

## Schmidtke, Erich J - DOA

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**From:** Julie Burns <julieaburns@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021 11:28 AM  
**To:** WI Municipal Boundary Review  
**Subject:** Town of Waterford Incorporation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To whom in may concern,

I would like to go on record as being against the Town of Waterford becoming a Village.

Around 3 years ago I started to hear “whispers” of the Village of Waterford taking over the Town of Waterford. The story being told was the Village was in debt and needed the Town’s tax base to save themselves. As this was circulating, I was also hearing we were losing our Fire/EMS coverage which was so close to my home, and fully staffed 24/7, to a volunteer department on the other side of the river and lake from my home.

This caused me to want to find out what was going on, and I started looking for the truth. Having a chronic illness, and having other friends in our community who depend on quick response times - anyone would seek the truth and demand answers.

I live on the west side of the Town of Waterford, in Waterford Woods. After realizing that our service would be changing with no input or notification from our Town Board, we held a meeting at our local golf course with a group of concerned citizens. We tried attending Town Meetings, writing letters, calling our Board Members - and we received nothing. They labeled those of us asking questions, “trouble makers”, “liars”, and “Village puppets”. The disrespect and disregard to communicate with the people they represent was a utter slap in the face.

Had we known their bigger plan, their end goal, at least we may have understood the “why” of the unimaginable move. Paying double, to go from better coverage for our entire community, to worse coverage. They needed to show they had Fire/EMS coverage by Tichigan as part of their Incorporation grab.

Our current Town Board consists of 4 who live right in Tichigan and one who lives on the west side of our Town. The petition for Incorporation was passed around at the annual Tichigan Parade. They were smart, they did get a few signatures from those they knew would sign in Waterford Woods. But when I saw the open records request for the petition, I actually asked a couple people I know, “Why did you sign the petition?” I was told, “I was told to sign it, so I did.” But the overwhelming response was, “We we’re told we need to do this so the Village doesn’t take us over and RAISE our taxes!” The scare tactics by our Town Board was working. It was spreading like wildfire that the Village was \$23 million in debt, and they were showing the Villages 100 year plan map as “proof”.

During this entire process of filing for Incorporation there hasn't been one open meeting giving us the Townspeople any information, no question and answer sessions, no pros and cons. Anyone who has dared to question motives, asked for reasons, disagreed with our Town Board, done any research on their own for the truth, rules, regulations, and laws, has been slandered and belittled by Town Board Members. It has truly been awful. I always thought the Town Board worked for the people they represent. I for one feel it extremely sad, they expect us to just blindly follow them no matter the consequences.

Waterford, our community is a true gem in Southeast Wisconsin. There is so much good in the people and our love of our Community as a whole. Please don't allow a few with their own agenda to tear it/us apart.

I thank you for your time and consideration,

Julie A Burns  
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Sent from my iPad