

September Update
Flint Township Officers and Trustees
Cc: Suggestion Committee, Township Attorney

In our July Report to the Trustees, I indicated the concerns the Township Attorney had in the process to make a name change. I updated the Trustees last night (9/18/17) on our progress.

We have concluded that it is necessary to make a change in the law to specifically identify the process to change a township's name. Peter Goodstein, the Township's Attorney, drafted the following amendment to P.A. 156 of 1851 – MCL 46.14. The proposed amendment is paragraph (3) which is in red.

COUNTY BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS (EXCERPT)
Act 156 of 1851

46.14 Vacating, dividing, or altering township, establishing new township, or organizing or consolidating townships; application; map; certified statement; indebtedness to state; tax levy.

(1) By a vote of 3/5 of all the members elected, a county board of commissioners may vacate, divide, or alter a township within the county, whether the boundaries of the township were fixed by a special act of the legislature or by action of the county board of commissioners, or may establish a new township or organize or consolidate townships, upon application to the board, as provided in this act, of at least 20% of freeholders who are actually residents of each of the townships to be affected by the alteration. If a township had 30 or less electors at the last general election, then the application may be made by not less than 5 electors of that township voting at the last general election.

(2) After receipt of a map of all the affected townships that shows the proposed alterations and if the county board of commissioners grants the application, a copy of the map with a certified statement of the action of the county board attached shall be filed in the office of the county clerk. A certified statement of the action of the county board shall also be filed in the office of the secretary of state. After filing the statement, the secretary of state shall publish that statement with the laws of the next legislature in the same manner as other laws are published.

(3) By a vote of 3/5 of all the members elected a county board of commissioners may change the name of a township upon application by the township's board of trustees to the county board of commissioners. The township's application must be in the form of a resolution supported by one more than a majority of the elected trustees. A township cannot change its name more than once every 25 years.

(3 4) If it appears that a county is indebted to the state of Michigan, judicially or otherwise, and the amount of the indebtedness is determined and properly certified to

the proper officers of the county, within 20 days after the certification, the county board of commissioners shall meet and consider the indebtedness or judgment. At that meeting, the board may submit to a vote of the electors of the county a proposition to issue bonds or to levy a tax to pay the indebtedness or judgment, as provided in this act.

We are in the process of working with our state legislators on having a bill drafted to approve this amendment. We will update everyone as we progress.

If you have questions please contact me.

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