Government Modernization Act
Indiana Code 36-1.5-1

July 8, 2010
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Indiana Code 36-1.5-1

IC 36-1.5-1-1

Purpose
Sec. 1. The purpose of this article is to do the following:
(1) Grant broad powers to enable political subdivisions to operate more efficiently by eliminating restrictions under existing law that:
   (A) impede the economy of operation of;
   (B) interfere with the ease of administration of;
   (C) inhibit cooperation among; and
   (D) thwart better government by; political subdivisions.
(2) Encourage efficiency by and cooperation among political subdivisions to:
   (A) reduce reliance on property taxes; and
   (B) enhance the ability of political subdivisions to provide critical and necessary services.
(3) Strengthen the financial condition of state government.

As added by P.L.186-2006, SEC.4.
Indiana Code 36-1.5-4-1

IC 36-1.5-4-1

Types of reorganizations authorized; political subdivisions not participating in reorganization

Sec. 1. (a) Any of the following may reorganize under this chapter:

1. Two (2) or more counties. A county reorganizing under this subdivision must be adjacent to at least one (1) other county participating in the reorganization.

2. Two (2) or more townships located entirely within the same county. A township reorganizing under this subdivision must be adjacent to at least one (1) other township participating in the reorganization.

3. Two (2) or more municipalities. A municipality reorganizing under this subdivision must be adjacent to at least one (1) other municipality participating in the reorganization.

4. Two (2) or more school corporations. A school corporation reorganizing under this subdivision must be adjacent to at least one (1) other school corporation participating in the reorganization.

5. Two (2) or more municipal corporations, other than a unit or a school corporation, that have substantially equivalent powers. A municipal corporation reorganizing under this subdivision must be adjacent to at least one (1) other municipal corporation participating in the reorganization.

6. Two (2) or more special taxing districts that are adjacent to at least one (1) other special taxing district participating in the reorganization.

7. A township and a municipality that is located in any part of the same township.

8. A county and one (1) or more townships that are located in the county.

9. A municipality and a county that does not contain a consolidated city.

10. A school corporation and a county or municipality in which a majority of the students of the school corporation have legal settlement (as defined by IC 20-18-2-11).

11. A municipal corporation, other than a unit or a school corporation, and a county or municipality in which a majority of the population of the municipal corporation resides.

Sec. 1. (b) If a political subdivision reorganizes under this article with one (1) or more other political subdivisions:

1. any political subdivisions that did not participate in the public question on the reorganization are not reorganized under this article;

2. the reorganization affects only those political subdivisions in which the reorganization is approved as specified in this article; and

3. the reorganization does not affect the rights, powers, and duties of any political subdivisions in the county in which the reorganization is not approved as specified in this article.

History of Reorganization

- June 2007- Communities of Zionsville Area for Better Government Committee was formed
- April 2008- Plan of Reorganization was presented
- August 2008- Resolution adopted by all 3 entities
- November 2008- Referendum for public vote
The New Zionsville Community

- Town and school corporation boundaries are coterminous, 1 school district, 1 town
- Allows Town Council to work more closely with school corporation
- Local control of residential & commercial development
- Expanded & growing net assessed valuation base provides better control of tax burden and allows for a more diverse tax base.
- Economies of scale can help reduce expenditures

New Government Structure

- New 7 member Town Council; current 5 members plus Trustee from Eagle and Union Townships- until 2011 election
- New Town divided into 5 districts; 1 member from each district plus 2 at large. Everyone votes for 3 representatives, 1 in their district and 2 at large
- 7 member Plan Commission with representatives from Eagle and Union Townships apportioned based on geography
- 5 member Board of Zoning Appeals with representatives from Eagle and Union Townships apportioned based on geography
2 District System

Rural District
- Defined as property currently outside of the current boundaries of the old town of Zionsville-unincorporated areas of Eagle township and all of Union township
- Receives police protection and road maintenance from BCSF & BCHD
- Receives fire protection from the ZFD
- Boone County zoning and ordinances remain applicable yet enforced by the new town government

Town District
- Defined as property currently within the boundaries of the Old Town of Zionsville
- Receives police, fire and road maintenance from the ZPD, ZFD and ZSD
- Zionsville zoning and ordinances remain applicable and enforced by the new town government

2 Districts

• Preserves both village and rural lifestyles

• Allows people to maintain and enjoy their way of life

• Allows for an orderly, proactive and planned approach to expanded services by being phased in over time
The Public Question

“Shall Eagle Township, Union Township and the Town of Zionsville reorganize as a single political subdivision?”

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

Vote Results

Town of Zionsville   5,806 Yes   1,157 No = 6,963   Total, 83% Yes
Eagle Township      2,596 Yes       795 No = 3,391   Total, 76% Yes
Union Township         710 Yes       449 No = 1,159    Total, 61% Yes