



Windsor

Growing Forward

May 16, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

WINDSOR TO ANALYZE FUTURE GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE

The Windsor Town Board is “growing forward” by considering the options for the structure of its local governmental operations. As stated in a letter dated August 17, 2013, two local community business groups, DAWN (DeForest and Windsor Now) and BDG (Business Development Group), have asked the Town to examine the benefits, impacts and issues of reconfiguring the Town of Windsor and Village of DeForest to form a stronger united entity.

In response, the Town Board is considering what governmental structure will best serve Windsor’s residents. The Town Board has decided to proceed with its due diligence to study the following three options:

1. Windsor remains a town and makes no major structural changes in its form of government.
2. Windsor creates a new governmental entity with the Village of DeForest through merger or consolidation.
3. Windsor incorporates and changes its government from a town to a village.

Whichever option is selected, Windsor intends to work cooperatively with its neighbors.

The Windsor Town Board actively participated in the Windsor-DeForest consolidation/merger study prepared approximately fourteen years ago. At that time, community leaders from the Town and Village were appointed to serve on committees to research consolidation. The study included input from consultants and addressed issues such as farmland preservation, financial and tax impacts, land use, government structure, community name, public safety and utilities/public works. After thoughtful consideration, the Windsor Town Board did not proceed with consolidation.

At this time, the Town Board’s emphasis is on better understanding the impact of incorporation primarily because this option has not been fully investigated in the past. It is possible that incorporation may preserve and maintain Windsor’s civic, social, and economic character; allow Windsor to gain a greater level of local control over zoning and development; and, prevent further loss of tax base through annexations. The Town Board is committed to working with its residents to achieve these goals while continuing to work cooperatively with neighboring communities. Incorporation does not preclude merger or consolidation in the future.

Over the next several months, the Windsor Town Board will hold Town Hall meetings to discuss and receive input on the three options and encourages participation from our residents. We will continue to dialog with our neighboring municipalities and will be meeting with Windsor committees, commissions and utilities to fully discuss the options.

These Town Hall meetings will be noticed, as all meetings are, via Windsor website (www.windsorwi.gov), postings at the Windsor Town Hall, Morrisonville Post Office and Windsor Post Office and via publication in the DeForest Times-Tribune.

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