 3.

Town of Windsor supervisors unanimously passed a resolution at their Aug. 20 board meeting to formally initiate incorporation procedures as outlined by the newly created Wisconsin statute 66.02162. The resolution officially begins the referendum process wherein electors will determine if the town should incorporate as a village.

Specifically, the document approved by supervisors details that the village meets the eight criteria set forth in the statute for incorporating as a village, including a population exceeding 6,300, an equalized value exceeding \$600,000,000, creation of at least one tax increment financing district, and the establishment of a town sanitary district.

Supervisor Don Madelung made the motion to adopt the resolution, saying it was "an honor and a privilege to make a motion to approve Resolution 2015-69." Supervisor Bruce Stravinski seconded the motion.

"This is another historic day in Windsor's progression toward becoming a village," town chairperson Bob Wipperfurth said.

Documentation that the town



Windsor Town Board Chair Bob Wipperfurth (center) and fellow supervisors Bruce Stravinski, Monica Smith and Don Madelung each signed resolution 2015-69 on Aug. 20, making official the town's intentions to incorporate as a village by way of referendum Nov. 3.

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meets all eight criteria set forth in the statute was recently added to the town's website under the "read more" tab on the home page under "incorporation conditions." It includes handwritten minutes from the April 6, 1965 town board meeting where residents determined that the town board should be given village powers.

The statute paving the way for the town's incorporation was created as a special provision to the state budget allowing for the incorporation of towns contiguous to third-class cities. Windsor is the only town in the state that meets the criteria of the statute, which sunsets in five years.

Town officials will have a little more than 10 weeks to make their case for incorporation to residents and will do so through a series of informational meetings and open houses.

While public sentiment in favor of becoming a village has been present at board meetings and in individual conversations between residents of the town and the DeForest Times-Tribune, raising public awareness of the incorporation bid is a major factor in passing the referendum.

An open question posed to attendees of a July board meeting by town supervisors on what residents needed to know about the referendum elicited a common response - "people don't know about it."

The passage of the resolution initiating incorporation procedures comes exactly one year to the day that supervisors voted to authorize a study of the financial impact of incorporating the entire town as a village.

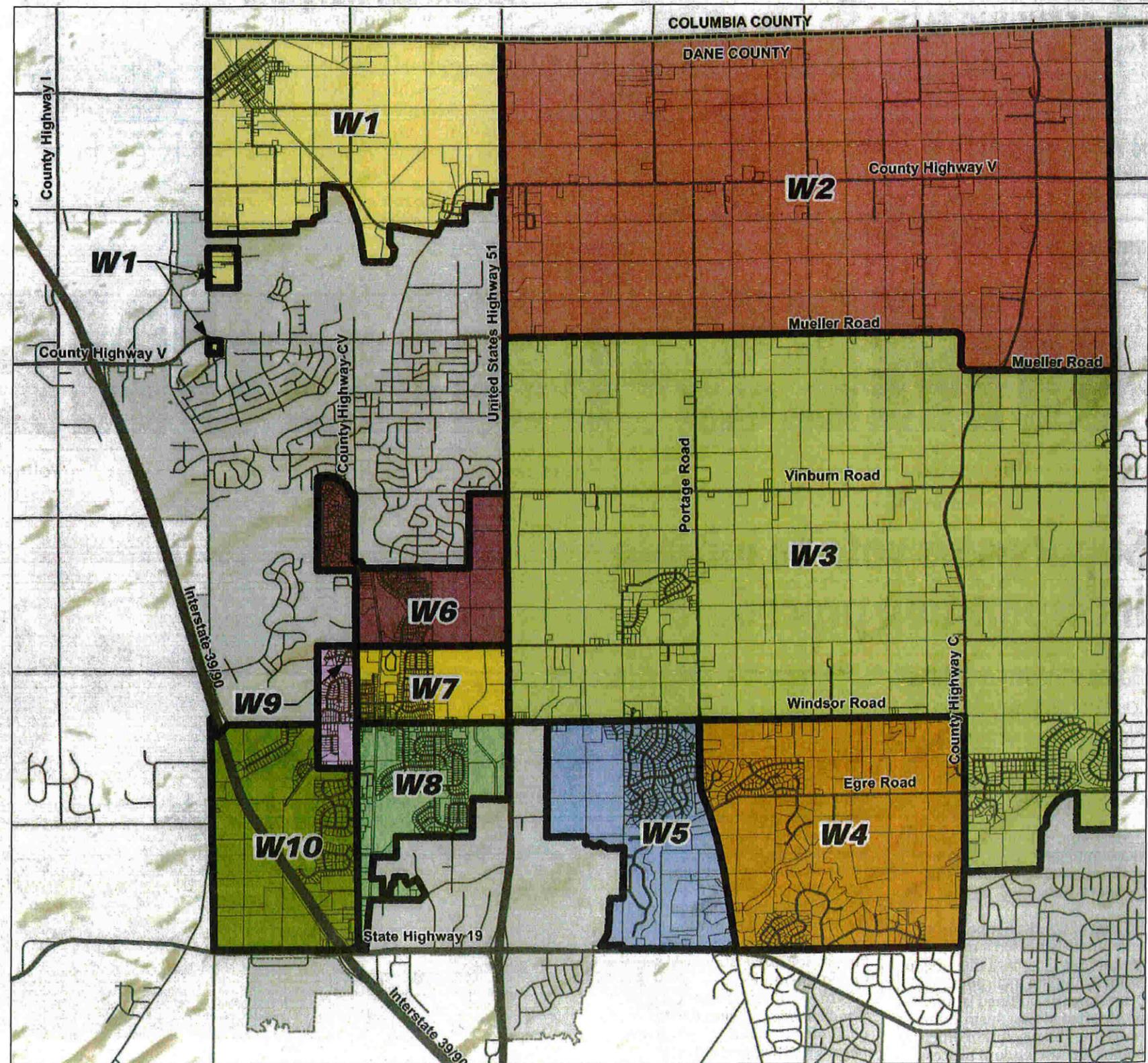


Photo courtesy of the Town of Windsor
A successful Nov. 3 referendum would allow Windsor to incorporate the entire town, as it exists today, as a village. Incorporation would have no effect on current boundaries or wards.