

October 23, 2024

Residents of the Town of Oconomowoc,
Residents of the Village of Lac La Belle,

The Town of Oconomowoc Board of Supervisors and the Village of Lac La Belle Board of Trustees would like to invite residents of both communities to a joint public hearing on November 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. related to an Inter-Governmental Agreement that we believe will benefit both of our communities. This agreement will effectively combine our communities into one “blended” incorporated municipality. An official notice of the joint public hearing is enclosed.

As a Village, residents enjoy the benefits of “incorporation” whereby local government controls zoning and shoreline management and is protected from the annexation of properties within the Village’s municipal boundaries. By statute, towns are not incorporated and rely primarily on county government for zoning decisions and are subject to town properties being annexed by cities and villages. The Inter-Governmental Agreement we will review would provide the rights and protections the Village enjoys to over 98% of the Town of Oconomowoc.

The Town would bring the professional staffing of the police department, public works resources and the clerk / treasurer office to the blended municipality. The Town currently provides all of these resources to the Village by way of three separate Inter-Governmental Agreements. The Town also provides its municipal building for Village meetings and other official business. Over its 95-year history, the Village has never owned a facility to hold meetings, handle official business or conduct elections. In combining our municipalities into one unit, we believe there are significant benefits for each community.

Members of both local government units have been communicating with the State of Wisconsin Departments of Administration, Revenue, Transportation and Natural Resources as well as the Waukesha County Clerk, Treasurer, and Register of Deeds offices to assure residents of both communities that we have thoroughly reviewed all aspects of our proposal.

We look forward to sharing with you the details of the Inter-Governmental Agreement, what we have learned from the State and County, as well as answering your questions. Both communities will be posting on our websites the Agreement as well as answers to the questions we assume you may have. We anticipate that list of questions and answers will grow based on the public hearing or direct contacts you might make with your local elected officials. We are committed to open, transparent communications related to the Agreement.

Respectfully,

Robert Hultquist
Chairman
Town of Oconomowoc

Timothy Clark
President
Village of Lac La Belle