Questionnaire for Annexation
State Boundary Commission
Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation
Bureau of Construction Codes/LARA

SBC DOCKET #13-AP-1 from PETITIONER
Proposed Annexation of Land in the Indianfields Township
to the City of Caro, Tuscola County

BOUNDARY COMMISSION QUESTIONS
FOR
DEVELOPING PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

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1. a) Why is annexation necessary or desirable at this time?

Annexation is necessary to provide adequate municipal services to the proposed annexation area, and to provide those services through the City, which is the only local unit that has the ability to provide adequate services. The current municipal services to the proposed annexation area are funded solely by the Township, but those services are not adequate because the Township does not supply a number of services that are needed in the proposed annexation area. In addition, the principal beneficiaries of the improved and additional municipal services to the proposed annexation area will be residents and taxpayers of the City, since more than 50% of the users of the cemetery within the proposed annexation area are City residents and taxpayers.

b) Have you reviewed other alternatives that might accomplish your goals without annexation?

Yes. Attempted to negotiate an operating agreement for cemetery services with the City and the City leaders refused to come to the table.

c) What are these alternatives?

One alternative to annexation would be for the City to voluntarily provide municipal services to the proposed annexation area without annexation. Another alternative would be to transfer the proposed annexation area into the City via Act 425. A third option would be for the City to provide funds for municipal services to the cemetery within the proposed annexation area. A local funeral director attempted to mediate an agreement between the City and the Township, but his efforts were futile because the City would not come to the table to discuss any alternatives or options.

d) Why were they rejected?

The reason for the City's refusal to negotiate with the Township are unknown. However the City mayor has gone on public written record stating the City will not provide any financial help for the operation of the Cemetery, despite the fact that the majority of the graves in the Cemetery are tied to current and past residents and taxpayers of the City.

2. a) If annexation is accomplished, will the existing land use change?

No.

b) If yes, how will it change?

See 2a.

c) How soon can this change be expected?

See 2a.

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3. a) What governmental services are currently being provided to the area proposed for annexation?

The Township currently manages and provides all available municipal services to the cemetery in the proposed annexation area, but these services are limited because the Township does not have a police department, a road department, leaf pickup services, refuse collection, and other related services that are available within the City. In addition, police patrol services to the annexation area are not currently provided by the County or State because the only roads that provide access to the proposed annexation area are City roads.

b) From which jurisdiction?

Indianfields Township

4. a) What new or additional governmental services do you expect to be made available if the land is annexed?

City police protection, winter snow removal, fall leaf pick-up and disposal, road maintenance on cemetery property, refuse collection and related City services.

b) Are these services available without annexation?

Possibly, through contract, but the City has not agreed to come to the table to discuss providing these services to the proposed annexation area.

c) From which jurisdiction?

All of the municipal services needed in the proposed annexation area can be provided by the City, including all the above-mentioned services and fire protection.

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d) Under what conditions?

Such services would be provided on the same conditions as they are provided to other properties within the City.

5. If the annexation were approved, what would be the impact on the city, the township, and the greater community?

Annexation would reduce the burden on the Townships General Fund budget from over 18% of GF to approximately 13% of GF while increasing the City's' General Fund budget from nothing to approximately 1 and 1/2% of GF. Annexation would allow City residents to be eligible for resident rates for Cemetery services and create greater harmony in the community

6. If the annexation were denied, what would be the impact on the city, the township, and the greater community?

City residents will continue to pay non-resident fees for burials within the cemetery. Township residents will continue to bear the burden for maintaining the cemetery, despite the fact that the majority of graves in the cemetery have ties to City residents. Inadequate municipal services will continue to be provided to the cemetery, because of its access solely via City Streets. Vandalism due to the lack of police services and police presence will continue to be a problem.

SUBMITTED OR PREPARED BY:

William E. Campbell
Print Name

William E. Campbell
Signature

11-15-2013
Date