

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: John Porzondek [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2012 11:21 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Docket #11-C-1 - Saugatuck Boundary
 State Boundary Commission,

As a Councilman for the City of Saugatuck I have been asked by my constituency to recommend the consolidation of the City of Saugatuck, City of the Village of Douglas and Saugatuck Township. Not only is there a financial obligation that needs to be met but also the 'soft' costs associated with not merging and each city entity staying the course on its own.

With such small populations with the City of Saugatuck (1,000) to be specific, only 450 are permanent residents. This leaves only a repeated handful of individuals opting to volunteer to run the city's day to day operations outside of the City Manager, Treasurer, Clerk and Zoning Administrator and a part time Assessor. These volunteers and paid employees of the City of Saugatuck, do not move the city forward in capturing financial savings, only, in securing their jobs at all cost even when attempting practices that are not in line with State of Michigan or City practices.

Having a consolidated entity will open up the availability of additional volunteers that will have to vie for seats on City Council and other commissions without the continuing use of nepotism and relationships that do not cross current city boundaries. As an example, if one looks from the shore to the other side and sees a landing, it only sees the landing from its viewpoint. It's time to travel the road less traveled and combine cities to form a more complete example and view of what has been for may decades, a city and resort area for the whole of the viewable public entity.

As both a Citizen of Saugatuck and a corporate citizen, I see this 'reorganization' as a healthy step in the right direction that will both 'clean house' and bring to the forefront a truer vision of a larger community, to address new viewpoints from its larger community of Citizens and a community that is currently struggling with its city center as well as combined interests in both harbor restoration, school practices and tax distributions.

Sincerely yours,
 John Porzondek – Councilman
 City of Saugatuck (Term exp. 11/2012)

ORACLE

John Porzondek | Principal Consultant
Oracle Consulting Strategy and Innovation | HCM Competency Center
 PeopleSoft Talent Management | Fusion HCM Solution Center | Fusion Expert Services
 UPK Master Certified | ELM | HCM | FMS
 Phone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]



Oracle is committed to developing practices and products that help protect the environment

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Art & Marilyn Nor [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2012 8:07 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA); Frank Lamb [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Hearing for Consolidation of Saugatuck-Douglas

Hi Kevin,

I attended the consolidation hearing today at Saugatuck High School but had to leave after 6:00 p.m. without getting my opportunity to comment.

I will give you my comments now in my email, but before I do that, please know that even though the CGC seemed to be overwhelmed by the anti-consolidation people (mostly from Saugatuck Township), only a small representative group of CGC were able to attend the daytime hearing.

There are many residents who are in favor of consolidation of Saugatuck and Douglas.

My comments:

I have been a resident of Douglas for 13 years. I served on the Village of Douglas council about 8 years ago so I am somewhat familiar with our small town governments and the people who live here.

It was somewhat humorous to hear the city managers talk of how they get along so well, when, in reality, there have been many lawsuits between the two cities since we've lived here.

I believe consolidation would create better efficiencies of government and remove the redundancies of 2 city managers, 2 city staffs, 2 councils, 2 tax assessors, 2 DPWs and so on for a population of less than 2,200 residents. Consolidation should result in a savings of around half a million dollars each year for tax payers according to the 2 CGC-sponsored studies. Of course, one of the ways the anti-consolidation people use to persuade people not to want to consolidate is to claim those studies are flawed.

One issue that was not addressed is this: It is human nature for the 2 current city managers, staffs, and councils to try to delay or deny a chance of consolidation of the 2 cities. If we consolidated, likely half of them would lose their jobs. But are they working for the city tax payers or for themselves?

I feel consolidation at this time makes both financial and common sense for both cities.

There is a famous quote attributed to the Danish philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard: "Everybody wants progress but nobody likes change." Any suggestion for change may be perceived as criticism of the current or past ways of doing things. Believe me when I say in these two small towns of Douglas and Saugatuck, there are native born residents who want no changes at all.

I ask the SBC to approve the consolidation application for Douglas and Saugatuck and allow the tax payers to vote and decide on consolidation. We should not allow the city managers, mayors or former mayors to make the decision for us.

Thanks to all members of the SBC who made the trip here today.

Marilyn Nor

[REDACTED]
Saugatuck, MI 49453 (mailing address but live in Douglas which does not deliver mail)

June 20, 2012

TO: State Boundary Commission
FROM: Catherine L. Simon
COMMENTS June 20, 2012

RECEIVED
DEPT. OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

JUN 20 2012

STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

My name is Catherine Simon, I am a resident of the city of Saugatuck and downtown business owner.

Having served on the Saugatuck city council and as Mayor, I have been privy to numerous discussions and meetings whereby city leaders strive to find the best path for our local community. While we succeed on the larger issues of shared services, we fail at the simple tasks of cooperation. Unfortunately, at times we act in a vacuum or demonstrate a petty competitiveness with each other.

For instance, the city of Saugatuck initiated discussions with our neighbors in 2008 to consider a single waste hauler. Talks broke down and only the city of Saugatuck signed a contract with Chef Container in 2009 saving their residents approximately \$200.00 per year. Fast forward to November 2011, the "Douglas city council tells manager to look into single trash hauler" (Holland Sentinel 11-16-11) . Our inability to find consensus has cost Douglas residents approximately \$600.00 per household to date. Just think how much we would have all saved, had we bid the contract together.

Come winter and the Saugatuck city snow plow lifts its shovel as it travels thru Douglas to Campbell Rd. to resume its task of clearing the roads. Douglas decorates the Blue Star Bridge with welcoming seasonal banners, while the Saugatuck half is barren. When Douglas invited Saugatuck to participate with the cost of maintaining the established ice rink at Berry Field, Saugatuck immediately chose to put in their own ice rink. Yes, petty competitiveness does exist and it's expensive.

I support celebrating our differences and the unique landscape of each community. I also support fiscal responsibility so together we can shape our own destiny.

In closing I would like to share a quote by John F. Kennedy, "There are risks and costs to action. But they are far less than the long range risks of comfortable inaction."



Saugatuck Twp. considers single waste hauler

By **JIM HAYDEN**

The Holland Sentinel

Posted Apr 07, 2009 @ 10:11 PM

Business News

[10 Countries Where Retirees Live Large](#)

[5 High-Tech Smart Homes for the Super Rich](#)

[Sallie Mae Changes Card Partners: Bigger Rewards?](#)

Suggested Stories

[Brothers hurt in crash recovering — together](#)

[Car crash kills former Holland MMA fighter](#)

[Former State Sen. William Van Regenmorter, dead at 73](#)

From the Web

[Deborah Malmud, Diana Dube - Weddings \(The New York Times\)](#)

[Notorious Green River Serial Killer Claims Yet Another Victim \(CafeMom\)](#)

[\\$100,000 Income: No big deal anymore \(Bankrate.com\)](#)

Sponsored content

[What's this?](#)

Saugatuck Township, MI — Saugatuck Township is considering jumping on the bandwagon, or, more accurately, the garbage truck, after a township resident asked for a single waste hauler throughout the municipality.

“When a taxpayer comes to us and wants services, we should look at it,” said Saugatuck Township Trustee Chris Roerig.

The township board will discuss the issue at its May meeting.

The city of Douglas has not considered the topic, but might hold a workshop on it.

The city of Saugatuck and Laketown Township are already using single trash haulers for their residents.

Both have said the move is saving residents money. Saugatuck made the change Jan. 1, and Laketown April 1. Both set up five-year contracts with Chef Container, A-4376 60th St. in Laketown Township.

“Both municipalities agree that the consolidated or single-carrier trash pickup initiative is extremely cost effective, saving each residence about 50 percent of their prior service fee,” said Wayne Kidder, a trustee with the Douglas Lake Shore Association.

Kidder read a two-page letter to the board April 1, advocating for the single-hauler service.

He said a single service will cut down on truck traffic, reducing pollution and wear on roads.

Saugatuck city’s switch to a single hauler is saving residents about \$200 per year in their trash removal bills, City Manager Kirk Harrier said. The policy also allowed the city to eliminate its drop-off recycling center that cost taxpayers more than \$47,700 a year.

Laketown’s move is saving the township about \$28,000 because the township no longer has to pay for recycling and cleanup events.

The city researched the topic for more than a year, holding meetings and conducting a survey.

“Overwhelmingly, citizens supported the project, so the council moved forward,” Harrier said.

Saugatuck Township board members were not immediately sold on the idea.

“I don’t want an ordinance,” said Supervisor Bill Wester. “I’m concerned about free enterprise.”

Clerk Jane Wright said she was concerned about imposing the single-hauler rule on residents.

“To mandate to everybody that you must pay, I have a problem,” she said.

Saugatuck Township’s next meeting is 6 p.m. May 6 at the township hall, 3461 Blue Star Highway.

DOUGLAS PICK-UP

A change in trash removal days might lead to rule changes in the city of Douglas.

Chef Container, A-4376 60th St. in Laketown Township, has moved its refuse pickup day from Monday to Friday in some sections of the city to run its



Douglas council tells manager to look into single trash hauler

By **JIM HAYDEN**

The Holland Sentinel

Posted Nov 16, 2011 @ 09:45 PM

Business News

[10 Countries Where Retirees Live Large](#)

[5 High-Tech Smart Homes for the Super Rich](#)

[Sallie Mae Changes Card Partners: Bigger Rewards?](#)

Suggested Stories

[Brothers hurt in crash recovering -- together](#)

[Libby Sanford, 59](#)

[Car crash kills former Holland MMA fighter](#)

From the Web

[Father Not Charged in Killing of Man Molesting His Daughter, 5 \(The New York Times\)](#)

[Yreka: "the richest square mile on earth." \(Gold Standard Now\)](#)

[Are you ready to work to 70? \(Bankrate.com\)](#)

[Sponsored content](#) [What's this?](#)

Copyright 2011 The Holland Sentinel. Some rights reserved

Comments (0)

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post a user comment.

Douglas --

Douglas City Manager Bill LeFevere will begin investigating the possibility of a single trash hauler in the city.

Residents may now choose their waste haulers, but under a single-hauler system, the city chooses the company that picks up trash and recyclables for residents.

The move stems from complaints residents have made about the Allegan County Resource Recovery Program. The county picks up recyclables in the city. Residents say the recycle bins are difficult to handle and impossible for senior citizens to use, especially in the winter. When the city renewed its contract with the county last year, council members wanted bins with wheels for residents.

"Do we want to go in a different direction? Do we want to stay with the county program?" LeFevere asked Nov. 7, noting other area governments have adopted a single-hauler system that has the same company picking up trash and recyclables.

Both Saugatuck city and Laketown Township use a single-hauler system and have saved residents money. Saugatuck Township rejected the idea of a single hauler in 2009.

Douglas council members were split on the single-hauler idea, but agreed it should be investigated.

"We'll look at what's best for our constituents," said Councilman Greg Harvath.

In other action:

- The council approved using Grounds Management Solutions for snowplowing and ice control on Center Street sidewalks, on-street parking areas adjacent to Center Street, Blue Star Highway and Randolph Street sidewalks and other sidewalks. The contract is for one year.
- The council appointed Kenneth Kutzel to the Joint Planning Committee.



[Contact us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [About our Ads](#)

The Holland Sentinel | 54 W 8th Street Holland, MI 49423

Copyright © 2006-2012 GateHouse Media, Inc. Some Rights Reserved.

Original content available for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons license, except where noted.

[RadarFrog Merchant Directory](#) | [Internet Marketing by Propel Marketing](#) | [RadarFrog](#)



Douglas snow removal rules melting away

By **JIM HAYDEN**

The Holland Sentinel

Posted Jul 06, 2011 @ 09:05 AM

Last update Jul 08, 2011 @ 10:26 PM

Business News

[10 Countries Where Retirees Live Large](#)

[5 High-Tech Smart Homes for the Super Rich](#)

[Sallie Mae Changes Card Partners; Bigger Rewards?](#)

Suggested Stories

[Brothers hurt in crash recovering -- together](#)

[Car crash kills former Holland MMA fighter](#)

[Police: Don't drive to Holland State Park Tuesday](#)

From the Web

[Man stranded in desert builds motorcycle out of his broken car \(Autoblog\)](#)

[2013 SRT Viper Drops Dodge Name, Late 2012 Arrival \(MotorAuthority\)](#)

[Father Not Charged in Killing of Man Molesting His Daughter, 5 \(The New York Times\)](#)

[Sponsored content](#) [What's this?](#)

Copyright 2011 The Holland Sentinel. Some rights reserved

Comments (1)

westmichguy

11 months ago

[Report Abuse](#)

You must be logged in to report abuse.

[Report Abuse](#)

You want less 'nanny' government, less taxes. But cut the sidewalk snow plowing and watch the firestorm start. Let them shovel the sidewalk, too old or not capable...pay someone or maybe a nice neighbor will do it. [Login](#) or [register](#) to post a user comment.

[>

[Contact us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [About our Ads](#)

The Holland Sentinel | 54 W 8th Street Holland, MI 49423

Copyright © 2006-2012 GateHouse Media, Inc. Some Rights Reserved

Mr. Dennis Schornack, Chairman

June 26, 2012

State Boundary Commission

PO Box 30254

Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Schornack:

After the opening meeting held at the Saugatuck High School I'm asking you to consider the silent majority and how they feel about the consolidation of Saugatuck and Douglas.

Please approve the merger of the governments of Saugatuck and Douglas into a single entity. There is nothing but good that can come with this decision for the two towns, citizen, visitors and Michigan.

Thank you.



Terry L. Stewart

[REDACTED]

Saugatuck, MI 49453

[REDACTED]

RECEIVED
DEPT. OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
JUN 27 2012
STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Mr. Kevin O'Brien, P.S.
Mi. Dept. of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
State Boundary Commission
Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation
P.O. Box 30254
Lansing, Mi.
July 1, 2012

Docket No. 11-C-1 Saugatuck-Douglas-Saugatuck Township Consolidation

Dear Folks'

We were unable to attend the recent open hearing in Saugatuck on the propose consolidation.

We have lived in Douglas for 31 years and have owned several businesses and properties. We are in favor of Saugatuck and Douglas merging as one city. For years, we have not understood how 2 small cities could justify having 2 city operations with the high cost of maintaining both of them. Both cities would benefit with the savings being put into projects that are not being done due to lack of money.

We hope you approve Douglas and Saugatuck being allowed to vote to merge.

Thank you.

Sincerely;

Lawrence W Gammons
Carl I Jennings

Lawrence W. Gammons

Carl I. Jennings

██████████
Douglas, Mi. 49496

RECEIVED
JUL 09 2012
OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY &
REMONUMENTATION

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: smhu [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2012 12:12 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Letter RE Saugatuck and Douglas consolidation
 7-9-2012

Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
 State Boundary Commission
 P.O. Box 30254
 Lansing, Michigan 48909

RE: Docket #11-C-1

Sirs:

The recent public meeting regarding the proposed consolidation of Saugatuck and Douglas brought forth the usual anti suspects.

Elected officials opposed consolidation. The administrators for both cities opposed consolidation. Special interest group leaders opposed consolidation.

Their message: it won't work, it'll cost too much to implement, and a study supporting consolidation was flawed.

Despite their sometimes-heated rhetoric, these leaders offered no proof, but their own self-serving opinions. There was no independent validated study shown that consolidation would not save significant taxpayer funds.

These officials offered no proof that consolidation would be cost prohibitive. There was no validated estimate given.

Some officials sought to brag about how fiscally strong their city was. What was neglected to be said was how much stronger a single city would be based upon just the obvious savings through the elimination of duplicated administrative personnel.

Eliminate a city manager (\$75,000 plus \$.41 in benefits for each salary dollar) a city clerk (\$35,000 plus \$.41 for benefits) and a city treasurer (\$40,000 plus \$.41 for benefits) and the savings are over \$200,000 annually.

Another leader observed, "If it isn't broke why fix it." With all due respect, this same official would have made this same observation when England ruled America.

Political leaders and vested interests then as now opposed the citizens who saw another and better way.

So why exactly did these leaders speak so ardently against consolidation? Do they perhaps fear the loss of their stature and power? Do they prefer 2 weak small cities that shroud accountability by finger pointing that it's the other city's fault?

7/10/2012

Could it be they collectively believe they alone have all the answers and resent that private citizens just might have a good idea they didn't think of.

Whatever the real reasons, those opposed to consolidation offered few facts and no solid documentation to support their position.

What is factual and documented is that the citizens of Saugatuck and Douglas have on more than one occasion expressed in the Tri-Community Plan's surveys a significant majority support for consolidation.

But, the elected leaders have done nothing responsive to the Tri-Community Plan which they officially adopted and approved and then re-approved a few short years ago. It's been business as usual for the past 15 years and sans any effort to even discuss consolidation.

During this time millions of dollars of the taxpayers' money has been wasted to pay for the burden of duplicated governments to serve 2300 people.

The need for this burden has never been presented or justified. No list of benefits was presented. No discussion of the merits was ever held. Rather it became an unproven operative assumption that there should be duplicated governments.

The opponents of consolidation would have the State Boundary Commission believe things are as good as they can be. If this is the case, where is the proof? Why didn't the opponents list the accomplishments that only duplicated governments could achieve?

In plain simple truth the status quo has not proven to be anywhere near as good as it gets. There are no accomplishments that can be listed that owe their existence to the fact there were 2 duplicated governments.

Saugatuck and Douglas taxpayers deserve the opportunity to enjoy the benefits consolidation offers and to remove duplicated government's costly and dysfunctional yoke.

Sincerely

Patricia Topping

[REDACTED],
Saugatuck Property Owner

Direct Contact information

[REDACTED]
San Marino Holding LLC
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

JUNE 20-2012

I SUPPORT THE CONSOLIDATION EFFORT. IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING. A LONG TIME IN NEED OF A REAL DISCUSSION WITH FACTS. CHANGES NEED TO BE LOOKED AT. FEARS ADDRESSED RATIONALLY. WE CAN DO THIS! WE WILL BECOME AN EVEN BETTER COMMUNITY.

IT IS TIME TO LET THE BENEFITS LEAD THE WAY. IT IS TIME TO OPEN THE DOOR TO THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

COMMUNITY IS US - WE WILL STILL BE WHAT MAKES IT GREAT.

Sincerely
Karen J. Dunn
KAREN J. DUNN

[REDACTED]
SAGBATUCK, MI 49453

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Juliet [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2012 1:16 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Saugatuck Douglas Consolidation

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

I am a resident of Saugatuck Township and I would just like to briefly express my concerns about the proposed consolidation. My family and I live in the more rural part of the township and I feel that the consolidation would be most beneficial to those residents of Saugatuck, Douglas and the lakeshore portion of the township. I am supportive of approving the consolidation with revised boundaries, leaving the rural portions of the township out of the consolidation.

We live closer to Fennville, our mailing address is Fennville, and our children go to school in Fennville. My husband and I built our home in a rural area for a reason and we do not want to be consolidated with any adjoining towns.

Thank you,

Juliet Michele
[REDACTED]
Fennville, MI 49408