



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION CODES  
IRVIN J. POKE  
DIRECTOR

STEVEN H. HILFINGER  
DIRECTOR

**STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION**

**DOCKET #12-I-1**  
**PROPOSED INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF JONESVILLE  
AS A HOME RULE CITY**

**30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT MATERIAL**

October 17, 2012 – November 16, 2012

<b><u>CORRESPONDENCE FROM</u></b>	<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>	<b><u>POSITION</u></b>	<b><u>ITEM #</u></b>
General Public and Village of Jonesville Officials	City Incorporation	Support Incorporation	1
General Public in Area Expanded by Commission	Expanding the area proposed for Incorporation	Oppose being included in the proposed City	2
Nancy DuBois Treasurer of Fayette Township	City Incorporation	Oppose	3

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October 23, 2012

Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

State Boundary Commission

Bureau of Construction Codes

P O Box 30254

Lansing, MI 48909

RECEIVED  
OCT 25 2012  
OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY &  
REMONUMENTATION

RE: Docket #12-1-1

Village of Jonesville application for Cityhood

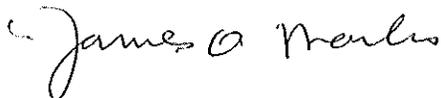
Dear Commissioners:

I have lived in the Village limits of Jonesville for approximately 13 years. From November 1979 thru December 2008, I maintained a Law Office within the Village limits. I have been an elected Village of Jonesville Councilmember since 2009. During this time, I have watched the quiet little Village of Jonesville turn into a very busy place. Jonesville is the home of the largest industrial employer (Martinrea) in the County. It is also the location of the largest employer of a retail store (Wal-Mart) in the County. Approximately 9000 motor vehicles go past my former office, located on US 12 in downtown Jonesville, every day.

Without doubt, I believe that Jonesville's application should be approved. It meets the relevant criteria for recommendation by the Commission for Cityhood.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address the Commission regarding the Village of Jonesville's application for Cityhood. It has been a pleasure dealing with the Commission regarding this issue.

Sincerely,



James O. Marks

330 Jonesville Road

Jonesville, MI 49250

Our planning commission and village council have been working diligently to complete the necessary steps to become a city. Jonesville is a thriving, vibrant and progressive community. There are many citizens involved in groups within the village working on beautification plans/projects to make Jonesville increasingly more attractive. We have a state of the art fire dept., police dept. and waste-water treatment facility as well as a dept. of public works that does an incredible job..Citihood is the next step in what has been a series of very positive accomplishments in Jonesville. We have a great school system and a thriving and expanding industrial park as well as several outside interests wishing to invest in the future of Jonesville Our village staff, village manager and our village council work well together to help make Jonesville a community that people take pride in being a resident of. We appreciated the commission being at our public hearing for the proposed boundaries that we submitted in our application. It is our hope that the commission looks favorably on these boundaries. The open hearing was conducted in a professional manner and gave an opportunity to those present who had concerns to voice their views in an open forum. I am excited to be a part of deciding Jonesville's future development as a potential city. We are more than ready to meet these challenges! We have strong leadership in Jonesville. I am 100% behind our plans for citihood and look forward to the continued progress of Jonesville. Thanks again for the commission's involvement in our steps to become a city.

Andy Penrose, Jonesville councilman, 209 Franklin St. Jonesville, MI 49250 phone: 517-320-2434 e-mail: andypenrose@sbcglobal.net

Tim Bowman-Councilman, Village of Jonesville  
310 Harley Street  
Jonesville, MI 49250  
October 23, 2012

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

Re: Docket #12-I-1 (Proposed Incorporation of the Village of Jonesville as a Home Rule City-Hillsdale County)

Dear Commission Members:

As a councilman for our village, and as a resident, I am writing to express my full support for the proposed incorporation of the Village of Jonesville as a Home Rule City.

I understand that some in our community have voiced concern over the possibility of Cityhood and how that would affect them in the future. Understandably, most in opposition reside in Fayette Township, but outside the Village limits.

I represent the residents and businesses within the Village limits. In conversations with my constituents I find an overwhelming majority approve the move toward Cityhood. Most folks understand the importance of lower taxes, less government, and the benefit of economic growth provided by this proposal.

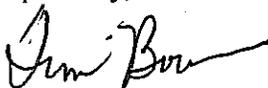
Some believe that if we become a City, we will lose our "small town charm". No matter if we are a city, village, or township, I believe it is the people who provide the "charm", not a sign posted at the city limits.

Regardless of what happens to Jonesville's future, we will all still be neighbors with those in Fayette Township. We will continue to support each other, raise our families together, and help each other to become prosperous citizens. As a city, Jonesville will continue to reach out to Fayette Township and other communities in our region just as we do now.

This is an important opportunity for all Village residents to directly impact their immediate future, and the future of Jonesville for years to come.

I respectfully ask you to allow the Village of Jonesville, Michigan to continue the process towards Cityhood.

Respectfully,



Tim Bowman-Village of Jonesville Councilman

Ron Hayes, Jonesville Councilman  
215 East St.  
Jonesville, MI 49250  
Phone: 517-849-7281  
Email: rhayes417@sbcglobal.net

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DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION  
BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION CODES  
P.O. BOX 30254  
LANSING, MI 48909

October 18, 2012

RE: STATE BOUNDARIES COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING TODAY RE JONESVILLE.

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for conducting a very professional public hearing today regarding our proposal for forming a home-rule city. Your commission was fair and careful to get as much information as possible to make your decisions. I just want to support our council proposal for becoming a city. We are very well prepared to become a city. We have high quality fire protection equipment and facilities, often assisting near-by municipalities with their needs. We have top quality water and sewer facilities and equipment. We have excellent parks and public works facilities and equipment. We are the envy of most municipalities on our success in maintaining and regularly improving our streets. Most importantly, we have top quality leaders in our village management and its departments, and well-qualified staff. We have a professional quality village council, council president, and village manager. We are a leader in collaborative approaches with other municipalities for greater cost-effectiveness and achievement of goals, and we will continue this cooperation with Fayette Township. We are the envy of many other villages and cities in our budget control and planning.

With incorporation of a city, we will also realize a taxation savings by not having to pay to Fayette Township. Most importantly, we will be more efficient in that we will have only one municipality for our local government.

When I first came onto Council 8 years ago, I inquired why were not a city, and have favored this direction ever since. I strongly support our Council proposal, although I would respect any decisions you make about the boundaries. Hopefully, you will receive the information you requested regarding the pros and cons for changing the proposed borders on the properties discussed today.

Thank you very much.

Ron Hayes  
Councilman  
Jonesville, Michigan

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October 22, 2012

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

Dear Commissioners:

SUBJECT: Cityhood for the Village of Jonesville

As a Trustee of the Village of Jonesville, I am writing in support of the Village becoming a City. I attended many of the early organizational meetings, in this venture, and then supported the recommendation of the Exploratory Committee, to move ahead with the process of becoming a City. I circulated petitions to Village registered voters, which were landholders, so that we could gain the required signatures to make our application to your Commission. As a matter of fact, it was very rewarding to me, to meet with the Village residents, and explain what we were trying to accomplish, show them the Village boundary map, and answer all their questions about the lengthy process to become a City.

After learning that a Village, in the State of Michigan, is not recognized as a primary form of government, and all the benefits of the Village becoming a City, I cannot understand why the Village did not pursue Cityhood a long time ago. It just makes sense to me.

I wholeheartedly support the Village of Jonesville, becoming a City!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry L. Drake". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jerry L. Drake, Village Trustee

October 29, 2012

Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
State Boundary Commission  
PO Box 30254  
Lansing, MI 48909

RECEIVED  
OCT 30 2012  
OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY &  
REMONUMENTATION

Dear State Boundary Commission,

I am writing to you today to show my support for the Village of Jonesville to be incorporated as a city. Some of the benefits are:

1. It will streamline government
2. Save taxpayers money
3. Residents will have the ability to conduct all local government business 42 hours a week
4. Residents will be able to develop their own city charter to meet current and future needs of the community
5. Jonesville would then be available for certain grants that they are not eligible for as a Village

As we move forward and plan for the future, I feel this is the next step for Jonesville. It will allow us to continue to collaborate with other units of government and have a positive affect on our short and long term planning.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Arno, President Pro-Tem  
Jonesville Village Council

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October 2, 2012

Village of Jonesville  
Attn: Adam Smith  
265 E. Chicago St.  
Jonesville, MI 49250

Dear Adam and Village residents,

Adam, you have done a wonderful job of keeping our small village at the forefront of progress and innovation. We should all be very proud to be part of such a viable village. Most of our store fronts are occupied, we have an outstanding school system, the new parking lot looks great, we have many great and growing manufacturing facilities, and our village LOOKS great. No matter what our Presidents thinks, we have all done things to make our village bigger and better. This did not happen by chance!

Let's take one more giant step, and become a city. The city title carries new responsibility, and show we are moving in the right direction. I can not think of one good reason not to move forward with this new designation. I am sorry that Betty and I can not be present this afternoon to share this progress report with all of you. God Bless and Good Luck!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon M. Fast".

Jon M. Fast

Bryan M. Playford  
3060 Jonesville Rd.  
Jonesville, MI 49250

Ladies and Gentlemen of the State Boundary Commission:

First of all, I would like to thank you for taking the time to listen to our comments and take them into consideration on October 17, 2012. As the Village of Jonesville continues to work towards becoming a city, I want to again reiterate the many reasons that I oppose altering the proposed boundaries that were submitted for consideration by the Jonesville Village Council. As you know, the Village of Jonesville has submitted for your review the exact boundaries for the proposed city that currently are designated locally as the boundaries for the Village of Jonesville. My understanding is that the reason for the possible change by the State Boundary Commission is that the State of Michigan has a different set of boundaries on record for the Village of Jonesville than what the local government has. How this could have occurred seems to be unknown at this time and creates quite a dilemma for us all.

I have lived in the Jonesville area for 36 of the 37 years of my life. 25 of those years I have lived inside the Jonesville Village limits. I am the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of my family to live in Jonesville and own a family business in the downtown area. Jonesville is obviously a very special place to my family and me. In 2006, my wife and I decided we wanted to build a house in Jonesville. At the time, we were living in Allen, Michigan, which is about 3 miles west of the Jonesville Village limits. As a realtor, my wife knows the importance of location when making such a decision. Therefore we looked for several months to find the "perfect" piece of land to build our "dream home" on. Finally, we found a parcel of land that was exactly what we wanted; a country setting only a very small distance from the village limits. We purchased the land, which we were informed was outside the Village of Jonesville limits, and began building our home in 2007. We finally moved into our home in February of 2008 and have been thrilled with our location ever since. Our land is bordered by a large section of woods with the St. Joseph River running through it that can be seen from our back patio (East), a corn field to the South, and hay fields to the West and North (please see attached pictures). We see an abundance of wild life on a daily basis; turkeys, deer, coyotes, and many others. There is room for our animals and our kids to run and play, room for our family to enjoy riding our quad, shooting our bows and guns, hunting and many other outdoor activities that we enjoy. Again, we are able to enjoy the aspects of our life because we intentionally purchased land to build our home on that was outside the village limits. Had we been informed that this land was within the village, we absolutely, without a doubt, would not have purchased it to build our home on. Moving our home and property into the city now would have serious consequences for my family. First of all, the higher tax rate alone would have a devastating effect for us financially. Again, one of the reasons for building where we did was to build "more house" knowing that we were outside the village limits and would have a lower property tax rate. If we are moved into the city, I honestly fear that we may not be able to continue living here. Obviously, this would set us back and I would certainly feel duped having been informed that our property was outside the village limits as is recorded by the Village of Jonesville and the County of Hillsdale. Aside from the financial burden this would put on my family, we would also lose many of the other benefits this location provides. Should the boundaries be amended and my property included in the city, we would no longer be able to

shoot our bows and guns or hunt our property. We thoroughly enjoy the right to enjoy these activities where we live and with the abundance of wildlife, we have been very successful. This land and the surrounding area hold some trophy whitetail deer that I, and many of my neighbors, enjoy hunting.

Another reason that I would prefer to remain outside of the village limits is because there would be absolutely no benefit for me regarding city services. At the time we built our home, we obviously paid for a well and septic since our land was outside the village limits. Already having our own water supply and septic, I have no desire to receive city water and sewer. I'm not sure what other possible benefits there could be that the city could provide for me that I do not already have in some way, shape or form.

As you take into consideration the many perspectives that have been presented to you by the interested parties involved, I just ask that you put yourself in the position of the Wyatt's, my family and the other families whose lives and way of living may be changed drastically should the boundaries of Jonesville be modified. I hope that you seriously consider and understand the will of the people who live in the Jonesville area and keep the boundaries as proposed should Jonesville become a city as it desires.

Sincerely,

Bryan M. Playford









Alfred C. DuBois  
6600 Dobson Rd.  
Jonesville, MI. 49250

Boundaries Commission  
PO Box 30254  
Lansing, MI. 48909

November 15, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to Docket #12-1-1.

The property known as Territory A was purchased 25 plus years ago by Mr. Benedict who had the intentions to sub-divide the property. This property was annexed into the village for that purpose. Mr. Benedict experienced financial hardships preventing him from following through with his original intentions for the property; therefore it was not sub-divided.

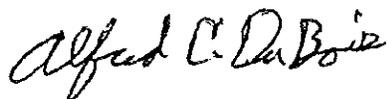
The section of Territory A that is shaded green is not in the village. The individuals that own this property do not wish to be in the village. Some of this land is hunting ground and if this property is put in the village the village can then restrict what is done with the land under their zoning ordinance. This is not the desired of the property owners.

The green shaded section of Territory D is owned by Mr. Grant Salway. This is good agricultural land, is presently zoned as agriculture, and being farmed. Mr. Salway does not want to be in the village. Again, if good agricultural land is put in the village, the village can restrict what is done with it under their zoning ordinance. This is not the of the property owner.

The two small sections of Territory F, shaded green, found on Beck Road are located behind Wal-Mart. Mr. Terry Fleetham was on the village planning commission or was president of the village at the time of the Wal-Mart construction. This fall, prior to leaving for Arizona, Mr. Fleetham told me that both property owners were contacted by the village prior to the construction of the Wal-Mart Plaza. The land owners were given the choice of being in the village or the township. Both parties requested to remain in the township. The village gave their approval; which should continue to be honored. Presently the property owners are elderly and on a fixed income. Putting them in the village, paying the village taxes, would be a hardship for these individuals.

The above information should clarify the zoning questions presented at the meeting held on October 17, 2012 with the Boundaries Commission. As indicated at this meeting the property owners involved want to remain in the township.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alfred C. Dubois".

Alfred C. Dubois  
Zoning Administrator of Fayette Township

Docket #12-I-1

### State Boundary Commission

I, Gail Guise attended your public hearing, October 17, 2012. My property is on the corner of the drive that goes back to Troy Wyatts. I have lived there for 21 years. I bought this property because it was in the township, out in the country and not in the village. When I bought, there was only three homes and that was including mine. Now look at it, because of the surrounding area being in the village. Don't get me wrong, it is a nice neighborhood and could not ask for better neighbors, but I don't feel like I'm in the country anymore. Knowing what two of my neighbors pay in taxes because of being in the village, even though they have more property than I, it would cause me hardship. I'm a single women and with the economy the way it is, I could not afford a large increase in my property taxes.

Sincerely,  
Gail Guise

October 21, 2012

To: State Boundary Commission

This letter is in follow up from the meeting that was held in Jonesville on October 17, 2012 regarding the incorporation of the village of Jonesville as a home rule city. Us, as well as several of our neighbors attended this meeting to discuss with the State Boundary Commission the new areas that were being considered for incorporation. The properties currently owned by us and our neighbors from what we understand is not currently being considered for incorporation. We were all very relieved to hear this information. We do understand however that if the State Boundary Commission so chooses to do so that our properties can be placed into this proposed incorporation. This follow up letter is to remind you of the following :

-We own a substantial amount of this property (approximately 70 acres) and if this were to be placed in the city, our taxes would increase to an amount that we would not be able to afford. We purchased this property for a considerably large amount and have a loan on it so if we had an increase in taxes from this being placed in the city, we would have to file bankruptcy.

-When we purchased this property, we knew it was in the township which is what we wanted. We purchased this as an investment, to hunt on, and to farm. If this was placed into the city, we would no longer be able to hunt on the land and would have too many regulations for farming it. We have a family and our kids and us enjoy this property that is mostly wooded and has a river running through it.

-It is of no benefit for us to have our property placed within the city. We do not require any type of city services.

We appreciated your time when we met with all of you this past week and thank you very much for listening to us. We hope that when you rule on the proposed incorporation that you will continue to keep our properties out of this and not have it be part of the city.

Thank you, Troy and Julie Wyatt

# Fayette Township

211 North Street

Jonesville, MI 49250

(517)849-2351

Nov 12, 2012.

I am writing in regards to Docket #12-1-1.

My name is Nancy DuBois, Treasurer of Fayette Township and I am writing this letter as we did not know we could speak at the Public Hearing on October 17, 2012 for the Village of Jonesville to become a City.

The township does not wish for the village to become a city as our township hall is in the village and we do not want this building taken away from us or the people who are on the Fayette Township Board that live in the Village.

We also don't see why the village needs to change as their building does not really have a parking lot to the entrance of their building so the people have to park on US 12 or a side street to enter thier building.

We see no real reason for them to become a city as our assessor works with them, they don't always like what the assessor tells them is the legal way to do assessing.

We have always worked with the Village in most of the ways in ordnances and what they agree on with fire departments and other committees we are on together.

The cemetery is owned by the township and we haven't really discussed into going along with the Village. As of right now we don't have any plans of doing so.

We don't feel the township needs to give up anymore parcels to the Village.

I have talked to many of the village residents and they say they do not want to become a city as they like the village as it is now. So some of the citizens will get up petitions to stop the village into becöming a city.

*Nancy DuBois*