



A Vision for One Batavia

Final Report to the Batavia City Council and Town Board

City & Town Consolidation Study Committee

July 29, 2009

Presentation Objectives

- This presentation summarizes the process followed by the Committee
- Provides a review of the key elements of the Plan for consolidating the two governments
- Outlines the timetable for next steps

Key Committee Process Steps

- June 2008 – Committee appointed by the joint boards
- December 2008 – Initial report to joint boards
- June 1, 2009 – Issued First Report to Community – A Vision for One Batavia
- June 18, June 30 – public forums to discuss the First Report to Community
- July 29 – Present Plan to joint boards

The Plan – Overview (1)

- The model for a consolidated government is as presented in the June 1 report. Key elements:
 - Three-tiered model – allows for different service and cost levels for higher intensity services (Tier 2) or lower intensity services (Tier 3) while sharing common services and costs to achieve efficiencies across the entire community (Tier 1)

The Plan – Overview (2)

- Keeps current debt and fund balances separate and distinct between the existing City and Town to ensure no shift in tax burdens
- Combination of efficiencies and new revenues creates \$943,000 in savings

Governance Recommendations

- To address two key issues, the Committee recommends:
 1. The combined government become a city
 - Many fiscal advantages for a city
 - Much more flexibility in creating the structure
 - Can allow for an elected Mayor and appointed Manager
 2. The City Council have an at-large Mayor and 6 ward council members
 - 1 ward member from Tier 2 and 1 from Tier 3, with 4 wards being a combination of Tier 2 and Tier 3

Timetable Recommendations

- Public forums indicated the need for more detail than our Plan could provide
- A Joint Charter Commission can provide that detail and should take a year to develop a charter that would reflect the Plan
- Also need to factor in State Legislature approval

Revised Steps and Timetable (1)

- August 2009 – City Council and Town Board each pass local law creating a Joint Charter Commission for a new city
- Also apply for a state LGE grant to support the work of the Joint Commission
- September 2009 – Council and Board establish an interview committee

Revised Steps and Timetable (2)

- October 2009 – From applicants, selection committee recommends Joint Charter Commission members - 4 from Town, 4 from City
- November 2009 – Council and Board enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement to appoint the Joint Charter Commission members

Revised Steps and Timetable (3)

- 2010 – Charter Commission develops proposed charter for new city
- December 2010 – Proposed new charter presented to Council and Board
- Spring 2011 – Council and Board request that State Legislature approve referendum to vote on new charter

Revised Steps and Timetable (4)

- Late summer-fall 2011 – City and Town hold required public hearings on new charter
- November 2011 – referendum vote on new charter – requires separate majority approval by both City and Town voters
- 2012 – if voters approve the new charter, the City and Town work out details to merge the two operations

Revised Steps and Timetable (5)

- November 2012 – new city council and Mayor elected
- January 1, 2013 – the new consolidated Batavia begins

Conclusion (1)

- The Committee recommends that the Town and City continue with the next step of this consolidation plan
- The Committee recommends a deliberate multi-year process so that all details are addressed to:
 - ensure the laws, codes and policies are in place to protect and preserve the best interests of both City and Town residents
 - ensure a smooth transition to a single government

Conclusion (2)

- The Plan document submitted tonight is the final report of the Committee
- Additional backup information is on the website (www.cgr.org/bataviaconsolidationplan)
- The Committee thanks the City Council and the Town Board for their support and for the opportunity to present a vision for One Batavia