
Proposed Amendment to the Minutes

During the discussion of the proposed Orderly Annexation Agreement, Chairman Bauer opened the floor for comments. I requested that the City representatives introduce themselves, after which I read my proposed revision to Paragraph 7 of the agreement. The requested revision was as follows:

"7. Costs. The City shall be solely responsible for all costs incurred by the Township that arise from or relate to the negotiation, drafting, consideration, approval, filing, or implementation of this joint resolution and any annexation proceedings conducted pursuant to it. Such costs include, but are not limited to, professional services, administrative expenses, consultant fees, and any legal fees incurred by the Township."

A detailed discussion followed, lasting approximately 45 minutes, due to the complexity of the language and the potential consequences of the resolution. I emphasized that revising Paragraph 7 was important in order to establish a clear precedent for handling costs associated with future annexation requests.

During this discussion, John Hinzman responded that the request appeared reasonable and stated that he would bring it back to the City for review. This acknowledgment was significant, as it formed the basis for the Township's position regarding reimbursement of attorney fees within the annexation proposal.

I also expressed that relying solely on the advice that negotiations "historically have not been done" was not in the Township's best interest, especially given that the City representatives were open to reviewing the proposed amendment.