

RESOLUTION NO. 54-08
CITY OF CENTERVILLE, OHIO

SPONSORED BY COUNCILMEMBER Doug Cline ON
THE 15th DAY OF September, 2008.

A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CENTERVILLE,
OHIO TO ADOPT A COMMUNITY CONTRACT RELATING TO THE
MERGER STUDY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, The City of Centerville City Council believes it is in the best interest of the entire Centerville/Washington Township Community to study the potential benefits of merging the two existing local governmental jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, The voters of the City of Centerville and Washington Township will have the opportunity to vote to form an official Merger Study Commission under Ohio Law this November; and

WHEREAS, The Merger Study Commission, if formed, will be tasked with studying the benefits and detriments of merger and recommending whether a merger should occur and if so, under what conditions a merger would take place and presenting those conditions to the electorate; and

WHEREAS, some citizens have opposed the formation of a Merger Study Commission because they are skeptical of the benefits of a merger and/or suspicious of the City's motives in supporting a merger,

WHEREAS, The Centerville City Council wishes to make a contractual commitment to the community setting out the conditions under which the City Council will support the merging of the two local governments if a merger is ultimately recommended by the Merger Study Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MUNICIPALITY OF CENTERVILLE
HEREBY RESOLVES:

Section 1. The Centerville City Council will support a future recommendation of the Merger Study Commission detailing conditions under which the City of Centerville and Washington Township should merge, only if those conditions include the following guiding principles.

- **Guarantee Reduced Property Taxes** – The existing property tax levies for the fire department, the recreation center, Township road and bridge maintenance and Township police services must be eliminated completely on the effective date of the merger leading to a property tax reduction of at least \$12-\$13 million per year.
- **No Increase in City Earnings Tax Rate** – The City’s existing 1.75% earned income tax rate will not be raised as a result of a merger and will never be raised without a vote of the people.
- **Identification of Duplicative Positions and Facilities for Elimination** – The recommendation should provide a clear road map of savings resulting from consolidation of the two governments.
- **Guarantee That Funding Sources Cover New Liabilities for County Roads in the Township** – A merged government would be responsible for maintaining County roads in the Township. The Joint Financial Study’s conclusion that these increased costs will be funded by new revenue sources and the County’s guarantee to complete all items budgeted in the five year plan must be confirmed by the Merger Study Commission.
- **Guarantee That Quality Police Service is Funded** – The Township receives subsidized police services from the County and the Township government has questioned whether equivalent services can be maintained after merger. The Merger Study Commission recommendation should specify how a merged community would provide police services to all residents at or above current levels.
- **Guarantee Timely Election of New Office Holders for the Merged Community** – New elections should be held at the earliest date permitted by law.
- **Retain Township Residential Density Controls for at Least Five Years** – Existing density requirements in the Township zoning resolution shall remain in effect for a minimum of five years following the effective date of merger.

Section 2. That Centerville City Council shall not support a merger recommendation from the Merger Study Commission, unless said recommendation includes the conditions set out in this “Contract with the Community”.

Section 3. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED this 15th day of September,
2008.

C. Mark Kugereed
Mayor of the City of Centerville, Ohio

ATTEST:

Debra A. James
Clerk of Council, City of Centerville, Ohio

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, Clerk of the Council of the City of Centerville, Ohio hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution Number 54-08 passed by the Council of the City of Centerville, Ohio on the 15th day of September, 2008.

Debra A. James
Clerk of Council

Approved as to form, consistency
with existing Ordinances, the
Charter and Constitutional Provisions.

Department of Law
Scott A. Liberman
Municipal Attorney