

**INCORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF WATERFORD
AS THE VILLAGE OF TICHIGAN**

**PUBLIC HEARING
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NAME: Nicholas Birmingham

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REPRESENTING:

Please check applicable statement(s):

I wish to testify in favor.

I wish to testify in opposition.

I wish to testify for informational purposes only.

I don't wish to testify but want to:

Register in favor.

Register in opposition.

COMMENTS:

The Town of Waterford does not meet many, if any, of the requirements to be considered a Village. I will outline my thoughts following the Town of Waterford Petition for Incorporation

1.1 Reasons for seeking Incorporation

The community relies heavily on the Village of Waterford as its social, civic, and economic center. All shopping in the area is done in the Village of Waterford or other communities. The Town of Waterford Civic Center is located outside of the Towns proposed population center. Additionally, the Town of Waterford municipal buildings are located in the Village of Waterford.

The Town Board states it's concerned about the loss of the existing tax base and territory to annexation attempts by the neighboring Village of Waterford, which has already expressed a desire to annex portions of the Town. This is how Towns and Villages work. As a land owner who is directly affected by both the possibility of annexation and incorporation, I feel that incorporation strips me of my rights to do what is best with my land. My property is located within the Village of Waterford's growth plans and I feel I should be the one to decide if that happens, not the Town Board. The information that has been shared with the community about the Village grabbing land is false. It is used as a scare tactic to push through incorporation. Landowners should be able to decide the fate of their property, incorporation prevents this.

1.2 Community Support

The petition for incorporation was signed largely by those attending the Tichigan Parade located on the Northeast side of the Town. Little to no information was shared by the Town Board about incorporation. A large majority of the west side of the town opposes the incorporation including landowners who want to currently be annexed by the Village of Waterford.

2.1 Description of the Area to be incorporated

The Town of Waterford does not meet the requirements of Wis Stat. 66.0201 (1)(a) What the petition outlines as the "Community Center" or "Core" is completely disconnected from all of the towns outlined community centers including Town Hall, parks, "civic center", business, and restaurants. Residents within the claimed "Community Center" are better served by the Village of Waterford and utilize more Village of Waterford resources than Town of Waterford resources, Furthermore, There is no ability for growth or development in this area.

2.4 Political and Service Boundaries

The Town of Waterford previously contracted with the Village of Waterford for Fire and EMS protection on the west side of the Town. Since perusing incorporation the Town ended this contract and decided to use only the Tichigan Volunteer Fire Company for fire and EMS service throughout the entire Town. This decision was not in the best interest of the entire town. My property is located .4 miles from the Village of Waterford Fire Station, which is staffed 24/7 with a Paramedic Level EMS service per Wisconsin DHS . Tichigan Volunteer Fire Company has 2 Stations, one unstaffed station located 5.1 miles away and one station staffed during the day located 6.9 miles away. Tichigan Volunteer Fire Company is licensed at the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Level per Wisconsin DHS. Many property owners on the West side of the Town or within a close proximity to the Village are better served by the Village of Waterford for Fire and EMS protection.

Map J does not reflect accurate response times for the fire department, it is a map showing 4 minute drive times from the stations. When taking in account actual response times from the station with a fully staffed crew, the Village of Waterford is able to better serve a large portion of the Town of Waterford.

2.5 School Districts and Education

The Town of Waterford is home to only one elementary school. The Village is home to numerous elementary schools, middle, and high school. These schools service the entire community.

The Village of Waterford and School District fund the school resource officer in the high school. A majority of town uses schools located in the Village of Waterford.

2.6 Employment and Community Businesses.

Virtually all businesses listed in Table 3 are located in the northwest portion of the town, away from the proposed “community center”. A number of the business are farm based located in the rural areas of the Town.

2.8 Land Use Trends

It doesn't appear that the Town of Waterford is able to offer a central area of community activity near its “community center” or “core”. This area is primarily residential, as outlined in Map L, and offers no future development plans to meet the needs of the people within the Town.

3.0 Territory Beyond the Core

The Town of Waterford fails to meet the requirements of Wis. Stat. 66.0207 (1)(b) as outlined in their petition. They have no detailed plans to meet these requirements.

4.2 Proposed Village Budget

Outlines the proposed Village of Tichigan is not expected to have any transferred municipal debt or liabilities at the date of incorporation. The Town provides no information on how this is possible. Per their 2021 Budget outlined in Table 7, they are already operating at \$108,000 deficit.

4.4 Capital Facility Needs and Improvements

The Town of Waterford states there are no new capital facility needs or improvements. Town of Waterford municipal buildings are located in the Village of Waterford. There are no plans to develop a Village center which could lead to the need for capital improvements.

Incorporation of the Town of Waterford as the Village of Tichigan is not in the best interest of all the residents of the Town of Waterford. There is already division among the East and West side of the Town. Much of the town relies on the amenities that the Village of Waterford provides. The Town Government has made decisions that are not in the best interest of the town as a whole, but in the interest of select portion of the town. As a property owner with property bordering the Village of Waterford I adamantly object to the Towns pursuit for incorporation. The governing body of the Town of Waterford have already made decisions that negatively affect services that I receive, including Fire and EMS coverage, but they also desire to reduce my rights as a property owner.