

Eagle Township Board  
Special Called Meeting Regarding House Bill 1362  
Monday, February 26, 2007 6:30 p.m.  
Old National Bank  
385 South Main Street  
Zionsville, IN 46077

Members in attendance: Rob Schein, Chairman   x    
Ralph Stacy, Secretary   x    
Jeff Papa, Bd. Member   x    
Judith Essex, Trustee   x  

Guests: Steve Buschmann, Township Attorney, Town Council Member, Art Harris;  
Charles Anderson, Ben Whitson Times Sentinel, John Ulmer, Union Township, Chad  
Pittman, Kelly and David Frye, Matt Price, Ray Puchet, Robert Annis or The Topics and  
Ben Woodson of the Times Sentinel

Minutes

**Call to Order.** Chairman Rob Schein called the meeting to order.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss House Bill 1362 that was passed during the 2006 General Assembly. The legislation allows government entities to merge or form cooperative agreements. The Township and the Town of Zionsville has spent the last couple of years engaging in fire protection discussions and how to address the growth of our community. The result of those discussions is the new Fire Territory. The township feels that Eagle Township and Zionsville are a community and the issue is not just town or township.

House Bill 1362 is an opportunity that may benefit Eagle Township residents and Zionsville with a means to address growth. In December Township Board member Rob Schein and Trustee Judith Essex met with Town Council President Dick Crane and Ed Mitro to discuss if the town would be interested in discussing HB 1362 and how that concept might be used to benefit our community. The Town was willing to continue discussion.

Therefore the Township Board decided to move forward. Attorney Steve Buschmann has been retained to help the board in the process. Trustee Essex is looking to protect township residents from further annexation. Eagle and Union Township residents have always felt they were a part of Zionsville and want to remain a part of Zionsville. The Trustee thought House Bill 1362 might be a way to facilitate that.

The first step is to form a Reorganization Committee. There would be three appointments from each entity making a committee of six. The Reorganization Committee would be charged with coming up with a detailed plan to present to the

legislative bodies of the town and township. Once approved the plan will be put do a referendum. To go into effect, the voters of each entity must approve the agreement. For Eagle Township and Zionsville that referendum date would be the primary election of May 2008.

Jeff Papa mentioned several Eagle Township residents have come to the Township Board meetings asking for help against the proposed Whitestown annexation. The township board does not have the authority to stop annexation. Mr. Papa pointed out that had HB 1362 been in place an annexation would not be possible.

Steve Buschmann explained the history of House Bill 1362 and how this legislation was used in creating East Allen Communities near Fort Wayne, Indiana. The city of Fort Wayne was annexing east into Amish country and the residents of that area wished to maintain the integrity of their rural communities. The result was 11 townships, six towns and three cities forming East Allen Communities. Each entity has kept its own identity and responsibilities.

Currently Boone County Area Planning Commission makes decisions on whether development will take place in Eagle Township. HB 1362 would put those decisions in the hands of the local legislative body. Growth in Eagle Township needs to be more managed and regulated.

The Township Board decided to discuss the Resolution further at the next scheduled meeting March 14, 2007. The Board requested the Trustee to advise the Town that the Township Board is considering HB 1362.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.