

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MIDDLETOWN
TOWN COUNCIL AND FALL CREEK TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
JUNE 17, 2009, 5 P.M.**

The Middletown Town Council met with the Fall Creek Township Trustee and the Advisory Board for that office at 5:00 P.M. on June 17, 2009 in the training room at the Middletown Municipal Building. Present were: Jake Smith, Dick Schwalm, Donita Chambless, Dan Fountain from the Town and Steve Thompson, Shane Maple, Kyle Hall, and Cory Criswell from the Township. Also in attendance were many residents of both Middletown and the outlying areas of the Township.

Jake Smith welcomed the assembly and thanked them for attending. Steve Thompson introduced Kyle Hall who offered information regarding the proposed merger of the governing bodies of Middletown and Fall Creek Township. He defined the gathering as an “information” meeting and stressed that there would be no voting on any measures

Steve Thompson described the merger as a dissolution of both governments and a reorganization as one. Joel Harvey, Attorney for both the Town and the Township described the process as an extended period of developing a plan of reorganization, followed by a referendum vote in both Town and Township wherein a minimum of 51% of the residents of each entity must vote for approval.

Paige Sansone, CPA with Bakertilly Municipal Advisors was present. She has been instrumental in like-mergers in Yorktown and Zionsville. She advised beginning with a resolution of intent by both entities; the writing of a mission statement; and appointing a reorganization committee and sub-committees, rural and urban, such as: Police, Cemeteries, Fire Services, Parks, Township Assistance, Streets and Roads, EMS, Governance, Wards, and Finance. When asked about cost of the process, she estimated that Bakertilly’s fees, on a time and expense basis, would be between \$20,000 and \$25,000 excluding legal fees. Joel Harvey will present an estimate of legal fees.

Peggy Stefandel, County Councilor urged that funding be in place before commencement. She cited that expenses can get way out of hand once commitments are made.

Some of the rural residents expressed concerns that joining the Town with the Township might lead to pooling of funds in such a way that the rural participants could be made to pay for sewer repairs in the urban areas. They were assured that those expenses specific to the Town would remain the responsibility of the taxpayers in the Town.

It was decided that Committees will be considered and another meeting will take place on Tuesday July 9, 2009 at 6:00 P.M., again in the training room of the Middletown Municipal Building.

The consensus of opinion from attendees after the meeting was that it was time well spent and most informative.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

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	Clerk Treasurer

