



Pentwater Township City Committee Question & Answer Session

Responses to questions posed by community members at the July 20, 2023 meeting

- 1. If the village is granted to become a city by the state, not the county, what safeguards will be put in place to prevent annexing areas that do not want this change would they even have a chance?**
 - This has not been thoroughly explored, however, as a result of recent training hosted by the Michigan Township Association, we have been made aware of attorneys that specialize in this area. Strategies do exist that, depending on the specific circumstances of a given township, may or may not be applicable. This will be explored further if and when it becomes necessary.

- 2. Can the Township become a city including the village?**
 - The Home Rule City Act 279 of 1909, Section 117.7, specifies the population and population density requirements to incorporate as a city. The minimum requirement to incorporate as a city is ≥ 500 people per square mile. The current combined Pentwater population of 1,652 over an area of 13.4 square miles, results in a population density of only 123 people per square mile. The population of a combined Pentwater entity does not meet the density requirement therefore, becoming one city is not a viable option.

- 3. If we are no longer responsible for village/city (assuming they meant Township) administrative services, there may have to be a reduction in staff slash hourly because of reduced workload increasing taxes doesn't add work.**
 - If the Township loses approximately 35 % of its revenue, there will most likely be a reduction in staff hours. The responsibilities of the Township staff will remain the same although there would be less taxpayers to serve if the Village became a City.
 - It is also likely that the Township Office would not be open 5 days during the week from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. There may need to be a reduction in the number of days/hours that the office is open to serve residents.

- 4. What happens to current Township board members who become city residents**
 - Any Township elected official that currently lives within the Village would not be eligible to be a Township official if the Village becomes a City. Township board members (supervisor, clerk, treasurer and trustees) must live within the Township where they serve.



5. There is an intergovernmental agreement now for the fire department. If the Village becomes a City, would there have to be a new one established?

- Yes. The fire department is funded through the proceeds of the Township's fire millage which is levied on real and personal property in both the Township and the Village. Upon the Village's incorporation as a city, the Township would be without authority to continue to levy the millage on the real and personal property located in the former Village, and now city. The provisions of Section 4.2 of the current Township/Village Intergovernmental Agreement would apply, meaning that the parties would likely fund the operation of the fire department for one year after the incorporation of the city to provide time for the Township and (now) city to either: (1) come up with an amended agreement for funding of the fire department, or (2) terminate the joint participation in the fire department.

6. As a taxpayer who lives in both the village and the Township, what services are the Township providing to me other than running elections, collecting, and distributing taxes and the services already shared with the village (fire, library, etc.)?

- The Township is responsible for the Pentwater Township Cemetery in perpetuity. The Township administers all the services on behalf of all Village and Township residents including purchasing of burial plots, niches in the columbarium, arrangements for burials of both types, on-going maintenance of the entire cemetery – both the old sections and the new sections, and the Scatter Garden, as well as all record keeping of cemetery plots. The Township also is responsible for repairing/replacing the walls of the old cemetery. The landscaping and lawn care maintenance is also handled by the Township.
- The Township is responsible for the Pentwater Township Transfer Station. The maintenance of the Transfer Station includes upkeep of the road into and out of the station and the general care of the grounds. As well the Transfer Station provides areas for leaf, yard waste and brush deposit from any Village or Township resident. The Transfer Station Attendant, which is an hourly paid position, also makes arrangements for the Republic bins for recycling materials, trash and garbage. The cost of operating the Transfer Station is borne by and subsidized via Township taxes.
- The Township also works with the Oceana County Road Commission to maintain the 90 - degree bend boat launch on Longbridge Road. The Dock at the 90- degree bend launch is maintained by the Township and the cost of putting in the dock and removing it for the winter is paid for with Township Taxes.
- The Township maintains the Fishing Platform and Fishing Deck on Longbridge

7. Any chance water wells near the new village well in the Township will be affected?

- This is a question for the Village

8. Will the "city" permit franchises?

- This is a question for the Village