

Dexter council votes to pursue city status

By Sean Dalton
Staff Writer

The Dexter Village Council on Monday unanimously approved a resolution to pursue city status and incorporate as a city.

The council has had sufficient time to review the findings of the City Study Commission, formed on May 22, 2006 as part of a Citizen Advisory Committee to explore advantages and disadvantages of incorporating the village into a "home rule" city.

The commission turned in their completed findings on March 7, this year, and the council accepted the report

on March 26.

The council must next prepare a petition for incorporation as a city in accordance with state law. A map of the defined territory to be incorporated also will be provided.

"The next step from a village perspective is to put together our boundaries to apply for city status," said Village President Jim Seta. "(The boundaries) aren't going to be different from what they are today. Then we send them to the State Boundary Commission and they are either going to accept or reject them."

The study commission's find-

ings listed a number of benefits that would result from going through the process for city incorporation as outlined by the State Department of Labor & Economic Growth, according to Seta.

"We had a very well representative cross section of the village (on the committee," Seta said. "We had 15 people on the committee looking at the pros and cons."

Those benefits that residents and the municipality itself would enjoy would include a reduction in property taxes, simplification of government (village residents are part of two local units of

government, and cities are under one local unit of government), the respect that a city receives from other cities, the county and the state and remove the "subservient" relationship of a village to a township, according to the resolution.

The council would also be able to write a City Charter, assess and tax property within the legal boundaries of the city limit, receive bills, pay taxes and handle questions for all city, county and school taxes at a single location.

"As a city we could reduce the tax burden and in the current economic conditions of

the state that would help a lot," Seta said.

Voting would also be simplified for city, county, state and national elections, as everything would be confined to a single location within the city.

"The reality of becoming a city is that the pros far outweigh the cons," Seta said.

The process will take at least two more years, Seta said. After the State Boundary Commission approves the boundaries, the petition to become a home rule city has to go out and then a charter committee has to be formed.

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