

SPECIAL MEETING – JANUARY 24, 2019

On Thursday, January 24, 2019, the Town Board of the Town of Raymond held a Special Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Roll call was taken as follows: Present were, Town Chairman, Gary Kastenson; Supervisors, Doug Schwartz; Paul Ryan, Tim Geszvain and Dave Lecus. Also present were, Town Clerk, Linda M. Terry; Town Attorney, Stan Riffle and Town Engineer, Chris Stamborski.

The purpose of this meeting was to give residents information regarding the upcoming Referendum for Incorporation of the Town of Raymond.

There were approximately 125 residents in attendance for this meeting.

The Town Attorney started the meeting by stating some of the facts regarding Towns and Villages:

*As a Town – you can be annexed:

*As a Town - have a border agreement with Caledonia; however, at some point in time, things may change with that.

*As a Town - we do not have a border agreement with the new Village to our South.

*As a Town - are presently under County zoning

*As a Village – we could apply to get TIF financing, which would not put the burden of infrastructure cost on the backs of the all of the tax payers.

*As a Village – the amount received from shared revenue is larger.

Everyone was given the opportunity to ask a question and, the Town Board, Attorney or Engineer answered those questions.

The questions and answers were as follows:

What are the down sides to becoming a village?

There really aren't any. You will see development whether you like it or not. However, Raymond will be able to control that development.

One resident called Yorkville and asked what the down-sides were to them becoming a Village. He was told by the Yorkville Clerk that the only cost for them was to change the letterhead.

Another resident had a missed opportunity for a business to purchase her property because Caledonia (they have input on Raymond matters 1.5 miles into the Town), denied the proposed use.

Another resident was upset about what happened to Mt. Pleasant – they ended up with Foxconn.

Attorney Riffle did stated that Mt. Pleasant “invited” Foxconn.

Is becoming a City an option?

Attorney Riffle said that then, there would need to be aldermanic districts; that would not necessarily be good for small government.

Would there be any annexations?

Attorney Riffle stated that once Raymond is a Village, no one can annex.

How long is this offer good for?

Attorney Riffle: You are referring to the State Statute that is allowing neighboring communities of Foxconn to become Villages. If the referendum in April were to fail, the Town cannot have another change for one year.

The Town does have a Land Use Plan that is very limited on the growth that can take place in the Town.

Engineer Stamborski concurred with this – he also stated that the Land Use Plan says the first mile from the interstate is slated for commercial/business development.

It was asked if something would be put in the Ordinances that states that the Board can never allow a development such as Foxconn, into the community.

Attorney Riffle stated that that would be a Board decision, and, majority rules. That is why the residents are encouraged to vote the Board members into office.

What does Raymond give up when we become a Village and leave County zoning?

Attorney Riffle: We give up them looking over our shoulder. He also stated that if Raymond were to change their Land Use Plan, we still have to have a public hearing. By law, the County still has to adhere to our Plan.

The intent is to follow county guidelines. We will continue to do that.

Will there still be A1 and A2 zoning in Raymond?

Attorney Riffle said there will.

Will anything change with the Raymond School?

Attorney Riffle said it would not.

Will the Plan Commission have more work to do?

Attorney Riffle said it would not.

It was stated that when approving any development, please be mindful of the drainage issues that face the residents.

With no more questions/concerns, the meeting was ADJOURNED AT 8:45 PM, ON A LECUS/GESZVAIN MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.