

PUBLIC STATEMENT

June 6, 2016

Village officials from Archbold, Delta and Swanton have recently evaluated the benefits and challenges of being governed by both township and municipal boards. The significant challenges include the following:

Inefficient Government: Governments must adapt to changing conditions in order to effectively serve our constituents and to wisely expend the tax dollars contributed by the individuals and institutions of the community. By not conforming the boundaries of each Village, this causes an overlapping governmental structure that historically does not allow for efficient use of time or resources, thus wasting taxpayers' money.

Taxation: Property owners within the village limits of Archbold, Delta and Swanton contribute in excess of \$462,000.00 annually to township government operations, supporting road improvements, fire department operations and general operating funds. Individually annual tax revenues include: Archbold \$262,000.00, Delta \$70,000.00 and Swanton \$130,000. In addition, Village residents are being subjected to double taxation for the same services, receiving no extra benefit.

Representation: Residents residing in these villages represent more than 60 percent of the voters who cast ballots to elect township trustees, with the anticipation these individuals will work to advance the communities. Trustees are in a conflict situation when the interests of the townships are not aligned with the interests of the village. The general practice of trustees continues to be to represent the interests of property owners outside municipalities to the detriment of those who reside within the village.

Economic Stability: Townships have proven to oppose development efforts requiring access to municipal services (i.e.; water / sanitary sewer) when annexation is in the best interest of the business and the community in general. These continued disputes discourage business leaders from wanting to support existing jobs, as well as opportunities for new job creation. They have and will continue to choose not to be at the center of controversy.

Cooperation for the General Welfare: In an age when government leaders must work to collaborate, reduce redundancy in government and pursue improvements within our communities, townships choose to invest tax revenues contributed to by the village residents to oppose opportunities for advancement and growth.

Fire and Emergency Medical Services Continuation: Officials from each of these municipalities want to assure residents and businesses throughout their respective services areas, delivery of safety services will not be interrupted or jeopardized as a result of this initiative.

Without an ability to cooperate and develop consensus regarding the greater good of our communities, the villages find no productive benefit of being a part of any township.