

September 6, 2006 Minutes **Town Village Merger Task Force**

Present: Nick Heyniger, Steve Carter, Sally Shane, Marilyn Spaulding, Jan Noskey, Mark Curran, Paul Highberg, Susan Inui-Kelly, Candace Coburn

We have stated from the beginning that our committee needs to be able to change courses as situations change. Much effort has been put into our written documents to date. With the passing of the vote to have Police in our Town, we need to recognize where our plans need to adapt to change – and where they are still on the correct track.

1. I called Bruce and Matt this evening –Bruce is in Ireland – left a message on his machine. Matt was not home from work as yet. I did get in touch with Grettie who will bring the subject up at their next meeting. I have also emailed Bruce this question. Here's what I sent-

Does the Selectboard have a preference as to when a merger vote should be put forth?

Here's what we see-

- March 2007 - One year before your vote. If the merger passes, the police vote might be easier in 2008. But what if it fails???????
- March 2008 - Put it to the voters that if they like the police protection, let's do it all and be done with it.
- March 2009 - See how the vote in 2008 went and be more prepared to face nay sayers.....But to wait that long ,,,

So, if you all could try and find some time and give us input as to what would work from your end, it would be much appreciated.

1. We are also trying to determine the importance of creating a Village District. One of the main purposes of creating a district was for the police coverage. But if this is a non-issue, are there other significant concerns –ie Village Ordinances?
2. As stated in June, once we settle the District question, the next steps for the Preliminary Plan of Merger are:
 - a. Get approval of the PPOfM from the two local boards.
 - b. Get PPOfM to legislature. They in turn put it into an Act and vote.
 - c. Get the PPOfM to the Town and Village voters.

1. Don't want to forget that Wittie presented "Talking Points". Please email your thoughts to Wittie.
2. I believe there will be a meeting of ALL FOUR COMMITTEES and their members on Tuesday, September 19th, so mark your calendars. Still waiting to hear from Tom Debevoise where and at what time. I will email you when I hear. Sorry, but meeting prior to then won't happening for me.

-See you on the 19th

September 27, 2006 Minutes **Town Village Merger Task Force**

Present: Wittie Lynne, Nick Heyniger, Steve Carter, Sally Shane, Marilyn Spaulding, Jan Noskey, Mark Curran, , Susan Inui-Kelly, Tom Rukowski, Candace Coburn

1. Discussion on when to put the merger to a vote. Discussion on support from the Selectboard and the Trustees. Reviewed conversations with Selectboard members – latest conversation was with Bruce Gould. He offered the suggestion of having the question on a referendum in the 2007 voting to get a sense of where our community stands on the issue. Marilyn Spaulding volunteered to get the necessary information together on what would be need to make that happen. She will email me this week and I will forward to all.
2. We then took our own poll to see where we stood on when the merger should be put to the voters:

Susan – referendum in 07, vote in 08
Steve – vote in 07
Nick – vote in 08
Mark - vote in 08
Wittie – vote in 08
Sally – vote in 07
Marilyn – vote in 08
Jan – vote in 08
Tom – vote in 08
Candace – vote in 08

Several stated that their hearts are in 07, but their heads are in 08.....

1. Discussion on whether to keep the concept of the Village District in the Preliminary Plan of Merger.

If we do keep, we need to be very careful that people understand why a district is created. While in reality this can be a very small issue and a good safeguard for unforeseen issues, it is obviously a hot topic. Tom brought up an interesting thought on “decentralization” – make many districts- Taftsville, South Woodstock, Central...

Results of the vote: District or no District:

Susan	Yes
Steve	Yes
Nick	No
Mark	abstained – wants to see the \$\$\$
Sally	No (I might have this wrong)
Marilyn	Yes (I might have this wrong)
Wittie	Yes
Jan	Yes
Tom	No
Candace	Yes

1. Discussed our pamphlet. We need to state our position clearly on the hot topics.
Homework – send in your suggestions for improvement – FAQ’s, police issue and district issue.
2. Discussed the upcoming survey. Each member to submit their top four questions that they would like to see appear. This is a great opportunity for all four committees, and we would like to move on this ASAP.

Time Line, Draft #1, Significant dates:

November 06	Begin Vermont Standard weekly column
November 06	Distribution of pamphlet
November 06	Promotion of Web Site
December 06	Survey
January 07	Tabulation of Survey
March 07	Referendum Question
March 07	Figure out where the heck we are going

March 08: Merger Vote

Next Meeting:

October 4, 2006 Town Hall 5:15 pm

Agenda:

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| 1. Survey Questions | 5:15 – 5:35 |
| 2. Pamphlet revisions | 5:35 – 6:00 |
| 3. Vermont Standard Format | 6:00 – 6:15 |