

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Susan Saffer-Huenink [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 10:12 AM

To: BCC OLSR; John

Subject: Changes of boundaries and consolidation

I am vehemently apposed to the changes that will annex a portion of the Saugatuck Township into the proposed consolidation plans of the Citizens for Consolidation. This is underhanded and takes the tax base from the township without our vote. Shame on the people involved.

Susan Saffer-Huenink

[REDACTED]
Hamilton, Mi 49419

(Saugatuck Township resident)

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: David and Patricia Gacchina [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 3:13 PM

To: BCC OLSR

Subject: Sugatuck Township consolidaton

Dear State Boundary Commission,

I am writing to inform you that I am against any consolidation of any part of Saugatuck Township.

David Gacchina
Saugatuck Township Resident

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Lesa Werme [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 11:29 AM
To: BobGenetski@house.mi.gov; SenRJones@senate.michigan.gov
Cc: BCC OLSR
Subject: State Boundary Commission requested the CGC

Dear Representatives Bob and Rick,

I have great concern for the representation of my rights as a citizen of this country and state, when I am confronted with self appointed individuals changing constitutional rights in the democratic process to which our country is founded on.

Recently, seven self appointed individuals of the Saugatuck Douglas area confirmed themselves as the official Consolidated Government Committee. Their alleged responsibility is in part to represent a newly configured and formed governmental body that would represent the residents of the tri community to which I am a part of.

I am appalled at the actions that has been taken by these self appointed individuals of the CGC and I am further disappointed at the process to which the officially appointed and elected governmental officials have allowed this to go on.

On Wednesday April 11th, the State Boundary Commission (SBC) held a hearing on the legal sufficiency of the petitions that were filed with the state regarding the consolidation, as well as the surveys and map of the proposed area to consolidate. Rather than being merely a procedural meeting as we expected and were told by the SBC, it appears that the State Boundary Commission is signaling to change the boundaries of the proposed consolidated community.

While the residents of the tri-communities including citizens who signed the petition circulated by the CGC, have been led to believe the proposal put to the voters would be to consolidate all of Douglas, Saugatuck Township and Saugatuck. That now appears not to be the case.

Members of the State Boundary Commission requested the CGC's attorney submit a change to the area to be consolidated. If the CGC follows the suggestions of the SBC, only this portion of the Township would be included with the two cities. Based on statements by the CGC's attorney it appears that he was already working on these changes.

Another major concern is that the State Boundary Commission set the Public Hearing that is required to be held in the area of the proposed consolidation for Wednesday, May 16 at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts (SCA) at 10 am.

The citizens who are affected by this consolidation effort of the CGC roughly includes 4000+ tax paying citizens. The SCA has a maximum seating capacity of 400.

In addition to the 10 am May 16th meeting on a Wednesday at the SCA which does not offer adequate capacity for the citizens of the affected communities. The timing and place will most certainly eliminate a major part of the voting population because, unlike the retired wealthy members of the CGC, many citizens of the community have jobs and will be working to maintain their basic standard of living.

The choice of timing on a Wednesday at 10am also appears to conveniently eliminate possible larger venues like the tax supported high school which will be in session, but could more than sufficiently meet the capacity needs.

Another procedural issue of concern is that CGC began efforts to change the boundaries at a scheduled meeting that was legally defined as ONLY to merely be a procedural meeting on the legal sufficiency of the petitions.

The State Boundary Commission allowed this action and also formally requested that the CGC's attorney submit a change to the area to be consolidated. This action along with the Wednesday May 16th, 10:00am timing for the hearing, I am left concluding that these

are attempts to limit input from a large number of the citizens of the affected communities.

These reckless actions taken by the CGC and the State Boundary Commission indicate that there is obviously little regard for the citizens who will be affected by the drastic changes to their government and communities.

Bob and Rick, you are both elected (by the people). to uphold the laws and fair governing that represent fairness to ALL people. Not just to groups who self appoint themselves to governmental representation of the people, such as the CGC.

Please make every attempt to follow the law as it relates to the latest actions of changing the boundaries taken by the State Boundary Commission, as well as the GCG's recommendation of venue and time of a hearing in which every tax paying citizen has the lawful right "to hear and be heard" on the actions that are taking place.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Lesa Werme

[REDACTED]
Saugatuck MI

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Wayne Brower [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 8:23 AM
To: BCC OLSR
Subject: RE: Saugatuck, Douglas, Saugatuck Township Consolidation

Thank you for you quick response.

Wayne Brower
Director, IT Business Risk
Information Technology

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

HermanMiller

From: BCC OLSR <BCCOLSR@michigan.gov>
To: 'Wayne Brower' [REDACTED]
Cc: "O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)" <ObrienK@michigan.gov>
Date: 04/19/2012 08:17 AM
Subject: RE: Saugatuck, Douglas, Saugatuck Township Consolidation

Thank you for your comments, they will be provided to the Commission.

Please be advised that an oral presentation at a public hearing is not the only method to submit your comments. If you are not able to attend the public hearing you may submit written comments to the Commission. The Commission will receive written comments, either at a meeting or delivered, through our office, via USPS mail or email through 30 days after the public hearing.

Thank You

State Boundary Commission
Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation
Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs "Customer Driven. Business Minded."

-----Original Message-----

From: Wayne Brower [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 8:12 AM
To: BCC OLSR; O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA); BobGenetski@house.mi.gov;
SenRJones@senate.michigan.gov
Subject: Saugatuck, Douglas, Saugatuck Township Consolidation

State Boundary Commission,

There is some new information (second point) being circulated about the consolidation effort.

First, the timing of the public hearing at 10 AM, on May 16 is inappropriate. Public hearings need to when the constituents are available to attend i.e. Not during normal week day business hours.

Please reschedule in a public forum building.

Second, I'm told several alternatives are now being discussed which include a township split, where parts of the township will be consolidated and the other parts not. The other alternative being discussed is consolidation of Saugatuck and Douglas, not Saugatuck Township. I realize people are trying to do what they think is best. However, these discussions, although interesting, should not be considered at this time. The people signing the petition for consolidation, signed with the understanding of the three entities being consolidated. Proper process dictates settling on the three entity consolidation proposal first. If that is not a approved (either by the State Boundary Commission or through the voting process), then the process can move to the petition process for an alternative, if that is what is desired. Please govern accordingly.

Representative Geneski and Senator Jones - we need your help in all of these proceedings to ensure the proper process is being followed.

Respectively submitted.

Wayne Brower

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Janet Rund [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 9:10 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Regarding a proposed consolidation Saugatuck/Douglas

Dear members of the boundary commission,

I much appreciate that you changed the meeting held at Saugatuck High School in order to allow folks to attend and voice their opinions. I also appreciate your consideration, giving full attention to each speaker and being gracious in allowing all who wished to voice their opinion.

As a member of CICC, it was gratifying to hear such well informed, intelligent arguments against consolidation: Matt Balmer, Jane Ver Plank and other members of Saugatuck's city council as well as those from the Douglas council and their city manager, and from the township Bill Wester and our highly esteemed Phil Quade of Saugatuck Township, as well as residents. All representing the cities and township spoke with authority, a consistent and accurate history of the tri-community with their research thorough and data right on target. A clear majority of those in attendance do not want consolidation: two cities, a township and residents. Fewer than 10 spoke in favor and those who did were mostly members of the CGC..

It would seem logical to listen to this very clear message that consolidation is NOT in the best interests of the communities. To allow 10 people, unelected, presenting very questionable data and Aubrey McClendon backing this effort, it is clear to me that their motives are possibly suspect and their request to move this petition forward should be denied.

Thank you for listening,
Janet Rund
[REDACTED]
Saugatuck



DOCKET #11-C-1 STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

My life experience has shown me that I have been granted the good fortune to live in a community where the social system shares a set of common values. In which such values permit social expectations and collective understandings of the common good, the beauty and the cooperation among one another.

And while these communities exist independent of one another and have done so for generations. Without these cooperating values, the communities and their respective identities would disintegrate. These communities embody what real value is and illuminates that it reaches far beyond a dollar bench mark.

However, a committee of seven unelected citizens representing themselves as the Consolidation Government Committee along with a collection of signatures, have brought to the attention to this community how they define value.

Accordingly, the CGC has related value to duplication of fax machines, software, buildings, the elimination of our post offices and of jobs in our communities.

The studies circulating on this topic indicate that it is a savings of around \$500,000. And while \$500,000 seems like a lot of money, that amount was a "donation" provided by one citizen of our community to Saugatuck Center for the Arts. This amount of money allowed for the theater expansion here in our community.

A former member of the SCA board, who is now a member of the CGC was instrumental in obtaining that generous but "not quite enough to do the job" donation. So, even the CGC committee members must know, \$500,000 doesn't go a long way when you are managing the unknown.

So, then I ask, what is the value of Kirk Harrier, Bill Lefevere, Phil Quade, Jane Wright, Jean Neve and Monica Looman?

I can tell you that their value is much more than the savings brought about by the duplication of fax machines, software buildings, our post office, the library and of most importantly the elimination of their jobs.

I am also confident that a savings of \$500,000 for the communities is insignificant and amounts to very little on an individual tax assessment in the short term and will cost much more in the long run.

In the event that the Boundary commission determines that the value of savings overrides the value of community, cooperation, purpose and correct use of power. I will be disappointed.

However, I will not allow your decision or the efforts of seven unelected citizens to take away my power to determine what aligns for me and our communities.

I remind all my fellow citizens that the decision is still in the power of the voter, not the boundary commission or the seven unelected individuals who conceived this idea.

If the boundary commission should approve this consolidation even after significant reasons not to, the power of the people will prevail with our votes.

Thank you.

Lesa Werme
Saugatuck

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JUN 20 2012

STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

I'm Louise Pattison

Former member of Douglas Village council,

Member of Douglas Cityhood Study Committee

Elected to Douglas Charter Commission

Currently on the Douglas Planning Commission

I have 4 points I would like to stress

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JUN 20 2012

STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

One: There was no community based study that considered the impact on services, communities, taxpayers, personnel, businesses, jobs, local control, and community uniqueness. We don't need guess-ta-mates made by an outside group, *or an outdated ~~23~~ ~~general~~ Tri Community PIA ~~21~~ election,*

Two: The costs of consolidation to taxpayers: writing a new charter, writing new ordinances, legal fees, signage, buildings, employees, services that must expanded or discontinued. The present city of Douglas planned for the costs of cityhood and assumed responsibility. The CGC has no responsibility for any costs. They have an idea. We get to pay.

Three: Restructuring of the tax base. Douglas has lower taxes, lower debt, and a higher fund balance than Saugatuck. Saugatuck has higher taxes, larger debt and a lower fund balance. Saugatuck Township has lower taxes, large debt, and few governmental services. All entities would need to equalize services and taxes.

Four: What is the real goal of consolidation? We already have consolidated schools, fire, sewer/water, library, interurban, police. The communities have their own local governments that serve our historically, unique communities. Each community determines its own agenda. Our independent governments serve our unique communities in an efficient and personal manner, and are responsible and responsive to their taxpayers. Decisions of this magnitude must not be made on a whim, but with all factors and financials studied. It took Douglas 5 years to move from a village to a city. The studies of costs to make the change were known, budgeted, and planned for before we approached the community. Do WE know the real costs? All of them?

[REDACTED]
Saugatuck, MI 49453
June 20, 2012

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JUN 20 2012

STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Members of the State Boundary Commission:

As a Saugatuck Township Resident for more than 35 years you need to know that Saugatuck Township, Saugatuck City and the village of the City of Douglas are three unique and distinct communities who have been leaders, the past several years in working together and combining services. Those combined efforts: the Tri-Community Master Plan Process, the Fire Departments, the Water and Sewer Department (where appropriate), the Library District, and now the Harbor Authority have all served us well.

What is left: the most problematic and by far the most expensive areas of governance: particularly for the residents of the Township. That is part of the "unspoken, hidden agenda": Township residents will pay additional taxes and, of course, some think the city and village residents will pay less. Township residents have country roads, few curbs and gutters, street lights miles apart, and fewer areas of sewer services, those amenities or lack thereof depending on your point of view, cost less. Those services cannot be mandated without a vote of the people of the township.

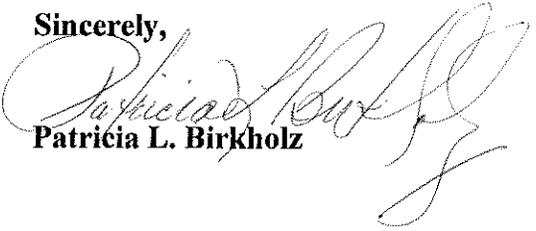
The other part of the "presumed unspoken, hidden agenda" is to create a cookie cutter kind of community. A community which is preplanned, predesigned and one which probably looks like many other planned resort communities across the country with "cutesy" little shops, "cutesy" little windows and doors all exactly alike, and will be dictated by the local government. Thus, no more eclectic and unusual designs and venues for us. The reason many, many folks are attracted to this area.

Our Tri-community area stands to lose the very essence and ambience which sets us apart from the other resort areas across the state AND the people of the Township and perhaps the whole area will pay higher taxes (just ask other similar communities where consolidation has occurred).

The answer to the "perceived problems" of the pro-consolidation committee is to have the Michigan legislature level the playing field for dealing with consolidation issues in our state.

Thank you for consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,


Patricia L. Birkholz

June 20, 2012

JUN 20 2012

To: The State Boundary Commission

Good day residents and concerned Citizens of Saugatuck:

STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

As a former Village of Saugatuck Trustee, City Council Member, Mayor, Chair of the Kalamazoo Lake Sewer and Water Authority, and lifelong resident of Saugatuck, I feel compelled to comment on the proposed consolidation of the three area communities.

First of all, it is clear and undisputable that the communities have long worked together too effectively and efficiently provide services to their respective constituents. A first example of this cooperative spirit is the Saugatuck-Douglas Township Fire Department. With a budget of more than \$550,000 recently approved by its Board, a necessary service is being delivered to the entire area.

A second and equally important joint service is the Kalamazoo Lake Sewer and Water Authority which serves both City's as well as certain core areas of the township. Saugatuck and Douglas already have a combined police department which provides the necessary protection to its residents in the most efficient and economical way possible, is yet a third example.

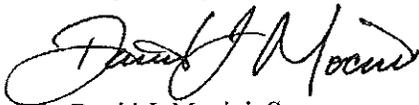
These are three key examples of how the independent communities have interacted for years on behalf of their citizen's, providing the most efficient fire, sewer and water, and police protection possible. Over the past 40 years or more, village trustees, council members, and township boards have come to the table with foresight and a willingness to work together. Their combined effort established the KLSWA, the aforementioned fire district, and a joint police force, always with an eye toward improving the quality of life for their communities.

However, as a lifelong resident and former public servant, it has always been my belief that each community was uniquely different and that maintaining Saugatuck's individual city government was essential to protecting Saugatuck's identity and character. With that in mind each community elects their respective councils and boards to represent their specific interests and protect the quality of life within their borders while still being a good neighbor. I am sure that many residents of Douglas and the Township feel a similar 'community pride' and a need to maintain their own governmental individuality.

If you consider that the communities have for years combined their Fire, Sewer, Water, and Police Services, and in addition, have an area-wide Interurban transportation service and joint library, then you should conclude that the Tri-Communities are already working together financially where practical.

Finally, it should be each community's choice to participate or not in any consolidation that would result in a dramatic change to their governance. Especially in this matter I believe that bigger is not better. Therefore, I cannot support the proposed consolidation and would ask the Boundary Commission to deny the request.

Respectively submitted,



David J. Mocini, Sr.

██████████
Saugatuck, Michigan 49453

JUN 20 2012

STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Allegan County Cities Millage Rates

Operating Millage Rates: FY 2011

<u>Rank</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Operating Millage Rate</u>
1	Allegan City	16.4884
2	Wayland City	16.3673
3	Plainwell City	14.6729
4	Douglas City	13.0818
5	Fennville City	13.0009
6	Holland City	12.8817
7	Otsego City	12.0854
8	Saugatuck City	12.0000
9	South Haven City	10.2860

Total Millage Rates (Operating + Voted + Debt)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Total Millage Rate</u>
1	Allegan City	16.4884
2	Wayland City	16.3673
3	Plainwell City	15.9730
4	Saugatuck City	15.1830
5	South Haven City	14.8176
6	Holland City	14.2500
7	Douglas City	13.0818
8	Otsego City	13.1900
9	Fennville City	13.0009

Data from Allegan County Equalization Department Report, www.allegancounty.org

CITY OF
SAUGATUCK



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JUN 20 2012

THE OUTLOOK | AUGUST 29, 2011

When Civic Mergers Don't Save Money

STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

By CONOR DOUGHERTY

Governors and lawmakers across the U.S., looking to trim the costs of local government, are prodding school districts, townships and other entities to combine into bigger jurisdictions. But a number of studies—and evidence from past consolidations—suggest such mergers rarely save money, and in many cases, they end up raising costs.

Economists who have studied the issue say there are a number of reasons why several small governments can end up costing less than a single larger government. For starters, small governments tend to have fewer professional—and higher-paid—employees, such as lawyers. Studies show small governments generally rely more on part-time workers, who receive fewer long-term benefits such as pensions and health-care coverage.

Another reason: When small governments merge, they often "harmonize" services and employee benefits to the highest level among the combining units. In other words, the consolidated city finds it politically expedient to take on the more-expensive version of everything. Employees at the city with lower wages get raises and residents of the city with fewer services get more.

Considering Consolidation
Should smaller counties consolidate under government, such as hospitals in last panel. But a report says there are too many smaller counties, and they may not have the resources to merge.

State	Year of consolidation	Number of entities	Number of employees	Number of beds	Number of patients	Number of discharges	Number of deaths
Illinois	2008	12	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
California	2007	10	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Michigan	2006	8	800	800	800	800	800
Ohio	2005	6	600	600	600	600	600
Virginia	2004	4	400	400	400	400	400
Washington	2003	3	300	300	300	300	300
Wisconsin	2002	2	200	200	200	200	200
Florida	2001	1	100	100	100	100	100

"If the rationale [for a merger] is cost savings, you're going to be disappointed," said Enid Slack, director of the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance at the University of Toronto.

The logic often cited behind consolidations is saving money by shedding layers of management or having departments share equipment such as snowplows. But managers and equipment account for far less than half of local governments' expenses—most of their cost is rank-and-file labor.

There are other reasons for merging government entities. Some services—such as public transportation—can be more effectively provided over a large area than a small one. And Jennifer Bradley, a fellow at the Brookings Institution, says some mergers that haven't yet generated savings might do so in the future.

"The reason we haven't seen cost declines is there have been either sweeteners to make the deal work, such as promises of leveling up pay or various labor protections," she said. In the current environment of deep fiscal stress, "you might find consolidation or collaboration efforts are also not jobs-protective. Local government payrolls are already being cut deeply."

Still, when it comes to controlling local government's largest cost—labor—smaller governments generally do better. Take Illinois, where budget troubles and pension obligations have eroded the state's credit rating. There, state Sen. Terry Link proposed a bill that would lead to local governments being combined or dissolved in a bid to save money. "There are a lot of these units of local government that aren't necessary anymore," said Mr. Link, a Democrat.

But a study this year for a group representing most of Illinois's 1,433 townships used state data to show that tiny townships are the state's most austere government operations. Spending by the state's townships grew 17% from 1992 to 2007, adjusted for inflation, according to the study. State expenditures over that same period grew 51%, while spending by larger municipalities grew 50%; school districts' spending rose 74%. One reason: Townships have fewer employees per person and use more part-timers, reducing salaries and benefits.

Some of this cost disparity likely reflects different priorities between townships and other governments, such as school districts. But the study found similar results when comparing wages for road workers. Township road workers made \$2,800 a month on average, 65% as much as county road workers and less than half as much as state road workers.

"In government, the whole idea of economies of scale is turned on its head," said Wendell Cox, who produced the report for Township Officials of Illinois, an umbrella group for the state's townships.

The consolidation bill was defeated, but Mr. Link plans to revive the effort next year.

Civic consolidation is labeled by voices across the ideological spectrum as a way to save money—or as a bad idea that wastes money. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican, have both championed the idea.

But Mr. Cox, the consultant, and a visiting fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation, has prepared reports for township organizations in other states, including New York and Pennsylvania, that all found small governments cost less than big ones. "Anyone who looks at the data is going to come to the same conclusion," he said.

Write to Conor Dougherty at conor.dougherty@wsj.com

Corrections & Amplifications

Rick Snyder is the governor of Michigan. An earlier version of this article incorrectly said the governor of Michigan is Rick Scott.

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O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Marjgschu [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2012 10:26 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Consolidation

Mr. O'Brien:

I live in Douglas, Michigan. I am against the consolidation. The points against the consolidation at the meeting this past week were quite clear why this should not happen.

Thank you,
Marjorie Schuham
[REDACTED]
Douglas, MI

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 7:48 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Cc: ciccin2012@gmail.com
Subject: Saugatuck-Douglas-Saugatuck Township Consolidation

Sir,

I am writing to express my views on the Saugatuck-Douglas-Saugatuck Township consolidation effort initiated by a small group of private individuals with no public input. Ordinarily I would take the time to put this on paper and drop it in the mail with my signature, but such is my disdain for the entire process to date that I refuse to honor it with that level of formality.

I am left aghast that a law exists in Michigan allowing a small group of self appointed private individuals to initiate a costly and involved public process, involuntarily embroiling three communities in it's tendrils with no opportunity to say yea or nay. I don't know when this law was placed on the books, or by whom, but it seriously calls into question the morality of those who enacted it and those who continue to champion it.

I have observed with growing alarm and disbelief as you and your fellows in the boundary commission have made it clear that you are heavily biased in support of consolidation even while the local populace has made it abundantly clear we have no interest in it whatsoever.

You have aided the CGC at every turn, and there is the definite appearance of your having attempted to disadvantage the grassroots efforts against them on many occasions; the existence of such a law in the first place, short notice on the sufficiency hearing, scheduling it at a time when many would not be able to attend, conspiring to gerrymander the township's residents from the consolidation (and therefore, any referendum) while retaining its key tax base.

I could go on but, as Thoreau said, "If you are acquainted with the principle, what do you care for a myriad instances..."

In the local papers, opinions are overwhelmingly against consolidation. In the public hearing, opinions were overwhelmingly against consolidation, despite your colleague dismissing the show of hands as meaningless.

Do you understand? We like our communities just as they are. Were that not true, we, the people, would have initiated a consolidation long ago, not a tiny group of private business people with highly questionable motives and tactics.

In short, we don't give a rat's raggedy for your consolidation. Get it out of our lives!

But you already knew that.

Chuck Gustafson
[REDACTED]
Douglas, MI 49406-0214
[REDACTED]

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 7:16 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Cosolidation of the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas
Attachments: Honorable Michael Buck.docx

Dear Mr. O'Brien: Please forward the following to Mr. Dennis Schornack and the SBC.
 Thank you, Peg Sanford

Dear SBC members: I spoke at the public hearing on the 20th, but wanted to submit my comments in writing. Although I certainly understand why you limit the public speaking to two minutes each, trying to conform to the two minute speaking time is most difficult. And bless you for listening to all of us.

Points I'd like you to remember:

In 1984, the residents of the Village of Saugatuck decided to remove ourselves from control of the township. The Village went through the prerequisites set forth in Public Act 119 of 1968 and wrote a new charter. The people of Saugatuck supported that move and we moved ahead with our new form of government. This home rule city was accepted the first time it appeared on the ballot. The City no longer paid funds to the township without representation. And the city no longer fell under the township control when dealing with various county, state, and national organizations and the government. The residents chose to separate from the township.

City residents were pleased with the decision and have moved steadily ahead since then. The City Council has discussed consolidation over the years, but could never find enough reasons to move forward. We have consistently looked for ways to cooperate. There has never been a group within the city bringing up the consolidation idea to the council. I said at the hearing that we Saugatuck citizens were happy with our form of government. I apologize as that is not exactly true, as 3 members of the CGC group does live in Saugatuck and must be unhappy under local control.

In 2004, the residents of Douglas chose to follow the path paved by Saugatuck. A committee wrote a charter, the people voted on it and the new city form of government was put in place. This passed on the first ballot! So Douglas, once a part of Saugatuck Township was no longer. And The City of the Village of Douglas became a home rule city. The residents chose to separate from the township.

Over the years the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas have cooperated in many ways. Included are the Saugatuck-Douglas District Library, the S/D Police Department, the Fire/Rescue District, the Water and Sewer District, the township wide InterUrban transportation system, and the Harbor Authority. Gosh, even the school district is composed of the 4 governing units. I think we should be congratulated on our wonderful cooperative nature. The township does not join Saugatuck and Douglas in support of the police department even though the cities answer township calls for help. The township is also not a full member of the water and sewer Authority.

It was pretty easy to see that your consolidation recommendation will not be to combine

the 3 units of government into one. So, I will address the possible combination of the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas. I tried to explain how different these 2 communities are. Saugatuck is land locked at one square mile and we can't grow in any direction. Our population hovers around 1,000 people with many not living full time in homes here. Douglas had room to grow and room to build. Douglas will continue to have more residents. To be fair to all concerned I would imagine a governing board would be set according to population.

Our communities have different philosophies. Saugatuck maintains over 386 acres of park land. Are you wondering how we have so many acres in such a small space. Two of our major land/park areas are located out in the Township. Douglas maintains just 26 1/2 acres of park land. Our budgets reflect those costs. If a new board were elected, would a Douglas majority support the Saugatuck park system? I don't think so. You see, Saugatuck has catered to the tourist industry for over a century. The Douglas council cannot bring themselves to even spend more on fireworks as the council does not see how that would benefit Douglas. Yes, they have a business district, but to see the difference between our communities one only has to spend an hour in Douglas on any given Saturday and then spend an hour in Saugatuck. The S/D police department budget is apportioned in relation to how much more time the police spend in Saugatuck during the tourist season. The other vast difference between Saugatuck & Douglas is the City of Saugatuck's Historic District. The City of Saugatuck has supported a Historic District since the 1980's. The City has a budget to support the Historic Commission and the historic district. The Saugatuck City Council supports the Commission's decisions. The city has worked hard to maintain our extended downtown area to preserve our local charm. Many years ago the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society tried to convince the various boards working on behalf of the Village of Douglas to consider a historical district. The Society wanted to see the historical buildings and landscapes preserved in an extended downtown area. The answer was a resounding NO. So, again drive up and down the main street in Douglas and the main street in Saugatuck. There is quite a difference. Would a council with a majority of Douglas residents support the Saugatuck Historical District? When money comes to push and shove, I am sure Douglas would not. I can see the City of Saugatuck budget prioritized in a different manner. We in Saugatuck don't have a problem with our budget and seem to be able to pay our bills for our own goals. I believe in local control for each municipality, just as we have now and I believe in cooperation between the two cities whenever possible. Please do not send us down Alice in Wonderland's rabbit hole.

Thank you for listening once again

Peg Sanford, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Saugatuck, MI 49453. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PS: Mr. Dennis Schornack: I have attached the letter I sent to Judge Beck about appointments to the SBC.

June 25, 2012

Honorable Michael Buck, Chief Judge of Probate

Allegan County Building

113 Chestnut Street

Allegan, MI 49010

Dear Judge Buck: I attended the State Boundary Commission hearing held at Saugatuck High School on June 20, 2012. The hearing was held to discuss the consolidation of Saugatuck Township, the City of Saugatuck, and The City of the Village of Douglas. As I stood to speak before the Commission, I realized the commission consisted of just men. I blinked, looked again and again I saw only men. So, I asked Dennis Schronack, the chair of the SBC, why? He suggested I consult you as you appointed the two Allegan County members of the Commission.

Are there requirements these Boundary Commissioners must meet? How does one qualify? I have nothing against the two gentlemen you appointed, I was just wondering with all of the exemplary women living in Allegan County why a woman was not appointed too?

Thank you for your consideration,

Peg Sanford. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Lakeside [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 7:53 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: saugatuck consolidation

Mr.O'Brien; I,m a year round resident and voter in the city of Douglas, Mi. I strongly oppose the consolidation of Douglas and Saugatuck. Maria Droz

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Kathy Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 5:47 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Consolidation

RECEIVED

JUL 03 2012

OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY &
REMONUMENTATION

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

I wanted to let you know that I am against consolidating Saugatuck and Douglas or Saugatuck, Douglas and the Township. We were all one some time ago and each municipal decided to go it alone at different times and it has worked out just fine. Each "city" is doing fine and the township is too (except for the McClendon mess).

Also, there has not been an active "Saugatuck-Douglas Chamber of Commerce" for a good many years. It is only alive in R. J. Peterson's mind.

Saugatuck and Douglas may both be "resort" towns but not so much. Saugatuck is all resort with no industry (they have managed to chase all industry out of city limits) and Douglas has some resorts with a healthy dose of industry and year round commercial. Also, Saugatuck is land and water locked with no expansion available. Douglas has expansion available.

I do not see where it is cost effective to throw everything out that both cities has spent years and money putting in place only to have to put another complete set of things (zoning, personal, post offices, street departments, commissions, ordinances, parks departments, buildings, etc) in place.

Also, the CGC keeps telling us we will "save" xxx amount of money, then they lower the amount to xx amount, and then keep lowering the amount we are going to save BUT they NEVER explain the "hows" in detail. Is this like the HealthCare debacle, as Nancy Pelosi said " We have to pass the bill to see what is in it"??? We are not getting detailed information from the SBC or the CGC only vague and unqualified estimates.

I have lived in Douglas for over 30 years and am perfectly happy with the way things are right now and have no wish or desire for a MAJOR change that is being purposed. I do believe in cooperation and feel that Douglas and Saugatuck have cooperated together in many things and, of course, there are always other things that could be worked on. But that is not going to happen if each city has to fight for its life as you seem to want to make them do. I love our little town and if I wanted a "big city effect", I could move and so should anyone who does not like the way things are.

Please decide to throw this entire thing out. Thank you,
Kathleen Johnson
[REDACTED]
Douglas, Mi 49406

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: BCC OLSR
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 8:28 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: FW: Saugatuck-Douglas Re-Consolidation

From: Katherine Wilcox [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 4:32 PM
To: BCC OLSR
Subject: Saugatuck-Douglas Re-Consolidation

To the State Boundary Commission

I am a property owner in Saugatuck Michigan and I object to the re-consolidation of Saugatuck City and Douglas, with or without Saugatuck Township.

The 2 main arguments re-consolidation advocates name are
1) the Tri-Community Plan says people want it and
2) it will save money.

The Tri-Community Plan merely says re-consolidation should be investigated. It has been and many of our services have been combined. People voted for separate municipalities. They don't want re-consolidation.

When all three governments say this will cost more, not save, I have to believe them. The fact that the re-consolidation committee keeps changing it's savings estimates, suggests they don't really have a clue.

I believe if this goes forward our taxes will increase. We should expect lawsuits and a lot of very unhappy residents.

Please do not proceed with this folly.

Katherine Wilcox
[REDACTED]
Saugatuck MI

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 10:23 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

We oppose the consolidation, in whole or in part.

The citizen polls taken in the Saugatuck Commercial Record (the oldest weekly in Allegan County having been established in 1868) clearly shows the public sentiment, including one taken since the public hearing, see:

http://www.allegannews.com/poll_archives/poll_archives.txt

Is it fair to expect the Consolidated Government Committee, which is projecting a hypothetical merged city, to provide documented budgets, numbers and more a la the already-established governments?

Date: 06-27-2012 - 07-03-2012

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| A) Yes. Hard numbers may be impossible, but I need better data than they've provided before I overturn what we have. | 278 Votes
(96%) |
| B) No. Of course there's more taxpayer-funded data for what exists. Their studies and vision for change are fine. | 13 Votes
(4%) |

Should the cities of Douglas and Saugatuck consolidate?

Date: 06-13-2012 - 06-19-2012

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| A) Yes. Eliminating more than \$500,000 in redundant overhead can be used to lower taxes and improve local services including harbor maintenance. Unity makes us stronger. | 56 Votes
(15%) |
| B) No. The cities already share fire, police, water/sewer, library and more services while retaining local control and their distinct characters. This is a great place to be as is. | |

Are Saugatuck and Douglas right to ask the State Boundary Commission to require new consolidation petitions after missing the public hearing deadline?

Date: 05-30-2012 - 06-05-2012

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| A) Yes. What faith can we have in the consolidation process if the SBC does not comply with its own laws? | 320 Votes
(73%) |
| B) No. First they object that SBC set the hearing too early. The state re-set it and now? Let the people vote! | 117 Votes
(27%) |

Chris and Carroll Yoder
 Saugatuck Twp Residents

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Dean Johnson [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, July 04, 2012 4:48 PM

To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

Subject: consolidation

Dear Mr. O' Brian:

I have lived in Douglas for 40 years and have been very satisfied with living conditions here and a way of life that is affordable and comfortable.

To date, I have seen no facts and figures that this could be improved on by consolidation of Douglas, Saugatuck and

Saugatuck Twp. My opinion is that it will cost initially many thousands of dollars, and really who can prove to me

that it will be cheaper in the long run with no history to fall back on. and I believe that my opinion is as good as

any so far expressed. I don't think consolidation is the answer to saving money (bigger gov't bigger costs) just

look at our Federal Government. We can, and have in the past, achieve more through Cooperation.

Please consider my thoughts carefully and do not approve the consolidation application.

Sincerely: Dean A. Johnson, [REDACTED] Douglas, Mi

7/5/2012

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Lesa Werme [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 10:36 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County
Attachments: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County.pdf

July 20, 2012

RE: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Alegan County

Dear Mr. O'Brien and Members of the SBC,

After the public hearing held on June 20, 2012 at the Saugatuck High School where approximately 200+ people attended a meeting to hear the benefits of Consolidation vs. our current forms of individual yet cooperative government. I would be shocked if you could come to a financially sound decision to in fact consolidate the 3 or 2 communities.

The "facts" and figures brought forth by the self appointed Consolidation Government Committee is as flawed as the assignment of this groups alleged power and control in overstepping the boundaries of the very democracy this country is founded on.

Clearly, the self appointed group CGC is compromised mostly of "retired" business men and women is not a positive attribute. The research and information provided by the CGC is out of date, out of touch, blatantly flawed and most importantly out of alignment for a positive future for the current and future generations.

It could be said that by the time the "reality" of consolidation is in place, many of these individuals will have passed on from this world and will have left behind a plethora of wasteful spending, poor long term planning, misguided truths and a display of monumental misuse of power.

At this time, you are responsible for the future. Your decision will have a far reaching impact not only to these 2 or 3 communities, but to the entire state and nation by recreating and rewriting the foundation of our country's democracy and it's process.

I urge you to DENY Docket #11-1-C Allegan County.

An approval would lead me to believe that you are willing replace the democratic foundation of our country for self appointed individuals who will have successfully overturned the lawful electoral voting process of individuals who represent governmental service, may have used proproganda that mislead citizens, and will have gained the approval and acceptance of self directed importance for themselves and their private and corporate financial supporters.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,
Lesla Werme

7/24/2012

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Larry Phillips [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 2:19 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

Dear Sir:

I would like to express my opposition to the consolidation of the two Cities of Douglas and Saugatuck or the Township of Saugatuck. I think that it is wrong to change the current boundaries as was on the petition drive and the way the petition was submitted to the signers. I was born and raised here and have served on the board of Douglas in various positions before it was elected to become a City, I was also on the Fire Dept. in Douglas from 1962 until 1976 when it was approved to be The Saugatuck Township Fire District and I served as assistant chief from 1976 until 1998 when I resigned. Both current Cities have their own unique appearance and desires and should stay as individual Cities. In my estimation there is not enough information to say that there would be a savings of \$500,000.00 and even if there was I for one like our own identity. Thanks for the chance to say what I think and I know you will make the right decision.

Larry and Carol Phillips
[REDACTED]
Douglas, MI

7/5/2012

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Nancy Honor [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 3:34 PM

To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

Cc: 'CICC'

Subject: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

I am a resident of Saugatuck Township and recommend that the state DENY the petition for consolidation, State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County.

Thank you

Nancy Honor
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

7/5/2012

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: betty vanwieren [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2012 4:08 PM

To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

Cc: ron van wieren; CICC

Subject: Consolidation

I am a resident and property owner in Saugatuck and I am very much opposed to any consolidation with Saugatuck and Douglas. I attended the public meeting and came away knowing the concensus of my neighbors is that what we have works just fine. I hope your committee heard us loud and clear.

Betty van Wieren

[REDACTED]
Saugatuck MI 49453

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Laurie Goshorn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 2:46 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Consolidation of Saugatuck and Douglas

Greetings,

I wanted to add my vote against consolidation for all the reasons that were touched upon at the public hearing.

--

Thanks!

Laurie Goshorn
Saugatuck Township resident

“While it is easier to seek our truth in the kernel of only one story, the multi-storied truth, though more elusive, is a far more wondrous and useful treasure.” – from River of Courage by Pam McAllister

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.
Aristotle

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Patricia Denner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 2:35 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Consolidation Issue for Saugatuck/Douglas/Saugatuck Township

Mr. Commissioners,

After careful consideration and after listening to arguments on both sides, we as Saugatuck Township residents, see no real benefit in consolidating the three communities. We are referring to the State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1C Allegan County. As Allegan County and Township residents we receive all the local services with the exception of brush pickup and local police services. For this we have taxes which are a fraction of what is paid in the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas. With regards to the services we don't receive, we have a State Police Detachment a block from our house and an extra lot to compost our brush. That makes our vote against consolidation a no brainer. Even the CGC members now see that it would never be passed if the Township was included. Count us strongly in the "nay" column.

Patricia Denner and Michael Condron
[REDACTED]
Saugatuck Township

7/10/2012

10- Small Town Meeting 7/11/12
[Redacted] Allegan County.

To Whom it May Concern: We as full
time residents of Douglas, Mi.
are not in favor of
consolidating the three
communities of Douglas,
Saugauck and Saugatuck
Township. We are great
the way we are! Please
deny Docket #11-1C
Allegan County.

RECEIVED

JUL 06 2012

OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY &
REMONUMENTATION

Sincerely -

Lisa & Richard Biella

Fr# [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Kathryn Sturm [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2012 3:00 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: SBC Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

I write to ask that you and the SBC deny the petition(s) presented by the CGC from Saugatuck, Michigan in Allegan County.

I would suggest and request that the parties wishing to petition for consolidation begin again and write a new proposal along with a new set of signed petitions. There is much confusion as to what is actually being proposed at this point. That all volunteers enlisted in securing signatures on the petition be given training and a script as to what specifically is being signed.

I would like to see an impartial study that includes input from our elected officials that have access to data not presented in the petition/proposal and the implications involved in a consolidation. I would prefer unbiased financial and thorough figures in the petition, not one that is written with personal agendas implied.

I would like to see a formal plan of how the consolidated government would work and what plan would be presented to all citizens and the short and long term effects. I would hate to have this passed only to learn that the plan does not suit the community as a whole.

Please deny SBC Docket #11-1-C Allegan County, as it is currently proposed.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Best regards,
Kathryn Sturm
[REDACTED]
Fennville, MI 49408
(Saugatuck Township)

7/10/2012

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Janet Rund [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 10:30 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Cc: Bill Matt
Subject: consolidation issue

Dear members of the State Boundary Commission,

I had sent a note previously, but want to reiterate that Saugatuck and Douglas are healthy, thriving communities and do not need consolidation. A clear majority of citizens as well as the all of the officials of Saugatuck Township, Saugatuck and Douglas are opposed.

Thank you,
Janet Rund
[REDACTED]
Saugatuck, MI 49453

7/17/2012

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Roerig Chris CQS Innovation, Inc. [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 11:32 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

I object to the petition to consolidate Saugatuck Township with the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas. As a township taxpayer, I feel that the new combined city will not have the resources to adequately maintain our 54 miles of roads.

Please deny this petition.

Christopher A. Roerig
[REDACTED]
Fennville, MI 49408
[REDACTED]

Christopher A. Roerig | Vice President

CQS INNOVATION, INC.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 2:12 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

Subject: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

As a 23 year resident of Saugatuck and business owner I do not support the consolidation of Saugatuck Township, Douglas and Saugatuck or just the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas. Please deny the petitioners' proposal - "State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County. The projected savings are not enough to offset the financial unknowns associated with consolidation and the loss of autonomy for our downtown business district.

Gary Kott
Hidden Garden Cottages & Suites
Saugatuck, Michigan

7/17/2012

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Rita [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 2:00 PM

To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

Subject: State Boundry Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

Referencing: "STATE BOUNDRY COMMISSION DOCKET # 11-1-C ALLEGAN COUNTY"

As 50 year residents of Saugatuck Township we in no way support the consolidation of Saugatuck Township, and the ciities of Douglas and Saugatuck.

We are hereby requesting that you deny this petition. It is not the wish of the majority of the citizens of these municipalities and many who initially siged the petition found out later that they had not been told the complete truth about signing the aforementioned petition. They were also denied the right to have their names removed from said petition.

RITA AND BILL CHADWICK

[REDACTED]
SAUGATUCK, MI 49453

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Dorothy Hanson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 2:55 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: State Boundary Commission Docket 11-1-C Allegan

I am a resident of Saugatuck Township and am **totally opposed to any combination of Saugatuck Township, Douglas City or Saugatuck City.**

There is no good reason to join any of these entities except the self serving monetary desires of one or two people.

There would be no money saved by joining any of these entities as all the services such as water and sewer and interurban bus, etc. have already been combined.

You really should readjust this process so no other unsuspecting residents are pulled into this without their approval. People were given the petition and were lied to regarding what the petition meant and they signed under these false apprehensions. This whole Boundary Commission mess is causing all the entities involved, Saugatuck Twp, Saugatuck City and Douglas City, and their residents to spend money for elections, etc. unnecessarily

Dee Dee Hanson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED

July 17, 2012

JUL 17 2012

Kevin O'Brien
obrienk@michigan.gov
State Boundary Commission

OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY &
REMONUMENTATION

Dear Kevin and State Boundary Commissioners,

I'm a resident of Saugatuck Township and have been active both working and playing in West Michigan for 40 years. I know the three communities, Saugatuck, Douglas, and Saugatuck Township very well. Over the years the three entities have found ways to support each other and cooperate. As with any relationships, there have been differences of opinion at times. Rather than being problematic, this has often allowed for more reflective and deliberative change. Often the three entities act as checks and balances with one another and this has created a very well functioning community.

As I sat and listened to every speaker at the recent hearing I was struck by the absence of support for consolidation except for the small number of people who brought the idea to the commission. I was further struck by the very different images and styles of the governmental presenters. While all three were strongly opposed to consolidation, the approaches that each took reflected the diverse characteristics of each community. We are distinct.

It is possible, that it will make sense to consolidate at sometime in the future. But this might be least painful if we are allowed to continue our cooperative functioning until consolidation seems appropriate. This may or may not happen. However, now is clearly NOT the time, when all three areas are financially sound and overall well-run.

In sum, I do not support the consolidation of Saugatuck Township, Douglas and Saugatuck or just the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas. Please deny the petitioners' proposal - "State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County.

Thank you for your service and your time to consider what is best for our communities.

Jane R. Dickie, PhD
Lawrence Dickie
Saugatuck Township Residents


Saugatuck, MI 49453

DELOYD HUENINK

SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP

July 10, 2012
Kevin O'Brien
PO Box 30254
Lansing, MI 48909
RE: **State Boundary Commission Docket #11-C-1.**

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2012

OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY &
REMONUMENTATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Please deny Docket #11-C-1 Allegan County

From where I sit, it seems so obvious...Very few citizens in The city of Saugatuck, The City of the Village of Douglas and Saugatuck Township are in favor of consolidating their communities.

Previous to 1984, all three were under one government...we were consolidated. It did not seem to work. Then in 1984, Saugatuck decided they wanted to be separate from the Township and became a city. Even then, we shared resources. In 2004, Douglas split off from the Township to become a separate entity. All three units continued to share services. Now, there is a proposal to go back to 1984, somehow believing that what did not work in the past will now work.

This proposal did not originate from any of the city governments. It did not originate from a dissatisfied majority of the citizens in any one of the 3 areas proposed for consolidation. It did not originate from any significant group of citizens representing one or two or three of the communities.

Rather this proposal, based on incomplete, inaccurate and prejudiced financial information was instigated by a small group of wealthy citizens, all of whom have significant financial interests in consolidation. In starting this expensive process, they did not work with or involve any of the involved governmental units in their proposal.

The Allegan County News reports the following donations made in favor of the consolidation..."Aubrey McClendon-owned Singapore Dunes, which proposes building a \$400-million resort complex in the township, and office furniture maker Haworth, which maintains a plant in Douglas, led the 2011 list, donating \$10,000 each.

"Fleming Brothers Oil Co., supplier of fuels for several area employers and operator of a filling station-convenience store in the township, contributed \$7,500 and the King Co., a marine contractor regularly engaged in Kalamazoo Lake harbor projects, gave \$4,000.

"Sizeable individual contributors came from CGC members and 21 more individuals the report shows." The total contributions by this small group totals \$60,270 from 34 companies and individuals. "

This money was used to hire a Public Relations firm to convince the state that this is a benefit for the rest of us living in the 3 communities.

The majority of the citizens in all three communities are NOT in favor of consolidation. Of the "show of hands" vote at the open community meeting where over 200 were in attendance, only the hands of the CGC Members and their families backing the proposal. The gentleman that asked for the show of hands, when the lack of support was obvious, then said that is was meaningless vote.

Your decision should be simple. Knowing that this will go to a referendum vote if the State Boundary Commission moves it forward, and knowing that there is no way that all three (as in the actual consolidation petition) nor both (as in the changed petition that no one actually signed) will approve a consolidation referendum, why force yet another multi-thousand dollar vote on the tax payers?

It is not fair to the vast majority of us to spend even more tax dollars for something that will be defeated. None of the communities can afford to waste the few tax dollars we have on something that is so strongly and openly opposed.

You have it in your power to put an end to these selfish proposals.

Please do so.

Sincerely,


DeLoyd Huenink

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Gary T. Lark [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 4:33 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

Dear Mr. O'Brien

I live in Saugatuck Township at 2805 Lake Shore Drive. I pay an ungodly amount of taxes for ungodly little. The real estate taxes would be userous and criminal if it wasn't imposed by the government. If these tax rates were imposed on us by the British government the citizenry would rebel. Despite the notion that consolidation would lower taxes, I am against the proposal to consolidate. I have been in business and just "around" for a long time, time enough to see that the reality of government efforts seldom meet expectations. I think there is plenty of evidence that a consolidation would not save money, but in fact cost money. The old adage, if it ain't broken don't fix it, applies here in my opinion. Leave things the way they are, for good intentions often have bad results and I would be willing to wager a large sum of money that this "good effort" will have bad results.

Regards,

Gary T. Lark

7/17/2012

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Laurie Goshorn [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 4:57 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Consolidation of Saugatuck and Douglas

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

I **do not** support the consolidation of Saugatuck Township, Douglas and Saugatuck or just the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas. Please deny the petitioners' proposal - "State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County.

Sincerely,

Laurie Goshorn
Resident of Saugatuck Township

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: S Winthers [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 6:08 PM

To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

Subject: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

Although I originally signed to petition to consider consolidation, I NO LONGER support the consolidation of Saugatuck Township, Douglas and Saugatuck, Michigan.

RE: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County.

Thank you,

Sally Winthers

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Saugatuck, MI 49453
[REDACTED]

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: jimhanson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 9:46 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: "State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County"
Attachments: Comments to SBC 06-20-12.pdf
My testimony to the State Boundary Commission

Jim Hanson
[REDACTED]
Fennville MI 49408

Good evening, commissioners and neighbors. My name is Jim Hanson. I'm a Saugatuck Township trustee. I'm speaking tonight as a citizen, landowner and taxpayer, against the consolidation of any part of Saugatuck Township in a proposed city. I can assure the commission that the vast majority of my constituents who have shared their opinion with me are also against such consolidation. I support the points made by Township manager Quade, the only person I know who has worked for all three municipalities. No one in the Saugatuck-Douglas community understands how municipal finance works better than Phil, and his voice should have special weight to this commission because of his experience and knowledge.

Saugatuck Township residents and landowners have made financial plans based on the current property tax structure. Many, both retired and employed, tell me they could not hope to continue to live in this area with an increased property tax burden. Two relatively unique factors mean that the delivery of government services in Saugatuck Township is probably as economical as it could be under today's government structure. One is the fact that Saugatuck Township has never voted a Headley override. Its general government millage is approximately .43 mills, and other Township millages such as roads and cemeteries are relatively light. The other is that most of the most expensive government services in this area are already delivered jointly with our neighbors in the cities including fire, water and sewer, library, and dial-a-ride.

In the words of the American saying, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Consolidation isn't a good idea if government services cost more for one single taxpayer in the area to be consolidated. I've been studying the numbers supplied by consolidation proponents for over five years now. I have concluded that consolidation would be a very bad deal for township taxpayers. We'd share debt we did not contract for, get a higher level of local government services that we do not want, and would have to replace low-cost county services such as roads which we economically share with other Allegan County townships with higher cost ones. In the history of this State, taxes have never gone down when a tract of land went from a Township to a city. No exceptions.

I urge the commissioners to reject consolidation of any part of Saugatuck Township into any proposed city.

RECEIVED

JUL 18 2012

OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY &
REMONUMENTATION



ROY C. HÉBERT
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW
P14807

[REDACTED]
SAUGATUCK, MI 49453-1075
TELEPHONE [REDACTED]
FAX [REDACTED]

RECEIVED

JUL 17 2012

FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY &
REMONUMENTATION

DATE: 07/17/2012

FILE NO: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-C-1

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) TO:

NAME: Kevin O'Brien

COMPANY: Michigan State Boundary Commission

CITY: Lansing

STATE:MI ZIP: 48909

FAX NO: 517.241.6301

FROM: Roy C. Hébert

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCL'D COVER SHEET): Ten (10)

COMMENTS: Please see MEMO to SBC that accompanies this cover Sheet. Thank you.

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MEMO

DATE: 07/17/2012

TO: Kevin O'Brien; SBC Docket #11-C-1

FROM: ROY C. HÉBERT

SUBJECT(S): Consolidation of the Cities of Saugatuck and Douglas and Saugatuck Twp.

We have resided in Saugatuck Twp. since May, 1983. We prefer the rural setting of the Township. We lived in Metropolitan Detroit for 40 years. We do not want to see the Township combined with either or both of the cities under consideration for consolidation.

The CGC petitioner cites cost savings after cost savings as its mantra for consolidation. The proposal(s) put forth by the Petitioner are speculative, at best. The Plante & Moran study obviously did not take into account the cost(s) involved in road maintenance and snow and ice removal from the traveled roadways. Once the Allegan County Road Commission no longer has jurisdiction over the township roadways, if the consolidation petition should include the township, the costs to everyone would drastically increase due to the need to purchase snow plows, trucks, road graders, and to hire the personnel to maintain and operate the equipment.

Other examples include the loss of our consolidated library, the need to increase the combined city police department and its equipment to cover the increased geographical territory, the need, and attendant cost, to rewrite the zoning laws and regulations and to restudy and rewrite the new area wide master plan.

It is also worthy of note that the only citizens to speak up for any consolidation at the SBC hearing in Saugatuck on June 20, 2012 were the members of the CGC and the wife of one of the members whose strongest statement in favor of consolidation was that "it was almost certain" that consolidation would result in a tax savings to all of the combined property tax payers in Saugatuck, Douglas, and the Township.

The CGC has failed to present any type of consolidation model for the affected communities. Nor have they presented a dollars and cents cost analysis for the consolidation other than Mrs. Lamb's speculation of "almost" certainty that a tax savings would occur.

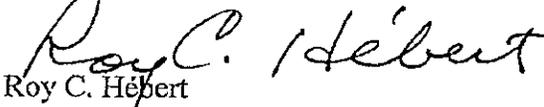
Many others, I am sure, have expressed their disapproval to you about this proposed consolidation. The Township Manager, Phil Quade, has provided you with the Township's latest appraisal dated June 13, 2012, which details the enormous costs and burdens to the Township and its citizens if consolidation should include the Township.

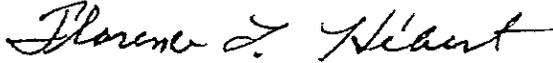
MEMO from Roy C.Hébert
Re: SBC Docket #11-1-C
12/17/2012, con't.

I am taking the liberty of including an article of 08/04/2011 by C. Jarrett Dieterle entitled Municipal Government: Saving Money on Growing Government?, a Wall Street Journal article by Conor Dougherty dated 08/29/2011 entitled When Civic Mergers Don't save Money, and a Michigan Township Association article dated 02/01/2010 entitled Smaller Government is More Efficient and Less Expensive. Finally, I would like you to consider a bulletin from the MTA dated 09/06/2011 entitled US Census data Shows Michigan local Government operations Among the Most Efficient in the Nation.

Thank you for your attention to my MEMO stating why my wife and I are opposed to the CGC petition to consolidate Saugatuck Township with the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas. While our concern is for the Township, we, frankly, see no appreciable benefit to the consolidation of the cities.

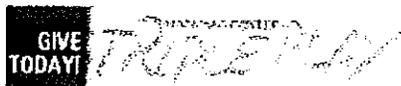
Sincerely,


Roy C. Hébert



Florence L. Hébert

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Municipal Consolidation: Saving Money or Growing Government?

By C. JARRETT DIETERLE | Aug. 4, 2011

In an effort to combat bloated government spending in the state, Gov. Rick Snyder wants to provide incentives for municipalities to consolidate. By combining local units of government, Gov. Snyder is hoping to create economies of scale and reduce expenditures. But before Michigan charges ahead on a consolidation crusade, a look at the research on the topic is in order.

Numerous studies investigating the putative cost-savings of municipal consolidation show mixed results. In 2009, at the behest of a state commission studying local government in New Jersey, Rutgers' School of Public Affairs and Administration undertook a literature review of various consolidation studies. Among other conclusions, the report warns that even though "there is some support for reducing the number of governments" via consolidation, "there is a considerable body of literature that does not support consolidation." For example, the report discusses the absence of efficiency gains in Australian and Canadian municipal consolidations in the 1990s.

Cost-savings from consolidation may seem to make sense, but there are several reasons why merging municipalities may not save as much money as some suggest. A study analyzing consolidation in Georgia reviews some of the overlooked costs involved in the process. Exclusion of one-time "transitional costs," such as expenditures for consolidation consultants or new buildings for a larger workforce, can cause the full costs of consolidation to be underestimated.

Another consideration, highlighted in a Syracuse University report, is the phenomenon of "leveling up." For example, a particular township employee might earn \$50,000 per year before a merger, while the corresponding city employee might earn \$70,000 per year. After consolidation, if the township employee's salary increases to \$70,000 as well, the new municipality will have higher compensation costs.

Leveling up can also occur with services. Using the city-township example, the more robust snowplowing schedule of the city might be extended to include the township roads as well, again raising total costs. As the experience of Detroit attests, larger government does not necessarily mean cheaper government.

Research on the cost-saving potential of municipal consolidation is best described as highly variable and contradictory. In fact, the only real conclusion one can draw from the many studies on the subject is that there is no conclusion. The Syracuse University report summed up this reality, stating: "Policy makers should not expect any dramatic cost savings from consolidation and should avoid using the argument of cost saving as the main benefit of reform." Overall, much of the literature on consolidation ends with a proviso declaring mixed results and calling for further research on the topic.

The belief that efficiency gains from consolidation lead to cost-savings assumes that government adheres to a "demand-driven" model of operation. This theory treats government like a corporation that seeks to increase efficiency and cut costs. The demand-driven thesis, however, is not an accurate model for school district consolidation, according to a Mackinac Center report by Andrew J. Coulson. In his study, Coulson also tested "public choice" theory, which argues that public officials ultimately seek to advance their own interests. In the public choice model, such officials attempt to accumulate and spend as much money as possible in an effort to enhance their influence and power. Coulson found that the data provided "compelling support" for the public choice theory, noting that the "incentive structure" of public schooling encourages districts "to maximize their budgets."

Although no one appears to have tested public choice theory vs. demand-driven theory in municipal consolidation, local municipal officials would likely behave in the same way as school officials: seeking more money rather than cutting costs. Some public choice theorists argue that the very existence of fragmented units of government creates competition among municipalities, which can increase public-sector efficiency. In such a structure, residents serve as consumers by voting with their feet and moving to more efficient and responsive municipalities.

Ultimately, consolidating municipalities to save money is dubious. There are other alternatives for reining in out-of-control government spending, such as bringing public-sector benefits in line with the private sector and privatizing services. These options reform government incentives instead of re-structuring the public sector to mirror a corporation.

#####

C. Jarrett Dieterle is a 2010 graduate of the University of Richmond and a summer intern with the communications team at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a research and educational institute headquartered in Midland, Mich. Permission to reprint in whole or in part is hereby granted, provided that the author and the Center are properly cited.

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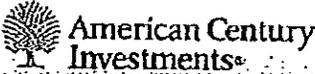
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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
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THE OUTLOOK | AUGUST 29, 2011

When Civic Mergers Don't Save Money

By CONOR DOUGHERTY

Governors and lawmakers across the U.S., looking to trim the costs of local government, are prodding school districts, townships and other entities to combine into bigger jurisdictions. But a number of studies—and evidence from past consolidations—suggest such mergers rarely save money, and in many cases, they end up raising costs.

Economists who have studied the issue say there are a number of reasons why several small governments can end up costing less than a single larger government. For starters, small governments tend to have fewer professional—and higher-paid—employees, such as lawyers. Studies show small governments generally rely more on part-time workers, who receive fewer long-term benefits such as pensions and health-care coverage.

Another reason: When small governments merge, they often "harmonize" services and employee benefits to the highest level among the combining units. In other words, the consolidated city finds it politically expedient to take on the more-expensive version of everything. Employees at the city with lower wages get raises and residents of the city with fewer services get more.

Consolidating Expenditures
Consolidation studies show that the average savings from consolidation is 10% to 15% of total expenditures.

State	Year	Number of governments	Number of consolidations	Percentage of total expenditures saved
Illinois	2008	1,000	100	10%
California	2008	1,000	100	10%
Michigan	2008	1,000	100	10%
Ohio	2008	1,000	100	10%
Texas	2008	1,000	100	10%
Virginia	2008	1,000	100	10%
Washington	2008	1,000	100	10%
Wisconsin	2008	1,000	100	10%
Other	2008	1,000	100	10%

"If the rationale [for a merger] is cost savings, you're going to be disappointed," said Enid Slack, director of the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance at the University of Toronto.

The logic often cited behind consolidations is saving money by shedding layers of management or having departments share equipment such as snowplows. But managers and equipment account for far less than half of local governments' expenses—most of their cost is rank-and-file labor.

There are other reasons for merging government entities. Some services—such as public transportation—can be more effectively provided over a large area than a small one. And Jennifer Bradley, a fellow at the Brookings Institution, says some mergers that haven't yet generated savings might do so in the future.

"The reason we haven't seen cost declines is there have been either sweeteners to make the deal work, such as promises of leveling up pay or various labor protections," she said. In the current environment of deep fiscal stress, "you might find consolidation or collaboration efforts are also not jobs-protective. Local government payrolls are already being cut deeply."

Still, when it comes to controlling local government's largest cost—labor—smaller governments generally do better. Take Illinois, where budget troubles and pension obligations have eroded the state's credit rating. There, state Sen. Terry Link proposed a bill that would lead to local governments being combined or dissolved in a bid to save money. "There are a lot of these units of local government that aren't necessary anymore," said Mr. Link, a Democrat.

But a study this year for a group representing most of Illinois's 1,433 townships used state data to show that tiny townships are the state's most austere government operations. Spending by the state's townships grew 17% from 1992 to 2007, adjusted for inflation, according to the study. State expenditures over that same period grew 51%, while spending by larger municipalities grew 50%; school districts' spending rose 74%. One reason: Townships have fewer employees per person and use more part-timers, reducing salaries and benefits.

Some of this cost disparity likely reflects different priorities between townships and other governments, such as school districts. But the study found similar results when comparing wages for road workers. Township road workers made \$2,800 a month on average, 65% as much as county road workers and less than half as much as state road workers.

"In government, the whole idea of economies of scale is turned on its head," said Wendell Cox, who produced the report for Township Officials of Illinois, an umbrella group for the state's townships.

The consolidation bill was defeated, but Mr. Link plans to revive the effort next year.

Civic consolidation is labeled by voices across the ideological spectrum as a way to save money—or as a bad idea that wastes money. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican, have both championed the idea.

But Mr. Cox, the consultant, and a visiting fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation, has prepared reports for township organizations in other states, including New York and Pennsylvania, that all found small governments cost less than big ones. "Anyone who looks at the data is going to come to the same conclusion," he said.

Write to Conor Dougherty at conor.dougherty@wsj.com

Corrections & Amplifications

Rick Snyder is the governor of Michigan. An earlier version of this article incorrectly said the governor of Michigan is Rick Scott.

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For Immediate Release
February 1, 2010

Contact:
David Bertram
MTA Office: 517.321.6467
C: 517.927.4314

Michigan Townships Association: Smaller Government is More Efficient and Less Expensive

Lansing, Mich. — The Michigan Townships Association (MTA) today released a study showing that smaller government is more efficient and saves taxpayer dollars.

While a few interest groups are advocating for the consolidation of local governments as a way to reduce the cost of government, the MTA study shows the results of such consolidations would be the exact opposite. The MTA found that creating bigger governments would not save money or improve efficiencies.

“Making smaller governments into bigger governments will most certainly drive the cost of government up, not down,” said G. Lawrence Merrill, MTA Executive Director. “Simply combining local government or local government services does not result in cost savings unless the service consolidation allows for reducing staffing levels or eliminating major capital purchases – and these opportunities cannot be assumed.”

“Making bigger governments to reduce costs is an often repeated falsehood,” added Merrill. “When you compare Michigan to other states with similar populations, density, climate and character, Michigan actually has far fewer local governments. Michigan ranks 33rd in the number of local governments per capita, and 29th in the average population per jurisdiction.”

Consolidation is extraordinarily complicated

In addition to creating inefficient government, the consolidation process is time consuming, expensive, complicated and would take five or more years to even develop. A consolidation effort would include:

- Melding different tax rates
- Connecting separate infrastructure systems
- Resolving different levels of debt
- Rectifying two or more incompatible administrative systems
- Unifying compensation systems and personnel policies
- Standardizing ordinances

Most efficient form of government

Michigan's 1,240 townships, which comprise more than 96 percent of Michigan's land area and over half of the state's population, already perform very efficiently compared to local governments in other states.

One of the advantages of operating with a smaller government is the ability to provide services more efficiently with less staff. The majority of Michigan townships are managed by part time staff. Based on a 2008 MTA survey, townships reported the following:

- 30% operate full time
- 70% operate part time (40% of which have no office staff)
- 22% of townships have unions

In addition, Michigan townships continue to look for cooperative arrangements to provide more efficient services. Cooperative fire protection is provided by nearly 48 percent of townships, according to the 2008 MTA survey. Many others buy and sell fire protection for a part of their geographic areas. Michigan ranks 37 out of fifty states in per capita expenditures for fire protection. This demonstrates that Michigan townships are providing emergency services efficiently and affordably.

Of the townships that provide local law enforcement, three-quarters do so through contracts with other governmental entities.

"In these difficult times, township governments across the state continue to seize opportunities to provide and share services that provide taxpayers with smart savings," said Merrill.

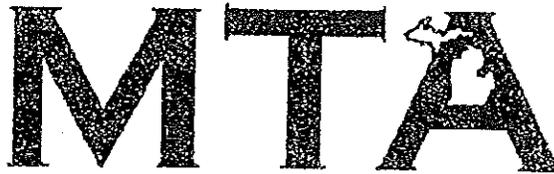
The MTA advocates reform efforts in Michigan at the local government level focused on regional economic development strategies that leverage regional assets and utilize placemaking tactics to:

- Attract knowledge-based industries
- Develop regional infrastructure necessary to attract new Economy jobs
- Promote entrepreneurship and diversity
- Develop value-added agriculture using 21st-century technologies

"Michigan needs its state government to be the essential catalyst to foster more regional collaboration," said Merrill. "The most important reform involving local governments that state government could undertake that would revitalize the Michigan economy is to create regional consortiums to make Michigan attractive to New Economy employers."

To review the complete White Papers: Reforming Michigan's Local Government, please visit the MTA website at <http://www.michigantownships.org>.

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MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

For Immediate Release
September 6, 2011

Contact: Bill Anderson
517.321.6467
bill@michigantownships.org

US Census Data Shows Michigan Local Government Operations Among the Most Efficient in the Nation

(Washington D.C.) – The U.S. Census Bureau's latest report on local government public employment reveals that Michigan is providing local government services through one of the most efficient systems in the nation.

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Ken Altman [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 9:07 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

I do not support the consolidation of the Cities of Douglas and Saugatuck with Saugatuck Township or of just the two cities. With the cooperation and past consolidation of many services such as fire, police, sewer and water, schools, library, etc., the major reasons for consolidation have been eliminated, thereby rendering cost savings to be minimal, if any. We currently have two healthy cities and I believe that consolidation would create more problems than it would solve. Further, I am not in favor of firing my friends and neighbors who are currently on the city staffs, requiring them to reapply for their jobs, and possibly pulling them out of work in tough economic times. This is just not acceptable to me.

I encourage you to deny the petition for consolidation.

Thank you.

Kenneth E. Altman

[REDACTED]
Saugatuck, MI 49453
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

July 18, 2012

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JUL 18 2012

Mr. Kevin O'Brien, P.S.
Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
State Boundary Commission
Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation
P.O. Box 30254
Lansing, MI 48909

OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY &
REMONUMENTATION

REF: Docket No. 11-C-1, Allegan County, Petition for Consolidation of the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas, and Saugatuck Township as a Home Rule City.

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

My name is Paul K. Marineau, and I hereby submit my written comments regarding the above-referenced matter. Unfortunately, my work schedule prevented me from attending and personally delivering these comments at the State Boundary Commission Public Hearing on Wednesday, 20 June 2012, at the Saugatuck High School.

Although I grew up in South Florida, my family has owned property and vacationed in the Saugatuck-Douglas area since 1968. In 1982, I married a local resident, whose father had moved to the area in 1958 and served as a small town doctor in the Saugatuck-Douglas community. After graduating from Law School in Pennsylvania in 1992, I permanently moved back to Southwest Michigan, along with my wife and children. In 1998, we became full-time residents of the Village of Douglas, which is now known as the City of the Village of Douglas.

Commencing in 2001, I became active in local government. Set forth below is a summary of my elected and appointed positions in the Saugatuck-Douglas community:

- a.) Citizens for Independent and Cooperative Communities (CICC) - Organizer and Treasurer: The purpose of CICC is to oppose the Tri-Community Consolidation between the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas and Saugatuck Township. I served as the Treasurer of CICC from its formation (January 3, 2012) to June 28, 2012 (date of resignation).
- b.) City of the Village of Douglas – Member of the Assessment Board of Review: I was appointed as a member of the Assessment Board of Review in May of 2009, and I continue to serve as a Board member.
- c.) City of the Village of Douglas – Member of the Planning Commission: I served as a member of the Planning Commission from May of 2009 to April of 2011.

- d.) City of the Village of Douglas – Mayor Pro-Tem & City Council Member: I served as Mayor Pro-Tem and a member of the City Council from December of 2004 to September of 2006.
- e.) Village of Douglas – Village Council Member: I served as a member of the Village Council from November of 2001 to November of 2003.
- f.) Kalamazoo Lake Water and Sewer Authority (KLSWA) – Member of the Board of Directors: I served as a member of the KLSWA Board of Directors from November 2001 to November 2003.
- g.) Saugatuck-Douglas Community Foundation (SDCF) – Member of the Board of Directors: I served as a member of the SDCF Board of Directors from August of 2004 to August of 2005.

Suffice it to say, my connection to the Saugatuck-Douglas area is long and deep.

When I decided to seek one of three seats on the Douglas Village Council in 2001, my stated position and number one objective was to work with the City of Saugatuck in a cooperative and collaborative fashion to further consolidate services between the two governmental units. By a fairly high margin, I received the most votes in the November 2001 Village Council election.

Within my first year on the Douglas Village Council, it became abundantly clear that the Department of Public Works was in need of a substantial, costly upgrade to its vehicles and equipment. There were also rumblings that the Department's current Supervisor was planning to resign and relocate to Kentucky. It was the perfect time to approach the City of Saugatuck with a proposal, coupled with a buy-in payment, to consolidate our Public Works Departments (hereinafter the "DPW consolidation proposal"). Although I pushed the Douglas Village President to broach this topic with the City of Saugatuck, he refused.

Frustrated with his refusal, I threw my full-support behind an individual in the community, who was challenging the current Douglas Village President in the upcoming November 2002 Village Council election. If elected, the challenger had promised to explore the DPW consolidation proposal with the City of Saugatuck. It was a fairly nasty election but the challenger won. During election process, the current Douglas Village Manager also resigned.

Shortly after the election, I met with the new Douglas Village President to discuss the DPW consolidation proposal and the recent Douglas Village Manager vacancy. We agreed to schedule a meeting with the current Saugatuck City Manager to inquire into his availability and willingness to act as the interim Douglas Village Manager on a contract basis. It was envisioned that the Village of Douglas would contract for his services with the City of Saugatuck. This arrangement would be similar to the City of Saugatuck contracting with the Village of Douglas for Police services. If he was agreeable, we planned to add this item, along with the DPW consolidation proposal, to the meeting agenda with the representatives from the City of

Saugatuck. To our surprise, the current Saugatuck City Manager wholeheartedly embraced this idea, and we even entertained the thought that this interim appointment could become permanent if it worked out well for both governmental units.

Unfortunately, when the meeting with the representatives of the City of Saugatuck was held, the DPW consolidation proposal, along with the request to contract for the current Saugatuck City Manager's services, was abruptly and arrogantly dismissed. The representatives of the City of Saugatuck expressed absolutely no interest in having any further discussions regarding these matters, and any hope of forming a cooperative and collaborative relationship to further consolidate services between the two governmental units was unilaterally dismissed. In other words, I dismally failed to accomplish my number one objective; hence, I unequivocally expressed my disappointment to the current Douglas Village Council regarding these failed efforts, and I announced that I would not seek re-election in the November 2003 Village Council election.

Fast-forward to the current Tri-Community Consolidation proposal. Although I was encouraged to learn that a group of private citizens were petitioning the State Boundary Commission on a proposed consolidation, I was extremely disappointed to hear that they had included Saugatuck Township in their original proposal. For the record, I am opposed to the original Tri-Community Consolidation proposal between the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas and Saugatuck Township. I do not believe that the original Tri-Community Consolidation proposal is in the best interest of the two cities or Saugatuck Township, and I also strongly believe that my position on the original Tri-Community Consolidation proposal is shared by a vast majority of the residents of these three governmental units. It is solely for this reason that I agreed to organize and act as the Treasurer of CICC to oppose the original Tri-Community Consolidation proposal.

With that said, I was happy read a press release issued by the Consolidated Government Committee (the "CGC") on April 20, 2012, wherein they expressed their intent to recommend to the State Boundary Commission (the "SBC") the removal of Saugatuck Township from the proposed consolidated boundaries. Shortly after this press release, I had a series of meetings with representatives from the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas and CGC – See Appendix A, which was published as an Op-Ed in the Local Observer on Thursday, 17 May 2012, wherein I state my position and summarize these series of meetings.

Based on aforementioned series of meetings, I concluded that the representatives of the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas had absolutely no interest in informing their constituents regarding the merits of consolidation. Rather, they appeared to be purely motivated by their own self-interests such as preserving their jobs and/or feeding their egos. Arguably, the representatives of these two cities were acting as obstructionists to the dissemination of factual information so as to allow the public to make a fully-informed decision regarding a potential consolidation of the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas. For whatever reason, the representatives of these two cities gave the appearance of viewing an uninformed public as an ally in their mission to quash the consolidation efforts.

This perceived behavior is excusable as it relates to the employees of the two cities. However, it is absolutely inexcusable as it relates to elected officials. They have a quasi-fiduciary duty to their constituents; hence, they should be ashamed of themselves for their failure to inform their respective communities regarding the topic of consolidation. This perceived behavior can only be described by phrases such as "over-inflated egos" and "big fish in small ponds". The sad part of my perception is the fact that these same individuals are my friends and neighbors. Although it is easy to be critical of this perceived behavior as it occurs in Washington, DC, it is much more difficult to be critical of such behavior in a small community.

Truthfully, I have yet to take a position on a potential consolidation of the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas. Why? As mentioned in my Op-Ed in the Local Observer:

If the SBC revises the proposed consolidated boundaries to include only the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas, my mission will be ascertain the facts surrounding the revised consolidation proposal so as to make a fully-informed decision when I cast my vote. Although potential cost savings are an important consideration, I will not vote for the consolidation of the two cities for the sole reason that it may reduce my property taxes. Personally, I would like the pro-consolidation group to discuss the benefits of having one City Counsel with a long-term vision for the area, coupled with one competent City Manager and a fully-dedicated staff to make this vision a reality. I also want to be assured that the character, tradition and uniqueness of the two communities will not be lost as result of the consolidation.

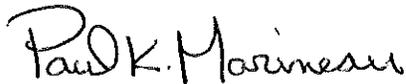
Many will argue that the two communities will be irreparably damaged by the consolidation. Okay, why? I would like the anti-consolidation group to discuss the impact the consolidation will have on the character, tradition and uniqueness of the two communities. From a long-term perspective, I also would like to understand why separate governmental units are in the two communities' best interest - strategically and economically. As a community, we should strive to get all of the opportunities and threats associated with the consolidation of the two cities on the table for consideration. Once known, we will all be in a better position to separate fact from fiction and make a fully-informed decision on this matter.

With respect to potential cost savings, I have advocated for a collaborative and cooperative joint venture between the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas, the CGC and the CICC, wherein all the interested parties work together to analyze the cost savings that may result from the consolidation of the two cities and release a credible study which each party is able to reasonably endorse. Too much valuable time is wasted on disputing numbers. I strongly believe that it is time to work together, clear the smoke and get the facts out to the community. In furtherance thereof, I will not tolerate any gamesmanship that is meant to misrepresent the facts and confuse the public regardless of the source. Credibility is too important of an asset to waste.

In closing, I hereby respectfully request that the State Boundary Commission drop Saugatuck Township from the original Tri-Community consolidation proposal and allow the petition to move forward only with respect to the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas. If your Commission concurs with my request, I am hopeful that the aforementioned representatives of the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas will be compelled to enter into an intellectually honest discussion regarding the merits of consolidation. After this discussion, I am confident that the residents of the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas will be in a much better position to make a fully-informed decision regarding the consolidation of their respective cities. Failure to honor this request will leave the fate of future cooperative and collaborative endeavors in the hands of elected officials whose own self-interests create a perception of being in direct conflict with the best interests of the communities they represent.

As always, if you should have any questions, comments, concerns and/or request whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,



Paul K. Marineau

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Email Address: [Redacted]

Telephone No.: [Redacted]

Telephone No.: [Redacted]

Telephone No.: [Redacted]

Facsimile No.: [Redacted]

APPENDIX A

It's Time to Clear the Smoke

RECEIVED

JUL 18 2012

OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY &
REMONUMENTATION

Dear Editor:

My name is Paul Marineau, and I am the Treasurer of the Citizens for Independent and Cooperative Communities (the "CICC"). I am also a full-time law school Professor, a practicing attorney and a certified public accountant. In the spirit of full-disclosure, I believe that it is necessary to provide some context to an article appearing in last week's edition of The Local Observer.

First, and foremost, I am, and have always been, opposed to the proposed Tri-Community Consolidation between the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas and Saugatuck Township. Suffice it to say, I do not believe that this consolidation proposal is in the best interest of the two cities or Saugatuck Township. With that said, I was happy read a press release issued by the Consolidated Government Committee (the "CGC") on April 20, 2012, wherein they expressed their intent to recommend to the State Boundary Commission (the "SBC") the removal of Saugatuck Township from the proposed consolidated boundaries. If the SBC ultimately concurs with the CGC's recommendation, the consolidation process will move forward only with respect to the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas.

In the aforementioned CGC press release, CGC Chairman Travis Randolph stated, "The similarities between the two cities in terms of culture, demographics, shared geography, and tourism-based economies make them logical candidates to embrace a single local government, and its resulting efficiencies." Regardless of your position on consolidation, this statement has merit and requires an intellectually honest deliberation in full-view of the public. Right now, there is too much smoke and not enough facts.

If the SBC revises the proposed consolidated boundaries to include only the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas, my mission will be ascertain the facts surrounding the revised consolidation proposal so as to make a fully-informed decision when I cast my vote. Although potential cost savings are an important consideration, I will not vote for the consolidation of the two cities for the sole reason that it may reduce my property taxes. Personally, I would like the pro-consolidation group to discuss the benefits of having one City Counsel with a long-term vision for the area, coupled with one competent City Manager and a fully-dedicated staff to make this vision a reality. I also want to be assured that the character, tradition and uniqueness of the two communities will not be lost as result of the consolidation.

Many will argue that the two communities will be irreparably damaged by the consolidation. Okay, why? I would like the anti-consolidation group to discuss the impact the consolidation will have on the character, tradition and uniqueness of the two communities. From a long-term perspective, I also would like to understand why separate governmental units are in the two communities' best interest -

strategically and economically. As a community, we should strive to get all of the opportunities and threats associated with the consolidation of the two cities on the table for consideration. Once known, we will all be in a better position to separate fact from fiction and make a fully-informed decision on this matter.

With respect to potential cost savings, I have advocated for a collaborative and cooperative joint venture between the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas, the CGC and the CICC, wherein all the interested parties work together to analyze the cost savings that may result from the consolidation of the two cities and release a credible study which each party is able to reasonably endorse. Too much valuable time is wasted on disputing numbers. I strongly believe that it is time to work together, clear the smoke and get the facts out to the community. In furtherance thereof, I will not tolerate any gamesmanship that is meant to misrepresent the facts and confuse the public regardless of the source. Credibility is too important of an asset to waste.

Now, I would like to recap the events of the past four weeks. My goal is to simply present the facts and allow the readers to draw their own conclusions.

Week of April 16th: I was contacted by Matt Balmer and asked to assist with presenting the CICC's position at the SBC public hearing originally scheduled for Wednesday, May 16th. I informed Mr. Balmer that I have not been closely following all the recent developments regarding the proposed consolidation; hence, I would be of limited assistance. Mr. Balmer suggested that I attend the CICC informational meeting on Saturday, April 21st. Also, Mr. Balmer asked if I would be willing to attend a meeting with representatives from the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas, Saugatuck Township and the CICC on Monday, April 23rd. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the SBC questionnaires, and the completion thereof, which were sent to the three governmental units and the CICC. I agreed to attend both meetings and provide whatever assistance Mr. Balmer deemed appropriate.

Friday, April 20th: The CGC issued a press release, wherein they expressed their intent to recommend to the SBC the removal of Saugatuck Township from the proposed consolidated boundaries.

Saturday, April 21st: I attended the CICC informational meeting, which was primarily focused on the SBC proceedings and the cost savings reported by the CGC related to the proposed consolidation of the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas and Saugatuck Township. With respect to the cost savings, the majority of the issues were related to the inclusion of Saugatuck Township in the consolidation proposal.

There was also a brief discussion of the CGC's recent press release and their newly released cost savings estimates (approximately \$700,000) related only to the consolidation of the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas. Suffice it to say, if the SBC were to grant the CGC's request to remove Saugatuck Township from the consolidation proposal, a significant portion of the CICC presentation disputing the cost savings reported by the CGC would be rendered irrelevant. Nevertheless, CICC officials were also skeptical regarding the accuracy of the CGC's newly released cost savings estimates

(approximately \$700,000) related only to the consolidation of the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas.

Monday, April 23rd: I attended a meeting at Saugatuck City Hall with representatives from the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas, Saugatuck Township and the CICC. In particular, this meeting was attended by both Bill LeFevere, Douglas City Manager, and Kirk Harrier, Saugatuck City Manager. We discussed the SBC questionnaires, and the completion thereof. We also discussed the CGC's recent press release and their newly released cost savings estimates (approximately \$700,000) related only to the consolidation of the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas. The following question was asked: How does the CGC develop these cost savings with no input from the two cities? A discussion ensued as to whether the CGC would be willing to work together with the two cities and the CICC to analyze the costs savings that may result from the consolidation of the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas. I agreed to follow-up with the CGC on this topic. Shortly thereafter, I contacted CGC Chairman Travis Randolph, and he invited me to attend their Committee's next meeting on Friday, April 27th.

Friday, April 27th: I attended the CGC's meeting and asked if they would be willing to work together with the two cities and the CICC to analyze the costs savings that may result from the consolidation of the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas. Although they were very receptive to this proposal, they wanted to discuss it internally prior to making a decision. Within a few hours, Mr. Randolph notified me that they had agreed to the proposal, and he provided me with a "draft" joint press release between the CGC and the CICC. Mr. Randolph also asked that I work with two of their Committee members, Frank Lamb and Bobbie Gaunt, on the joint cost savings project.

Saturday, April 28th: The CICC made a few revisions to the joint press release and removed any reference to the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas. Why? Prior to committing the two cities to this collaborative and cooperative endeavor, the two City Councils would need to officially approve and endorse the joint cost savings project.

Monday morning, April 30th: The CGC and the CICC issued a joint press release, wherein they announced that representatives of both groups would work together to analyze the cost savings that may result from the consolidation of the two cities.

Monday evening, April 30th: The CICC issued the following statement: "[W]e decided to try to contact the CGC to see if they'd be willing to work together with us as well as the two cities to come up with a meaningful, credible financial analysis of a potential merger between the two cities. Our thoughts were simple, ask them to work together and explain the importance of having the cities involved as the only way that a true analysis can be done is by interviewing the city staff and getting the numbers directly from them. If they chose to do so, it's a win-win for everyone, especially our residents as they can see one study with the most accurate information available to them. If they chose not to work with us, quite frankly it would only reflect poorly on them. Fortunately for all, they chose to work with us and a joint press release was created by both parties and released today. The city managers supported our efforts before we even attempted to make the offer to the CGC and now we will be contacting the city

managers to set up a time for all interested parties to come together for the sole purpose of doing a unified joint financial analysis.”

Tuesday morning, May 1st: I received a call from Jim Storey, a consultant to the CGC. I was informed that certain members of the CGC were surprised by the CICC’s unilateral statement, especially after a joint press release was issued earlier in the day. Mr. Storey requested that all future communications regarding the progress of the joint cost savings project be issued as joint press releases. I spoke with Mr. Balmer regarding this request, and he agreed.

Wednesday, May 2nd: I met with Mr. Lamb, Ms. Gaunt and Adam Rujan of Plante Moran. I stressed the importance of involving the City Managers and City Treasurers, as well as the outside auditors for each city, in the joint cost savings project. All parties agreed, and I was asked to check the availability of the aforementioned parties to meet to officially “kick-off” this collaborative and cooperative endeavor.

At the conclusion of the aforementioned meeting, I drove to Douglas City Hall and met with Mr. LeFevere, Douglas City Manager. Mr. LeFevere informed me that he had several reservations regarding the joint cost savings project. I responded by saying, “Okay. Although this is the first time I am hearing of these reservations, we can add them to the agenda and discuss them when we get together as a group. The whole purpose of the meeting is to define the scope of the engagement, determine timelines and discuss next steps. So, what is your availability to meet?” Mr. LeFevere responded by saying, “Unless the CGC is willing to withdraw their consolidation petition from the SBC, I have absolutely no desire to meet with them.” I repeated Mr. LeFevere’s statement to him to make sure I did not misunderstand his message. He confirmed. I then asked Mr. LeFevere if he would like to reconsider his position and circle back with me in the morning. I even suggested that he confer with Kirk Harrier, Saugatuck City Manager, prior to circling back to me. He responded by saying “no”. Mr. LeFevere did say that he would be willing to deliver this message to the CGC if I was uncomfortable doing so. I responded by saying, “No, I will deliver the message.”

STOP. At this point, if you were me, would you feel misled and used? Well I did.

Thursday morning, May 3rd: I initiated contact with Mike Gallagher at The Local Observer, and I informed him of the chain of events recited above. I told him that I felt misled and used, and I planned to follow-up with Mr. Balmer to confirm the CICC’s position and ensure that we are on the “same page”. Mr. Gallagher suggested a meeting between the three of us (Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Balmer and myself) on Friday, May 4th.

Immediately following the conversation with Mr. Gallagher, I contacted Mr. Balmer and informed him of my discussion with Mr. LeFevere and Mr. Gallagher. I also asked Mr. Balmer to confirm that the CICC is an independent committee as opposed to simply a mouthpiece for the two cities and its primary mission was to inform the public of facts regarding consolidation. Mr. Balmer responded by saying that we were on the “same page”, and he felt as though he had been “punched in the gut”. Mr. Balmer asked for some additional time to process the information and deal with some other pressing matters. We agreed to reconvene on Monday, May 7th. I then circled back to Mr. Gallagher and asked to defer a meeting until the following week.

Friday morning, May 4th: I met with Mr. Lamb, and I officially passed along Mr. LeFevere's message. Mr. Lamb strongly suggested that I talk with Mr. Harrier, Saugatuck City Manager, to solicit his thoughts on the joint cost savings project.

At the conclusion of the meeting with Mr. Lamb, I walked down to Saugatuck City Hall and met with Mr. Harrier for over an hour. Although Mr. Harrier was more encouraging than Mr. LeFevere, he too had some reservations. In particular, he felt as though Plante Moran was "tainted" by their earlier cost savings study, and it would probably make more sense to use another independent accounting firm. We even discussed the possibility of leveraging the Michigan Municipal League (the "MML") to assist with selecting another qualified independent accounting firm. It was also mentioned that the MML may be able to partially fund this initiative with a foundation grant.

Monday, May 7th: I was contacted by Mr. Balmer and asked to deliver the following message from the two cities and the CICC to the CGC. First, it does not make sense to kick-off this collaborative and cooperative endeavor prior to the SBC's official determination on the consolidated boundaries. In other words, the SBC is currently considering the original proposal to consolidate the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas and Saugatuck Township. If they ultimately conclude that Saugatuck Township should be removed from the consolidated boundaries and the proposed consolidation should move forward only with respect to the two cities, they would entertain working together on a joint cost savings project.

Second, they would be willing to meet with the CGC to discuss certain protocols and work through all the issues surrounding a joint cost savings project prior to the SBC's official determination on the consolidated boundaries. One of the issues would be the selection of an independent accounting firm to conduct the joint cost savings study – Plante Moran vs. another qualified independent accounting firm.

Once these protocols and issues were resolved, each City Manager would seek the approval of the City Counsel to work together with the CGC and the CICC to produce a joint cost savings study. Therefore, if the SBC makes a determination that the consolidation proposal should only include the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas, the two cities would be able to immediately move forward with the joint cost savings project because all of the preliminary issues were resolved prior to the SBC's determination.

If the CGC wished to pursue this approach, the CGC and the CICC would jointly issue a letter to the two cities requesting a meeting to commence the aforementioned process. Mr. Balmer also told me that the CICC felt as though this was a reasonable request by the two cities, and the CICC supported the two cities' position.

Tuesday, May 8th: I met with Mr. Randolph, Mr. Lamb and Ms. Gaunt to officially deliver the aforementioned message from the two cities and the CICC to the CGC. Although Mr. Randolph said that he would not preclude the possibility of working together with the two cities and the CICC on a joint cost savings study in the future, they were not willing to suspend their current cost savings project. Suffice it to say, they felt as though it was necessary to present the cost savings only related to the consolidation

of the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas at the SBC public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, June 20th.

Wednesday, May 9th: On behalf of the CGC, Mr. Lamb asked if I would be willing to continue to work with the CGC on their cost savings study. I agreed.

Friday, May 11th: I contacted Mr. LeFevere, Douglas City Manager, and Mr. Harrier, Saugatuck City Manager, to request an organizational chart from each city. I also asked for any and all information they would like the CGC to consider in completing the cost savings project. I told them that I would be happy to champion their concerns and wishes with the CGC and Plante Moran. To date, I have received no reply from either Mr. LeFevere or Mr. Harrier.

End of story. So, what do you think?

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 3:52 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

Members of the State Boundary Commission:
RE: Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

In our opinion the consolidation of Saugatuck, Douglas and Saugatuck Township or any form of consolidation for the area is a serious mistake. We already have consolidated most to the major government functions. To spend money to re-write ordinances etc. puts taxpayers spending monies we do not have or could be used for other items. There is no savings that any study has shown. The communities exist and work together very well. We do not need to be one to work together. I encourage you to throw out the ill conceived ideas of a small group of people.

Louise Pattison
[REDACTED]
Douglas, MI 49406

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 4:11 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

Members of the State Boundary Commission:
Re: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

The proposed consolidation of Saugatuck and Douglas is completely without merit. The premise that it costs 40 percent or more in operating costs as outlined by the CGC is ludicrous. The major costs services are already consolidated: schools, fire, police, recreation, water/sewer, bus transportation, and library. There is nothing to further consolidate. To expose the cities to the enormous costs, effort, and time for rewriting charters, ordinances, holding elections, and staffing changes, is wasteful and ill conceived.

Please deny these petitions.

Walter Pattison
[REDACTED]
Douglas, MI 49406

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Pam Aalderink [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 9:04 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Docket #11-C-1
July 17th, 2012

As a resident of the City of Douglas for thirty two years and a current resident of Saugatuck Township we would like to express our opposition to any form of consolidation. There are numerous reasons why we oppose consolidation, however two factors stand out (1) consolidation cannot take place without a major cost of jobs and money and (2) if the Township is factored into the consolidation our taxes will ultimately be negatively impacted. We are against any form of consolidation.

Keith & Pam Aalderink

[REDACTED]
Saugatuck, MI 49453

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Mike [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 9:13 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Docket 11-1-C-Allegan County

SBC Commissioners,

I am writing to request the Commission deny the petition concerning the proposed consolidation of any or all of Saugatuck Township, City of the Village of Douglas, or the City of Saugatuck.

I attended the public hearing to learn from the pro-consolidation group what compelling issues I was missing to make an informed decision. Surprisingly, the only members of the public speaking in favor of consolidation were members of the CGC. Seemingly, no one else was there to support their cause. Then I heard their arguments; banners on the bridge, skating rinks, personal inconvenience of having to deal with multiple municipalities for administrative issues, websites and the ever changing possibility of cost savings. They surely did not convince me or anyone else to rethink our opposition to consolidation.

We do not want bigger, less personal government; nor do we want to write a blank check to make it happen.

Since you, my neighbors, fellow voters, have heard all sides, you must agree with us that this petition introduced by a few unelected citizens be denied.

Regards,

Mike Mattern
[REDACTED]
Saugatuck

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Susan Bunting [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 10:42 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: SBC Docket number (11-1-C: Allegan County)

I have no interest whatsoever in consolidating with Saugatuck and Douglas. I purchased property in Saugatuck Township because I wanted to live in a rural environment. I could have purchased property in Saugatuck or Douglas. I purposefully chose not to.

I do not want to get involved in the "small town" politics of Saugatuck and Douglas.

I certainly do not want to see my taxes raised. I do not believe we would receive any more services if a consolidation takes place. My property is more than seven miles from Douglas and even further from Saugatuck. The cost of bringing services to my home would be enormous.

It is really unfortunate that this request for consolidation from this group of people even made it to the State of Michigan. The property owners in Saugatuck Township are overwhelming opposed to consolidation, therefore, the request should not have been advanced.

Thank you.
Susan Bunting
[REDACTED]
Fennville, MI 49408
Saugatuck Township

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: betty vanwieren [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 10:45 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Saugatuck area consolidation

Regarding docket # 11-1-C Allegan County, I am opposed to any consolidation of Saugatuck Township and when I attended the public hearing in this matter, I realized that most of my neighbors in Saugatuck, Douglas and the township were also opposed. The system we have now works for all three governments and the people and I hope the boundary commission will recognize that.

Sincerely,
Betty van Wieren
Saugatuck Township

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: donnaleigh [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 11:17 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Docket # 11-1-C Consolidation

To Mr. O'Brien:

I hope it was clear at the public hearing on Tri-Community consolidation that the "insignificant straw poll" was not insignificant at all. That was the biggest chance the CGC had to "prove" that consolidation was what the 'citizens' want, and to pack the gym with supporters. Instead, other than the small handful of CGC members, there was about one old lady, probably one of their mothers, who raised her hand in support of the consolidation. The rest of the several hundred people were against it, whether the three communities, or just Douglas and Saugatuck.

The CGC met in private weekly for two years without the public's knowledge, and then sprang it on them with a petition that was not explained properly to those who signed. If Bobby Gaunt really meant it when she stated in the press that no person, government, or pressure group should decide, but the "people" should, then she must have been blowing smoke out her ears, because she and the CGC have done everything they can as an independent citizens group to manipulate and push through this consolidation, with apparently the SBC's collusion, based on several factors of their involvement and manipulation that we as citizens are aware of.

The law is that the citizens decide, and since a pressure group and a government body have been involved in trying to push this through, I feel it is unethical if not unlawful for you to approve this petition, given all the evidence to the contrary of public wishes. I hope you consider this very carefully in your decision, because it will only cost more taxpayer money to proceed, and the communities WILL vote it down in a referendum.

Respectfully,

John and Donna Leonard
Saugatuck Township

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Jon Helmrich [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 11:46 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Consolidation consideration

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

I am writing in regards to the proposed consolidation for Saugatuck, Saugatuck Township, and Douglas (Docket: 11-1-C: Allegan County).

It is essential to consider the following points as the Boundary Commission considers this docket:

- Past consolidations have always been instigated by the elected governments of the concerned communities.
- In this case, a group of a dozen or less individuals brought the effort to you.
- None of our three communities are bankrupt, losing population, or in need of a consolidation.
- We already share most essential services and can always consider others in the future.
- The committee that began this process misrepresented the petition drive. I, and many others, were told a signature on the petition meant supporting a vote on the issue, not that one supported any of the consolidation efforts. Many of us felt tricked into signing because we were friends with the committee member.

I urge you to reject any form of consolidation here and please bear in mind that the vast majority of residents do not support this effort in any form. Putting us through a needless and expensive election process will serve absolutely no purpose or value. It will simply increase divisiveness in the community, waste our governments' money, and cause more distraction for our elected officials and the residents.

Thank you for considering my views on this issue.

Most sincerely,

Jon Helmrich
[REDACTED]
Saugatuck, MI 49453
[REDACTED]

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Kathleen Miller Cook [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 1:56 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Cc: James Cook
Subject: Against Consolidation

RE: SBC Docket Number: 11-1-C Allegan County

We own property at: [REDACTED]
Saugatuck, MI 49453

We are in Saugatuck Township.

We are writing you in regard to the proposed merger between the three entities: Saugatuck, Douglas and Saugatuck Township.

We do not support this potential consolidation. We do not want to change our governing structure in any way. It is working just wonderfully for us.

When we purchased this property in 2005, we specifically chose it for its location in Saugatuck Township. We did not and do not want to locate to Douglas or Saugatuck.

If this potential consolidation goes ahead, we will strongly oppose this in our local papers and will go out and knock on doors to help defeat this misguided attempt to grow government with no identified benefit whatsoever. And, the potential for extremely higher taxes to Township residents will mobilize all of us to defeat any such measure. It will be defeated, but at a huge waste of money.

Please do not cause our government to spend money on this misguided and unwanted consolidation.

It will just be a huge loss of money for all involved, as we are confident and will do all in our power to see that it will be defeated.

Thank you for listening to us.
Best wishes to you,

Kathleen Miller Cook
James Cook
[REDACTED]
Saugatuck, MI 49453
[REDACTED]

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Janet Rund [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 1:58 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: SBC docket # 11-1-C Allegan County

Dear Kevin,

I have written previously but did not include the docket number SBC # 11-1-C Allegan County. I ask that the SBC defer to the managers/council folks of Douglas and Saugatuck and the Supervisor and manager of Saugatuck Township and deny the petition to consolidate these communities, or the Cities of Saugatuck and Douglas. All are doing well and do not need to consolidate. All essential services are already shared. A clear majority of citizens do not want consolidation, but rather, a cooperative relationship that we already enjoy. Please deny the petition to consolidate. It is just a very small group of 10 or less that seek it.

Thanks,

Janet Rund

[REDACTED]
Saugatuck, MI 49453
[REDACTED]

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: F. Sheldon Wettack [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 9:55 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Cc: Marilyn Wettack
Subject: Comments re Docket #11-C-1: Allegan County
Attachments: June 20 letter to Boundary Commission.doc

I am writing in regard to the proposed consolidation of Saugatuck, Douglas and, potentially, Saugatuck Township. My wife, Marilyn, and I live at [REDACTED], Fennville 49408, which is in Saugatuck Township. I spoke at the public hearing held at Saugatuck High School on behalf of the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance. Those comments were submitted in writing that evening and are attached. On behalf of the Alliance, I want to reiterate their relevance and importance.

At the same time, I wish to voice my strong personal objection to any consolidation that would include Saugatuck Township. One of the attractive features of the house we purchased in 1991 was the fact that the Township's tax rate was much lower than that of either Saugatuck or Douglas. While we have somewhat fewer governmental services, we have what we want, and our property's taxable value (on the Lake Michigan shoreline) would result in prohibitive annual taxes if the rate were to be increased to that of the two cities. The services gained would simply not be cost effective. As a result, my wife and I urge you NOT to include any portion of Saugatuck Township in the proposed consolidation. We do not need to be or want to be connected to either of the cities in a consolidated government.

This same opinion was overwhelming voiced at the public hearing on June 20, 2012, and we trust that you will respond to those voices, and our's, as you make your boundary decision.

Thank you for considering our position.

Sheldon Wettack
[REDACTED]

Fennville, MI 49408
[REDACTED]

June 20, 2012

To: Michigan State Boundary Commission

The Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance was formed in 2007 to assist in the implementation of the Tri-Community Comprehensive Master Plan. We are an Alliance of neighborhood groups (the Laketown Alliance for Neighborly Development, Concerned Citizens for Saugatuck Dunes State Park), homeowner's associations (the Lake Michigan Shore Association, Douglas Lakeshore Association), civic groups (the Saugatuck Douglas Historical Society, the League of Women's Voters, and the Kalamazoo River Protection Association).

The Coastal Alliance has worked for five years to educate local governments about the importance of good zoning, and how good zoning helps drive \$155 million a year in direct tourist dollars into our local economy.*

Our primary concern with the decisions being made by this Commission is what will happen to our communities' good progressive zoning during a period of transition if municipal boundaries are altered.

As a community we have spent nearly \$100,000 and well over 10,000 citizen hours in creating the 2005 Tri-Community Master Plan. Voters in Saugatuck Township even passed a millage taxing themselves at a higher rate in order to defend the zoning that was suggested in the Master Plan. The Master Plan is our economic vision and the foundation for all zoning.

Before any decisions are made regarding consolidation or cooperation we need to ensure our good zoning laws and districts are secure.

The Coastal Alliance requests that the Michigan State Boundary Commission and the Director of Michigan's Licensing and Regulatory Affairs promise our community that regardless of their decisions our communities' locally-determined zoning, zoning districts, and 2005 Tri-Community Comprehensive Master Plan remain secure and untouched by this process.

Thank you,

The Board of the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance

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**OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY &
REMONUMENTATION**

*Figures from the Saugatuck Douglas Convention and Visitors Bureau.

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Barry E. Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 10:55 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Docket Number: 11-1-C - Allegan County

State Boundary Commission Docket Number: "11-1-C - Allegan County

I am requesting the denial of the proposed consolidation of the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas and Saugatuck Township, or the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas (State Boundary Commission Docket #11-C-1) based on requirements in the CRITERIA FOR ANNEXATION, INCORPORATION, AND CONSOLIDATION (1968 PA 191, SECTION 9 – MCL 123.1009)

1. The future urban growth, including population increase and business, commercial and industrial development is predominately in Saugatuck Township. Township officials have made it clear that the increased taxes as a result of consolidation are not acceptable to Township residents. Historically the three communities have worked cooperatively to provide services and infrastructure for growth as needed. Consolidation is not necessary to accomplish future growth.
2. Comparative data for the consolidating municipalities, and the remaining portion of the unit from which the area will be detached has not been adequately presented or confirmed. At the Public Hearing, Township representative Quade presented a detailed analysis of the flaws and inaccuracies in CGC consolidation study.
3. The City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas have organized community services cooperatively. Saugatuck Township evaluates their requirements independently and participates .
4. The present costs of governmental services in the area to be consolidated are among the lowest in western Michigan. The adequacies of governmental services are sufficient and at the level determined by each independent government.
5. The probable future needs for services will occur in the Saugatuck Township. The Township has been successful in determining when, and what, services will be required for planned growth without significantly increasing taxes. The practicability of supplying such services in the Township is not an issue.
6. It is all but certain that there will be probable increases in taxes in the area to be consolidated in relation to the benefits expected to accrue from consolidation. Without a doubt this is true in Saugatuck Township. Studies submitted to the State Boundary Commission at the Public Hearing indicate that that taxes will likely increase in a consolidation of the two Cities as a result of a larger, higher paid staff and harmonization of labor costs.
7. The general effect upon the entire community of the proposed action is negative, both financially and in a loss of individual identity created over the last 150 years.
8. A regional Tri-Community land use plan has been established and the three communities work cooperatively to adapt and revise it on a regular basis.

I am requesting the denial of the proposed consolidation of the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas and Saugatuck Township, or the City of Saugatuck and the City of the Village of Douglas (State Boundary Commission Docket #11-C-1).

Barry E. Johnson
[REDACTED]
Saugatuck, MI 4945

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: BCC OLSR
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 8:25 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: FW: Saugatuck-Douglas Re-Consolidation

From: Katherine Wilcox [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 5:18 PM
To: BCC OLSR
Subject: Saugatuck-Douglas Re-Consolidation

SBC Docket Number: "11-1-C - Allegan County"

To the State Boundary Commission

I am a property owner in Saugatuck Michigan and I object to the re-consolidation of Saugatuck City and Douglas, with or without Saugatuck Township.

The 2 main arguments re-consolidation advocates name are

- 1) the Tri-Community Plan says people want it and
- 2) it will save money.

The Tri-Community Plan merely says re-consolidation should be investigated. It has been and many of our services have been combined. People voted for separate municipalities. They don't want re-consolidation.

When all three governments say this will cost more, not save, I have to believe them. The fact that the re-consolidation committee keeps changing it's savings estimates, suggests they don't really have a clue.

I believe if this goes forward our taxes will increase. We should expect lawsuits and a lot of very unhappy residents.

Please do not proceed with this folly.

Katherine Wilcox
████████████████████
Saugatuck MI

RECEIVED

To: Members of the State Boundary Commission
From: Matt Balmer, Chairman: Planning Commission, City of Douglas
Date: July 19, 2012
Re: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

JUL 20 2012

OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY &
REMONUMENTATION

I am writing to you to request that you deny the petition to consolidate Saugatuck Township, the City Saugatuck, and the City of the Village of Douglas, or the consolidation of just the two cities, or any facet thereof. As I pointed out at the public hearing we already were consolidated once before.

The petitioner has failed to meet the 18 point criterium set forth by the State with regard to consolidation. Their business case studies have numerous flaws as pointed out by all three local governmental agencies, and they have failed to provide any cost estimates for the proposed consolidation. The fact is we have already consolidated the majority of services that we believe make sense for our communities and we already realize this cost savings.

What are some of the unidentified costs to consolidation? Cost for elections for the consolidation process could be up to roughly \$48K, estimated ballpark costs for the following: To write a new City Charter 100K (when both cities already have their own and Douglas just wrote & paid for theirs eight short years ago), to write a new General Code of Ordinance 100K? , to write a new or integrate our current Zoning Ordinances 100K or more (Douglas just re-wrote it's Zoning ordinance that cost nearly \$150,000.00 and took over a year and a half to do), Public Notices & Hearings for the process, to integrate our computer systems, cost for the recruitment of new city staff (many of whom will lose their current jobs), cost for the integration of current consolidated services and agreements, cost of new labor contracts for current unions (would there even be a DPW union?), and the cost to re-write all of our current licensing agreements.

These are just some of the unidentified costs that would be placed on our citizens. Who will be responsible to inform our citizens of these unknown costs before they would be forced to vote on consolidation?

Their claim that the Tri-Community Plan states that the majority of the people in our community wish to consolidate is false. The Tri-Community Plan surveyed less than 900 people out of a community of more than 5,000 people. Of the less than 900 surveyed only slightly more than 300 people answered the specific question that dealt with consolidation, that is not a majority of our community.

Further the question regarding consolidation asked if consolidation would be desirable "if" there were a cost savings AND taxes were lowered. As the commission is aware ONLY the city council of a proposed new government can lower taxes, there is no evidence that would happen if consolidation were approved.

The petitioner has on numerous occasions has made claims that consolidation could help save our harbor from the ongoing siltation and dredging issue that we face, yet they offer no evidence of this. The fact is we already have a newly formed Harbor Authority that has just recently been created between the cities of Saugatuck & Douglas. This was achieved through our continued efforts to cooperate NOT consolidate. Both cities jointly applied for EVIP funding to help form the new Harbor Authority and were given the grant. This is concrete evidence that we do not need to consolidate in order to work together to save our harbor.

The petitioner has never done a thorough analysis of what a newly formed city would look like. Would the city manager need an assistant manager? Would the clerk need a deputy clerk? How many people would be needed in the finance department? None of these types of questions have been addressed, they simply state that we will only need the staffing of one of our current cities. Their own business case studies use comparison communities that have much larger city staffs than we currently have. The City of South Haven (a comparison city) has 73 full time employees and 22 part-time employees. It has 7 people in the finance department alone.

The petitioner never conducted an interview with current city officials or staff to determine the demands of their jobs and whether or not one person could take on the increased workload. I have personally asked city staff from both cities this question and all have told me that they could not perform the job and provide the same level of service without having assistance.

Only one of the members of the group petitioning for consolidation has ever served as a member of our city councils. They simply do not understand local government, or how it works. Their lack of understanding is clearly illustrated in their belief that we would be able to run a new government while providing the same level of service, with half the number of staff that we currently need to achieve the level of service our residents are accustomed to having.

The fact is the vast majority of people in our communities do not wish to consolidate. Evidence of this was made clear at the June 20th Public hearing, and numerous letters to the editors of our local papers as well as opinion polls that were conducted by one of our local newspaper organizations, the Commercial Record. Their questions and results are as follows.

Is it fair to expect the Consolidated Government Committee, which is projecting a hypothetical merged city, to provide documented budgets, numbers and more a la the already-established governments?

Date: 06-27-2012 - 07-03-2012

Answer: 96% yes, 4% no

Should the cities of Douglas and Saugatuck consolidate?

Date: 06-13-2012 - 06-19-2012

Answer: 85% NO, 15% yes

We are not communities in financial distress, we are extremely healthy communities with many similarities, but equally as many differences. We have proven that we work very well together while being able to maintain our individual identities. The same individual identities that not only help distinguish who we are, but also where our residents have chosen to live. We are more than lines on a map, or numbers on a spreadsheet, we are home to all of the people who have chosen to live in either Saugatuck or Douglas.

Please do not make us continue to waste our city staff's time, your time, our tax dollars, or Michigan's tax payer dollars with this issue. Please deny Docket #11-1-C Allegan County.

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: J TRIPP [REDACTED]
 Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 1:04 PM
 To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
 Subject: Docket #11-1-C Allegan County
 July 20, 2012

RE: State Boundary Commission Docket #11-1-C Allegan County

VIA FACSIMILE AND EMAIL

Dear Commissioners:

I am a Saugatuck Township resident and ask you to **DENY** the proposed reconsolidation of the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas and Saugatuck Township in any form, **especially one where any part of the Township is scooped out and included with The City of Saugatuck, the City of Douglas, or a combination of the two.**

After reading the minutes of the April 11, 2012 SBC meeting for Determination of Legal Sufficiency and attending the June 20, 2012 Public Hearing, it seems to me that there is a very careless attitude toward imposing significant financial hardship on the citizens of the Township because the members of the CGC painted us as deadbeats who won't participate in a harbor authority and offered some of us up as "more tied to the cities" so they could get our tax dollars for their dream of a harbor project.

Your actions will change more than just the lines on a map; they will have real consequences for real families. Here are some of the ways that come to my mind:

At current property tax millage rates, those of us who would be moved into Saugatuck/Douglas would see our property taxes increase by between 36.8% and 44.6%. For a home with a \$250,000 market value (\$125,000 taxable value) that's a tax INCREASE of \$1,242 per year at City of Douglas rates and \$1,505 at City of Saugatuck rates. In some neighborhoods that translates into an increase of two or three times that amount per family. (I don't see the creation of a special, lower tax rate for former Township residents with all the talk of oneness and fairness, especially if one of those "special" new residents is Mr. McClendon. Plus, reconsolidation savings were never presented to bring the cities' taxes down to our rate so there would always be a disparity and resentment toward us that would eventually lead to equalization of our taxes.) Next, after we've already invested in wells and septic systems, we'll probably be forced to tie into city sewer and water lines which will cost us thousands of dollars and additional monthly water and sewer bills which we currently do not have to pay. On top of all of that, the higher taxes and operating costs will decrease the value of our properties. And then there are the zoning issues....

Those left in the Township would surely see their taxes increase in order to make up for the loss of so many non-agricultural properties from the tax rolls. Not all costs are variable and the fixed costs would still need to be covered.

Taxes in the City of Saugatuck and the City of Douglas would not increase but ours in the

7/20/2012

Township would.

No one has bothered to consider the impact of this scenario.

By breaking up the Township, you will be imposing a real financial burden on people who are the least likely to enjoy any potential benefit from a harbor project. The members of the CGC might see their business prospects improve, endure less red tape when dealing on behalf of their many businesses, and have coordinating Christmas decorations on both sides of the bridge. But those are the wants of a few, not the substantiated need of thousand of residents at this time. We're not all wealthy developers with unlimited financial resources here in the Township, northern and southern portions alike. We selected our homes based on our budgets and financial constraints, on the level of services (or lack thereof) provided, and on being part of a community of like-minded constituents.

If there truly is a harbor crisis with far-reaching effects, as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or some other qualified entity, and an achievable remedy can be devised, then that issue should be dealt with as a stand alone, serious problem. Its cure would deserve and require far more attention than a few offhanded remarks at the Legal Sufficiency Hearing where no facts or studies and no opportunity for rebuttal were provided. There are other ways to raise revenue for a dedicated project and if presented with some honest facts and figures, I believe the Township residents, especially those most affected, would be reasonable in participating in a legitimate rescue of the harbor. But co-opting certain Township residents into the City of Saugatuck/Douglas without their consent is the type of government overreach that is choking our country to death and is completely unwarranted in this situation.

Please resist the urge to break something that doesn't need fixing. Nothing is perfect and there will always be need for improvement. Imposing so much expense, time and turmoil on any of the three communities to reconsolidate what is already healthy and cooperative in so many ways isn't justified by any study or stretch of the imagination.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jan Tripp
Saugatuck Township Resident

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Malcolm McDonald [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 2:39 PM

To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

Subject: Docket # 11-1-C

Dear Mr. O'Brien, If it is the purpose of a public hearing to hear the public, and it is the purpose of government to serve the wishes of its constituents, then I would hope the issue of consolidation relating to Douglas, Saugatuck and Saugatuck Township is dead and buried. In a resounding unified cry of 'NO,' the citizens of the three communities made their feelings plain on June 20th as you are aware. I would respectfully submit therefore that the SBC should deny any further attempts at consolidation. Yours Sincerely, Malcolm and Barbara McDonald. Saugatuck Township

7/20/2012

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 2:59 PM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

Subject: SBC Docket #11-1-C: Allegan County

Regarding SBC Docket #11-1-C: Allegan County
Proposed consolidation of the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas, and Saugatuck Township

Kevin O'brien:

I am writing today to voice my objection to the proposed consolidation of the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas, and Saugatuck Township. As a municipal employee myself, I am well aware of the economics of running a local government, and after reviewing the proposed consolidation I have come to the conclusion that there will be no cost savings whatsoever of including Saugatuck Township in this consolidation. The loss of services from Allegan County cannot possibly be made up by the proposed government entity, and in fact, will cost significantly more money for that government to provide those services, which include public safety and public services, the two most costly items in any municipal budget.

I would also add that carving out any part of Saugatuck Twp. to be included in any modified proposal for consolidation would result in a significant loss of revenue to the township, which it cannot afford. The outlying areas of the township are largely populated by lower income and fixed-income people. To carve out a more affluent section of the township would mean hardship to those who cannot afford it. One might look at the foreclosure rate in Saugatuck Twp. to get an understanding of the impact loss of revenue would have on the residents who are left in the township if it were to be reduced in size. Carving out a part of the township as I have seen suggested would also mean that one small, yet affluent population, were allowed to restructure an entire government entity, something I find unconscionable in the U.S.

Finally, I point out that due to Lakeshore Drive having been washed out in 1986 and never rebuilt, Saugatuck Township has an entire section that is separated from the main body. Those of us who live south of the wash out will not be able to reap any benefits of any consolidation of the township, and in fact will be harmed by it economically by loss of services and increased taxes.

For these and other reasons I ask that you deny the petition to consolidate the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas, and Saugatuck Township. I further ask that you deny any proposed carve-out of Saugatuck Township to be included in any modified proposal for consolidation.

Thank you,

Jerome Post
[REDACTED]
Fennville, MI 49408
Saugatuck Township Resident

7/20/2012

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: Jeff Spangler [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 9:22 PM

To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

Subject: Saugatuck/Douglas Consolidation

Public Hearing regarding the Consolidation of Saugatuck and Douglas
Docket # 11-1-C

Stare Boundary Commission Members,

I would like to add my comments to the public hearing regarding the consolidation of Saugatuck, Douglas (and possibly) Saugatuck Township.

When I learned that the consolidation of our communities was being considered again I approached the subject with an open mind. Having read the two previous studies, I was hoping that a more current study could be commissioned that would present the facts in a more thorough and professional manner than the previous ones. So far, that has not been the case.

The Consolidated Government Committee has not made a good case for consolidation that shows a long term benefit to the citizens of our communities. At this time no attempt has been made to contact the municipalities to gather real information on how the cities operate or what the costs would be if the consolidation was approved. The CGC has stated that "We just want to bring this to a vote and let the citizens decide". My concern is that the citizens will not be given accurate information upon which to make an informed decision. Once the decision has been made there is no going back.

On that basis, I must state my opposition to consolidation of our communities.

Jeff Spangler

[REDACTED]
Saugatuck, (city) MI

O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)

From: DANA MAGIDA [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 11:02 AM
To: O'Brien, Kevin M (LARA)
Subject: Docket# 11--1--C

Kevin O'Brien, I am a Saugatuck Township resident, owner and voter, this is written on behalf of myself Dana Magida and Denisa Hosta, both voters, Dana Magida spoke at the June 20 meeting she is absolutely against the consolidation of Saugatuck Township where she lives and the reunion of Douglas and Saugatuck. Those these two cities are related, they can function independently, so we are against the union of these two cities. Please leave all three as they are now.

Dana Magida Voter
Denise Hosta Voter Saugatuck Township
[REDACTED]

June 20, 2012

JUN 20 2012

To: Michigan State Boundary Commission

The Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance was formed in 2007 to assist in the implementation of the Tri-Community Comprehensive Master Plan. We are an Alliance of neighborhood groups (the Laketown Alliance for Neighborly Development, Concerned Citizens for Saugatuck Dunes State Park), homeowner's associations (the Lake Michigan Shore Association, Douglas Lakeshore Association), civic groups (the Saugatuck Douglas Historical Society, the League of Women's Voters, and the Kalamazoo River Protection Association).

The Coastal Alliance has worked for five years to educate local governments about the importance of good zoning, and how good zoning helps drive \$155 million a year in direct tourist dollars into our local economy.*

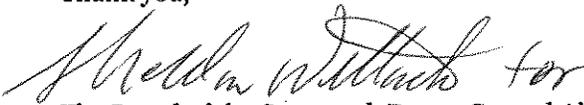
Our primary concern with the decisions being made by this Commission is what will happen to our communities' good progressive zoning during a period of transition if municipal boundaries are altered.

As a community we have spent nearly \$100,000 and well over 10,000 citizen hours in creating the 2005 Tri-Community Master Plan. Voters in Saugatuck Township even passed a millage taxing themselves at a higher rate in order to defend the zoning that was suggested in the Master Plan. The Master Plan is our economic vision and the foundation for all zoning.

Before any decisions are made regarding consolidation or cooperation we need to ensure our good zoning laws and districts are secure.

The Coastal Alliance requests that the Michigan State Boundary Commission and the Director of Michigan's Licensing and Regulatory Affairs promise our community that regardless of their decisions our communities' locally-determined zoning, zoning districts, and 2005 Tri-Community Comprehensive Master Plan remain secure and untouched by this process.

Thank you,


The Board of the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance

*Figures from the Saugatuck Douglas Convention and Visitors Bureau.