



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

9B
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: February 8, 2022

Title of Item: Township Resolutions

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Jessica Seibert		Department: Administration
Presenter (Name and Title): Jessica Seibert, County Administrator		Estimated Time Needed: 15 min.
Summary of Issue: Logan Township, the Aitkin County Association of Townships, and the Minnesota Association of Townships are seeking adoption of two resolutions: 1. Resolution in support of road reversion reform 2. Resolution in support of annexation reform Discussion will be held to determine if the Board would like to place these items on a future agenda for action.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments: 		
Recommended Action/Motion: Direction Requested.		
Financial Impact: <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.

Supervisor - Elissa Bryan
Supervisor - Lynn Mizner
Supervisor - Dave Sims
Treasurer - Lois Fultz

Logan
Township

Clerk - Craig LeBlanc
32942 470th Street
Palisade, MN 56469
logantownshpmn@gmail.com

Dear Aitkin County Board,

January 11, 2022

The Logan Town Board, the Aitkin County Association of Townships and the Minnesota Association of Townships are seeking support on two critical issues for townships: Annexation fairness and county road reversion reform.

Senate File 1949 (Kiffmeyer) / House File 2387 (Quam) - Requires Township Authorization of County Road Reversion

This bill requires township approval before a county road is reverted to township ownership. Currently, counties can remove a road's designation as a county road without the township's approval. This bill provides townships with the power to accept or reject a county road reversion, allowing a seat at the table and fairness for both local governments.

Senate File 1969 (Kiffmeyer)/ House File 2282 (Mekeland) - Restores landowner rights to vote on certain annexation matters

This bill restores township residents' rights to vote in certain annexation matters. Currently, township residents do not vote on township/city boundary lines, but a system for such a vote existed previously. This bill restores the right for residents to vote on certain annexation matters.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of these issues and your support of Minnesota's townships.

Sincerely,

Logan Town Board

Lois Fultz, Treasurer

Elissa M. Bryan, Supervisor

Craig LeBlanc, CLERK

Lynn Mizner, Supervisor

Resolution in Support of Road Reversion Reform SF 1949 (2021-2022)

Whereas, Townships are road authorities within their boundaries, with obligations and duties to maintain township roadways;

Whereas, county roads exist with Townships, over which the respective counties are the road authority;

Whereas, Minnesota Statutes section 163.11 provides that counties may require a township to become the road authority over a county road through a process of county road reversion;

Whereas, the township becomes responsible for the costs and labor required to maintain and operate the road after it reverts to the township;

Whereas, townships cannot reject or otherwise prevent the reversion of county roads to the township;

Whereas, in practice, townships cannot vacate or otherwise rid themselves of roads reverted to them by the county, creating a permanent obligation upon the township and its taxpayers;

Whereas, townships have limited financial resources to maintain roads;

Whereas, Townships are property tax dependent, placing the financial burden of any county road reversion onto the local township landowners;

Whereas, the Aitkin County Township Association believes townships should be allowed to reject a county road reversion;

Whereas, Senate File 1949, of the 92nd Legislature (2021-2022), as authored by Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, seeks to provide townships the power to accept or reject a county road reversion at the discretion of the township board;

Be it Therefore Resolved that, the Aitkin County Township Association supports the adoption of rules that would allow township boards to accept or reject county road reversions;

Be it Further Resolved that the Aitkin County Township Association supports the passage of Senate File 1949 of the 92nd Legislature (2021-2022) and those bills that would provide similar rights to landowners.

Aitkin County Unit Chairperson

Date: _____

Resolution in Support of Annexation Reform: Restoration of Landowner Voting Rights

Whereas, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 414 provides numerous processes of annexation of property from a township to a nearby city;

Whereas, townships and landowners have very few or no options to prevent annexation of property to a nearby city;

Whereas, under previous versions of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 414 provided landowners with a vote on whether their property would be annexed into a nearby city;

Whereas, landowners were stripped of their rights to vote on certain proposed annexations;

Whereas, some parcels are annexed into a city without the consent of the landowners and without the parcel being or expected to become urban or suburban in character;

Whereas, townships and landowners are placed at an unfair disadvantage in annexation matters;

Whereas, the Aitkin County Township Association favors the consideration of landowners' preferences in annexation matters to a reasonable extent;

Whereas, Senate File 1969, of the 92nd Legislature (2021-2022), as authored by Senator Mary Kiffmeyer, along with its companion House bill HF2282 as authored by Rep. Shane Mekeland, seeks to restore to landowners a right to vote on proposed annexations;

Whereas, the Aitkin County Township Association supports the restoration of voting rights to landowners in annexation matters, as described in Senate File 1969 and House File 2282;

Be it Therefore Resolved that, the Aitkin County Township Association supports the restoration of voting rights to landowners in annexation matters;

Be it Further Resolved that the Aitkin County Township Association supports the passage of Senate File 1969 of the 92nd Legislature (2021-2022) along with House File 2282 and those bills that would provide similar rights to landowners.

Aitkin County Unit Chairperson

Date: _____