

RESOLUTION NO. 98-3

A RESOLUTION DECLARING AN INTEREST IN EXPLORING
THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
WITH REGARD TO COOPERATION AMONG
SAGINAW COUNTY AREA MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, the Saginaw County Economic Forum conducted a study of Saginaw County in Phase I of the "Greater Saginaw - Moving Forward Together" research project; and

WHEREAS, the Saginaw County Economic Forum invited all Saginaw County government leaders to participate in Phase II, which looked into the feasibility of cooperative arrangements among the various municipal units in Saginaw County; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Birch Run, as part of Phase II, did participate in a series of "Blue Ribbon Committee" meetings which identified the following five areas that are to be explored: (1) Planning and Zoning, (2) Cooperative Training, (3) Cooperative Purchasing, (4) Roads and (5) Legislative Issues.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BIRCH RUN hereby expresses an interest in exploring cost saving measures for all five recommendations as set forth in the Phase II Final Report, dated November 18, 1997.

Action Approved
Date March 10, 1998

Harold Johnson
Harold Johnson, Supervisor
Sheila DiBerardino
Sheila DiBerardino, Clerk

I, Sheila DiBerardino, Clerk of the Township of Birch Run, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Birch Run, Michigan, at a regular meeting of the Township Board held on the 10th day of March, 1998.

Sheila DiBerardino
Sheila DiBerardino, Township Clerk
Date March 10, 1998



City of Frankenmuth

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 26, 1998

To: C. Graham

From: P. Kern *PK*

Re: Phase II Final Report - "Committee to Explore a Better Saginaw County for Saginaw County" or "Blue Ribbon Committee".

Last year, the City Council requested that I represent the City of Frankenmuth on the above referenced Committee. The formation of this Committee was Phase II of what is intended to be a multi-phase process in gaining cooperation amongst all of the Saginaw County governmental units for the betterment of municipal units in Saginaw County.

The catalyst behind this movement included research that was conducted by the Saginaw Economic Forum in 1996 indicating that Saginaw's problems were not isolated in the urban areas but would affect the entire county in one way or another. In order to combat these problems, it was suggested that representatives from all of Saginaw County's governmental units be invited to participate in a second phase of research to identify ways that we could jointly cooperate on issues that affect us all.

Although the Committee's formation initially caused controversy because it was feared that the motive was to proceed with forming a metropolitan government, these fears were immediately extinguished by members. The Committee's objective was to identify common areas that Saginaw County governmental units could perhaps jointly cooperate for the purpose of reducing costs. Many cases of current joint cooperation were cited such as: Saginaw County Central Dispatch, Saginaw Area Solid Waste Management Authority, police and fire mutual aid pacts, the many associations participated in by elected officials and staff.

Because of the cloud of controversy, the Committee was intent on moving slowly by identifying areas that would not arouse controversy. As a result, five areas of cooperation were identified and agreed upon by the Committee after holding several meetings. They were:

(1) Planning & Zoning. Form a chapter/committee/association for municipal planning and zoning officials, similar to the Saginaw County Area Clerk's Association. This would provide an educational and training forum for these officials to attend and discuss legal and other issues.

(2) **Training.** Conduct centralized training for municipal units within the County. Instead of duplicating those broad types of training required at each municipality for their respective departments, election workers, clerical staff, etc., perhaps cooperation for joint training could be done throughout the County.

(3) **Centralized Purchasing.** Selected aspects of a voluntary centralized purchasing program could be pursued. Obtaining volume discounts on supplies, etc.

(4) **Roads.** Despite great differences between City and Township funding mechanisms, perhaps a County wide group could form to inform and educate officials on new road legislation, funding, etc.

(5) **Legislative Issues.** It was decided that it would be beneficial for a group to focus on certain issues for the purpose of lobbying for local efforts that impact the whole county. This organization would be used as a means to effectively communicate our feelings with area legislators.

These Phase II recommendations also included ways to implement these tasks by assigning them to currently organized groups. For instance, the Planning & Zoning recommendation will be referred to the Area Clerks or Building Inspectors group for further discussion. Training and Legislative Issues will be referred to the area Managers/Supervisors lunch group. Centralized Purchasing will be referred to the County, and Roads will be reviewed by a Committee made up of municipalities.

In order to measure interest of the municipal units, the Committee has asked that each municipality consider adopting a resolution of support for those areas they wish to cooperate. It is their hope that we will be willing to cooperate in all areas. Adopting a resolution will not obligate the City in any way other than acknowledging that the City is in agreement with exploring the implementation of items listed and by taking a stance to support the Phase II efforts.

Finally, I have attached a copy of a proposed resolution for the Council's consideration. It is my understanding that Saginaw County, Thomas Township and the City of Zilwaukee have adopted resolutions thus far. I also have a draft copy of the eight page final report if you are interested.

If you have any further questions, please advise.