

**Welcome**

**Greater Avon  
Study Committee**

# Members of the Committee

- Ed Martin, Committee Chairman, and Chair of Infrastructure and Administration sub-committee and also of Finance sub-committee
- Pat Tutsie, Committee Vice Chair and Chair of Governance sub-committee

# Members of the Committee

- Don Ulrey, Chair of Public Safety Sub-committee
- Scott Munoz, Chair of Parks Sub-committee
- Mathew Bailey, Chair of Zoning and Planning Sub-committee
- Steven Crowe

# People Assisting the Committee

- Don Hodson, Washington Township Trustee
- Tom Klein, Avon Town Manager
- Andrew Buroker, attorney, Krieg Devault
- Paige Sansone, Financial Consultant,  
Umbaugh and Associates
- Ken Firstle, Academic consultant

# Goals

- Substance of the Reorganization Plan
- Recommendations of the Plan
- Benefits and Risks associated with the Plan
- Timeline for Reorganization Implementation

# **Governance Sub-committee Report**

- Pat Tutsie

# **Governance**

## **Sub-committee Report**

### **Pat Tutsie**

- Sub-committee members:
  - Fred Palmer
  - Don Ulrey
  - Marquita Walker

# **Governance Subcommittee Report**

On the Effective Date, the Township Board and the Township Trustee shall be abolished. The legislative body of the New Town of Avon shall be a single seven (7) member New Town of Avon Council

The New Town of Avon Council shall be a citizen council and shall be the legislative and fiscal body of the new reorganized community per state statute

Members shall serve part-time as citizen legislators



# **Governance**

## **Subcommittee Report**

All seven (7) members shall be elected by the registered voters of the New Town of Avon

Two (2) members elected to serve as at-large members

Five (5) members elected to serve as district members

The New Town Council shall elect a Town Council President

The New Town Council President shall be the executive of the New Town of Avon per state statute

The New Town Council shall appoint a Town Manager pursuant to Indiana Code

# **Governance Subcommittee Report**

## **Qualifications for Member or Candidate**

- Must reside in the New Town of Avon
- Must reside in the district to which elected if applicable
- Shall continue to reside in the district from which elected if applicable
- Forfeits office if ceases to be resident of district to which elected
- At-large member forfeits office if ceases to be resident of New Town of Avon
- New Town of Avon employee elected to the Council must resign from employed position on or before employee takes office

# **Governance Subcommittee Report**

## **Districts**

The five (5) districts and two (2) at-large districts shall be established or modified by New Town Council based on 2010 census

The Transition Council will update and adjust district boundaries in accordance with Indiana law

Configured by following criteria:

- Contain substantially equal populations
- Must be as compact as possible
- Follow precinct boundaries as practicable
- Transition Council will identify two (2) members who will run at-large in the next election as determined by Reorganization Plan

# Governance Subcommittee Report

## Terms

- Four (4) years subject to varying length of initial terms as proposed by matrix
- Nine (9) member Transition Council consists of three (3) District Town Council members, three (3) Township Board members and the Township Trustee elected in 2014 and the two (2) at-large Town Council members whose terms expire at the end of 2015
- Reduces to seven (7) members in 2017
- At end of 2016, Town Council and Township Board positions elected in 2014 with lowest votes will be eliminated

# Governance Subcommittee Report

## Terms

- Remaining Council members elected in 2014 will serve initial three (3) year term and subsequent four (4) year terms
- Two (2) at-large members elected in 2015 will serve initial three (3) year term and subsequent four (4) year terms
- Township Trustee will serve initial term of four (4) years as council member and then subsequent terms of four (4) years
- Second lowest vote getter of Township Board election in 2014 serves an initial term of three (3) years as council member and subsequent four (4) year term
- Highest vote getter of Township Board election in 2014 serves initial term of four (4) years and subsequent term of four (4) years

# Governance Subcommittee Report Terms

- Terms begin on January 1 of the year following the year in which member elected
- Terms of previous office-holders expire when term of respective successor begins
- Transitional Provision: Above dates established assuming Effective Plan Date of January 1, 2015; if effective date changes to another year later, than year 2015 is subtracted from year in which effective date falls and resulting number added to each of years above

# **Governance Subcommittee Report Elections**

Held as part Indiana general election process  
on dates established by State of Indiana  
Changes in the constituency of the two (2)  
service districts shall be governed by the  
legislative acts of the New Town of  
Avon Council

# **Infrastructure and Administration Sub-committee Report**

- Ed Martin
- Steven Crowe



# **Infrastructure and Administration Sub-committee Report**

- Sub-committee members
  - Greg Zusan
  - Steve Eisenbarth

# **Infrastructure and Administration Sub-committee Report Infrastructure**

- This report recommends no change in utility services in Washington Township

# **Infrastructure and Administration Sub-committee Report Administration**

- Under this plan of reorganization, the office of the Trustee of Washington Township shall cease to exist. All other administrative positions shall remain in place under the direction of the Town of Avon Transition Council and under such delegated administration as the Town Council shall designate.

# **Infrastructure and Administration Sub-committee Report Administration**

- During the tenure of the Transition Committee, a Plan of Administration of the functions of the New Town of Avon shall be developed prior to the assumption of responsibilities by the elected New Town of Avon Council.

# **Parks Sub-committee Report**

- Scott Munoz

# Parks Sub-committee Report

- Sub-committee members:
  - Tim Callahan
  - Gina Kerr

# Parks Sub-committee Report

- The Town of Avon Parks and Recreation Department and the Washington Township Parks and Recreation Department shall be combined into a new Department of Parks and Recreation of the New Town of Avon. The Department shall function in a manner similar to the current parks organizations

# **Parks Sub-committee Report**

- Cemetery maintenance will be performed by the New Town of Avon Department Parks and Recreation.



# Parks Sub-committee Report

- The Transition Council shall make the final determinations on the following issues:
- Leadership and staffing.
- Funding
  - Food and Beverage tax revenue from the Town of Avon;
  - Property tax revenue from Washington Township;
  - Rental resource revenue.
  - Other

# **Planning & Zoning Sub-committee Recommendations**

- Matt Bailey

# **Planning & Zoning Sub-committee Recommendations**

- Sub-committee members
  - John Lazaro
  - Mason Pike
  - Dale Kruse

# **Planning & Zoning Sub-committee Recommendations**

- All planning and zoning approvals within the boundary of the New Town of Avon will be administered by two appointed boards, the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) and the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

# Planning & Zoning

## Sub-committee Recommendations

- Consolidate Town and County planning & zoning responsibilities under one department
- Two appointed boards:  
Advisory Planning Commission (APC)  
Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)
- Representation from the Town & Rural Districts

# Planning & Zoning

## Sub-committee Recommendations

- Existing legal uses will be “grandfathered” upon reorganization in their respective districts
- Reorganization will eliminate the potential annexation of Washington Township by other government entities
- Reorganization will allow for comprehensive planning for economic development throughout Washington Township

# **Public Safety Report**

- Don Ulrey, Sub-committee Chair

# Public Safety

- Sub-committee members
  - Charlie Dorton
  - Gerald George



# Public Safety Sub-committee Recommendations

The current structure and information regarding The Avon Police Department and The Washington Township / Avon Fire Department is provided in the opening portion of my Subcommittee report, and I'm sure that all of you are well aware of how the two Departments function and their respective responsibilities to the Town of Avon and Washington Township.

Therefore I will briefly summarize our recommendation to the reorganization into the "New Town of Avon."

Recommendations to Reorganization:

The Avon Police Department will remain as it is currently structured.

# Public Safety

The "New Town of Avon" will have;

- \* a "town" district (formerly the Town of Avon ) with the Avon Police Department continuing to provide their police service and
- \* a "rural" district (formerly Washington Township ) with the Hendricks County Sheriff's Department continuing to provide their police service.

The Washington Township / Avon Fire Department will remain as it is currently structured.

The New Town of Avon will continue to receive its fire and emergency medical services from the Washington Township / Avon Fire Department.

The New Town of Avon Transition Town Council and/or the New Town of Avon Town Council will address the following issues:

# Public Safety

Any disparity between the salary and benefit packages afforded the Avon Police Department, the Washington Township / Avon Fire Department and any clerical staff in the Washington Township / Avon Fire Department and the Town of Avon,

- The appointment of members to the Avon Police Department and the Washington Township / Avon Fire Department Merit Boards,
- The appointment of the Avon Police Department Chief and Assistant Chief and the appointment of the Washington Township/ Avon Fire Department Chief and Upper Level positions and
- Determine if a name change will be required for the Washington Township / Avon Fire Department.
- A new Mutual Aid Agreement between the Avon Police Department and the Hendricks County Sheriff's Office.

# Benefits and Risks of Reorganization

- Significant benefits inure to the residents of Washington Township under the Reorganization Plan recommended by the Committee:
- Reorganization resolves the issue in the minds of many Washington Township residents about whether they live in the Town of Avon or not.
- Reorganization allows all residents who are eligible to vote to vote for the New Town of Avon elected officials.
- Reorganization resolves the Township's emergency loan risk of having ten people remonstrate against the annual emergency loan approval.

# Benefits and Risks of Reorganization

- Reorganization eliminates the possible reduction in fire service that would result if the Township's emergency loan becomes unavailable.
- Reorganization eliminates the possible reduction in Township Park operations and maintenance if the annual emergency loan becomes unavailable.
- Reorganization allows all residents to have a say in the municipal decisions that affect them whereas they have no standing in town decisions as Township residents outside town limits.

# Benefits and Risks of Reorganization

- Reorganization allows one planning district for decisions on municipal development and zoning policies by eliminating the dual plans and policies of the town and the county.
- Reorganization creates a single accountable structure with fewer elected officials.
- Reorganization centralizes purchasing.
- Reorganization allows for comprehensive planning for economic development throughout Washington Township

# **Risks of Continuing as Town and Township**

- The problems of the Township's emergency loan continue until some unknown event forces a financial and operational resolution.
- The elimination of the township by state action could cause loss of local control. Local control would be retained under the reorganization plan.

# Risks of Continuing as Town and Township

- Other towns can annex areas in Washington Township thereby reducing the maximum constituency for Avon's development.
- Other towns' annexation in Washington Township reduces the tax base for fire service in the township



# Risks with Reorganization

- The tax levy for the funds previously provided by the emergency loan repayment to Washington Township will change from a loan repayment levy to an operating expense levy. The approval of this operating expense levy will have to be made by the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). While DLGF approval for this levy is likely, it is not assured.

# Risks with Reorganization

- The cumulative fund for replacements will be extended to the urban and rural districts of the New Town of Avon. DLGF approval of this levy may be needed. If it is, approval is not assured

# Risks with Reorganization

- The Sheriff's agreement to serve the rural district of the New Town of Avon should be made formal by agreement between the Sheriff and the New Town of Avon. While the successful agreement for this purpose is likely, it is not assured.

# Recommendations

## Number 1

- Old Town of Avon and Washington Township consolidate in a government entity to be known as the Town of Avon (the “New Town of Avon” in this report). The reorganization shall take effect as of January 1, 2015.

# **Recommendations**

## **Number 2**

- The corporate boundaries of the Town of Avon must be extended to the fullest extent possible throughout Washington Township to protect the development of the Town of Avon and to provide the maximum town constituency for that development.

# Recommendations

## Number 3

- The financial health of Washington Township must be improved by combining with another public entity, the Town of Avon, to provide adequate operational funding for the public services now provided by Washington Township.

# Recommendations

## Number 4

- The Town of Avon will purchase assets for economic development purposes from Washington Township. Washington Township will use the proceeds from this sale to repay its then existing Emergency Loan.

# Timeline for Reorganization

- **Oct. 30 '12 Committee updates legislative bodies on Plan development**
- *(Preliminary Plan with legal and financial changes to make it the Final Plan sent to printers)*
- **Nov. 8 '12 Committee votes on Final Plan**
- *(Copies of Final Plan sent to Town and Township legislative bodies)*
- **Nov. 28 /12 Optional meeting date to take up unresolved issues**
- **Dec. 11 '12 Final Plan presented to Town and Township legislative bodies**
- *(Town and Township consider plan adoption or change)*



# Timeline for Reorganization

- **Dec 11, '13 Deadline for Town and Township acceptance**
- *(Transition Committee formed and organized)*
- **August 1, '14 Referendum to County for Ballot inclusion**
- **Nov. 4 '14 Referendum on Reorganization**
- *(Town buys economic development properties from Township and Township repays emergency loan)*
- **Jan. 1 '15 Effective Date of Reorganization**
- *(Township Board and Trustee offices cease to exist)*
- *(Transition Council takes over full governing powers)*