



JUST THE FAX FROM:

VILLAGE OF OVID

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TO:

COMPANY: State Boundary Comm

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ATTENTION: Kevin O'Brien

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response to Ovid Town comments

RECEIVED

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**OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY &
REMONUMENTATION**

VILLAGE OF OVID



114 E. Front St., P.O. Box 138
Ovid, Michigan 48866

"A Volunteer Community"
ovidvillage@mutualdata.com

November 25, 2013

To: Kevin O'Brien

From: Bill Lasher

Re: Response to Ovid Township's Submittal

Attached is my response to the township's testimony at the public hearing.

I have also included my testimony at the hearing for your records.

Docket #13-I-1

The village of Ovid is a fully functioning municipality. The population increase of 6% between 2000 and 2010 was one of the largest population increases in the Clinton/Shiawassee County area. We have a full time police department. Our DPW department is responsible for the maintenance of streets, parks, and sewer and water systems.

The Village wishes to become a city to utilize the taxes now paid for township operations directly for its resident's services.

The township believes it spends \$23,500 of the \$33,000 the township collects in taxes from the Village for the services it provides the Village. The township presently collects 40% more than the cost of services it provides to the village. With the village becoming a city the township income will be reduced and so will the township expenses. The township officials will not be collecting taxes, or responsible for elections, or the board of review for the village. These expenses will be lifted from the township budget.

In the recent past, prior to the change in state election law, the village conducted its own elections, our staff are experienced in conducting elections.

Several years ago township officials decided to build township office building and borrow \$350,000 for its construction. This was done without a vote of township residents. The debt principle is now about \$240,000 and if Ovid becomes a city it is responsible for about 30% of that debt. If Ovid becomes a city it is entitled to 30% of the personal property of the township. The townships reserves for the last 5 years have varied between \$240,000 and \$270,000. The personal property Ovid is entitled to and the debt it is responsible for cancel each other.

The village has laid off a full time police officer and replaced that officer's time with part time officers. The increased employee benefits, mainly health insurance costs, were responsible for this action. The tax dollars now going to the township would go a long way to restoring this position.

Ovid is a vibrant business community, with a number of specialty businesses such as a quilt shop and stamp book store. Dollar General and Subway have recently opened stores in Ovid. These national chains see opportunity in Ovid.

Ovid has been the recipient of a number of grants in the last five years for upgrading its water lines, refurbishing one of its water towers, resurfacing Main Street, constructing a park restroom, and purchasing a police vehicle. Our staff is experienced in all phases of village or city operations, including grant writing and reporting. At one point we were operating two CDBG grants at one time.

Ovid has partnered with both Ovid and Middlebury townships for mutual benefit; such as the District Library authority, the Cemetery non-profit corporation, and the Emergency Services authority. The village has raised the idea of using the 425 concept and special assessment to extend its sewer and water lines into the township without much response.

Self-determination and the use of all tax dollars for its residents are the main reasons Ovid wishes to become a city.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION HEARING

- The village has increased its population in each of the last 3 decades according to the US census. The 2010 census indicated a 6% increase from year 2 thousand census.
- We are a zoned community with our own zoning board
- We provide most all urban services except a zoo and golf courses.
- We have our own police department and provide police services 120 hours per week.
- We have a department of Public Works that maintains our streets and sidewalks, operates and maintains our sewer and water systems. We provide these services to over 650 customers including sewer and water to a 700 student elementary school 1000 feet outside the village, a 60 unit mobile home park complex ½ mile outside the village, and sewer service to a high school/middle school 3 miles outside the village. These last three are by contract. We are using only 70 percent of our sewer capacity and 16 percent of our public well capacity.
- We have three parks two of which have ball fields, children's playscapes, rest rooms, and pavilions. Last year the pavilions were used on 27 weekends for family reunions and other social activities.
- The village provides garbage service to all residents and businesses, and has a recycling station. We pick up leaves in the fall and brush though out the year.
- We have had 8 business' start up in the last 5 years. A marketing study done 10 years ago said our main attributes for business development, was the M-21 corridor and the historic downtown. One business closed in the last 5 years. The closure was due to retirement. The DDA has actively helped several businesses become established in Ovid.
- Michigan Milk Producers (MMPA) has invested 65 million dollars in upgrading and expanding their food processing plant in the last five years. This year they are constructing a 19 million dollar butter churn and packaging addition to their plant.
- There are 85 acres in Ovid zoned residential/agricultural which could become future development.

- We have the capacity to provide sewer and water services to any future development.
- The village has a volunteer fire department jointly owned with Middlebury and Ovid Townships. We also have a staffed ambulance service owned jointly with Middlebury and Ovid townships.
- We also have a jointly owned cemetery and library.
- These urban co-operation agreements will continue when the village becomes a city.
- We have a village clerk and treasurer, both with years of experience. And we have a deputy clerk and deputy treasurer. This staff has conducted village elections up until the state law changed and we elected to have village elected officials on the November ballot.
- Our office staff is experienced in all manner of municipal business.
- By becoming a city Ovid will realize an increase in revenue without an increase in taxes. We will be able to maintain existing services.
- We believe the Ovid's economic viability will be enhanced by becoming a city.