



**Springfield Lake Shore Improvement Association &
City of Springfield Lake Annexation Meeting
Wednesday, August 10, 2016**

City of Springfield Reasoning for Annexation

- The City owns the lake lease land.
- Protecting our one and only water source by expediting the installations of sewers.
- Road work will be better managed by the City's Public Works Department.

Annexation questions and answers that came up during the meeting:

How can I stay in my current township?

- Townships have to agree which properties will remain through an intergovernmental agreement between the affected townships. Upon signed agreements, the properties would remain in the current township. If townships cannot agree, the annexed properties will automatically go into Capital Township.
- Alternatively, a referendum can be held that would allow affected property leaseholders to vote on staying with their existing township at the next general election. Majority vote of the affected property leaseholders would prevail.

What is the timing of execution of annexation by townships? Is it immediate? Is there a time limit?

- The annexation is effective on the date the City Council passes the ordinance unless specified otherwise.
- The Township Intergovernmental Agreement can be adopted immediately after the ordinance passage. Alternatively, an affected township can act on annexation via referendum at the next general election.

If we are annexed into Capital Township can we vote in city elections?

- Yes

Would our taxes go up through this annexation?

Possibly. Here are the affected changes to the tax bill:

- Springfield's Corporate Fund would be added to the property's tax bill.
- Properties changing townships would pay the Capital Township rate instead of the previous Township rates.
- Fire Protection taxes would be eliminated from tax bill.
- Library taxes would be eliminated from tax bill.
- If the property has the Library Bond Tax on its bill, that would remain until the bond is paid.
- Other taxing bodies, i.e., Park District, Sanitary District, SMTD and Airport Authority have a separate annexation process and it would not be included on tax bills.
- SMEA could be added if the property is within SMEA's jurisdictional boundaries.
- Water rate is higher for properties outside the City so the water rate could be lower.

Is it accurate that properties must be less than 60 acres to be annexed by the “Hole In the Donut” annexation?

- Yes. The statutory requirements are met through this annexation process.

What will happen to the lake leases?

- Annexation has no affect on the lake lease.

Is there a statute that spells out the time period annexations can occur before an election?

- Yes. The statutory requirements are met through this annexation process.

How can you maintain the lake better? What other services do we get or lose?

- Annexing the properties will expedite the implementation of sewers around the lake.
- Public Works Department will be better equipped to maintain the roads.
- CWLP will be able to concentrate on lake services instead of septic tanks and roads.

Does the annexation process have anything to do with the assessor process?

- No. Assessor falls under the jurisdiction of Sangamon County.

Will I remain in the school district I am where I currently reside?

- Yes. Annexation does not change the school district you are in.

How will East and West Lake Drives be affected?

- These roads will not be affected and will remain under City and County jurisdiction. Springfield Public Works Department will oversee the lake lanes and roads. Public Works has already gone out and rated the roads and estimates needed road repairs will cost \$300,000. Public Works is also better equipped to fix and maintain the roads than CWLP.

How could lake property owned by the City not be part of the Corporate City limits?

- When the Lake was first built, the land was on the perimeter of the City and not included in the City limits. As the City grew, more of the properties were annexed into the City. Currently over half of the properties around the lake are annexed into the City. Annexing the remaining properties all at once will help protect the City’s only water source and expedite the sewer system installation process.

How many taxing bodies are the properties currently paying into?

- The taxing bodies are listed on the respective property tax bill. These include among others: school district, Library, #526 J.C. (LLCC), Fire Protection, township, etc.

Then will the annexed properties pay into the Lincoln Library?

- No. There is no Lincoln Library District. They will pay into the City Corporate Fund, which pays operational cost various departments including Lincoln Library.

What type of revenue will this generate?

Office of Budget and Management estimates that the annexed property tax revenue for Springfield will be approximately \$300,000 annually.

Other Topics Discussed at the Lake Shore Improvement Association Meeting

There is a legal description in lake leases regarding Woodside Township. How would that change?

- The lease will not change. If the property remains in Woodside Township, then the legal description remains the same. If the property transfers to Capital Township, then the future legal description will refer to Capital not Woodside.

How will the property on Hunter Lake work? Is it in the city?

- There will be no residential properties built on Hunter Lake. The City signed an intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to maintain the land around Hunter Lake as a conservation and recreational area while the City maintains the water rights.

How can you maintain the lake better? What other services do we get or lose?

- A vacant property management position is being filled in September. This person will oversee the maintenance of the land around the lake including riprap and City properties.
- If we get the Hunter Lake permit, we will include funds to dredge Lake Springfield coves.
- Sewers and road projects will be ranked on priority order.

How does the septic to sewer program work?

- The City of Springfield pays \$5,000; Metro Sanitary District pays \$5,000 and customer pays the remaining \$5,000.

Do we fine people who don't maintain their shoreline?

- The City needs to update and enforce the program requirements on an objective and fair basis.

Is the tax money collected on these properties going to go back and help the same properties?

- The City of Springfield uses tax money based on public priority order.

Can sewer and dredging around the lake be expedited?

- Dredging of coves will come after the permitting process of Hunter Lake. The cost of the project would be bonded.
- Once all lake properties are annexed, the City can expedite the lake properties sewer installations.

How can you address management?

- Departments are improving their process of working together (for example: Public Works has already assessed the roads).
- CWLP is filling a vacant property manager position that will oversee maintaining lake properties.
- The City will work more closely with the Lake Shore Home Improvement Association to identify and remediate issues.
- Reviewing correspondence and notices to improve the communication process.

How can lanes and roads be updated?

- Road updates depends on the condition of the road.
- Making recommendations for road projects are based on priority order.
- Springfield Public Works Department is better equipped to maintain the roads.

Where do the lease payments go?

- The Water Fund – shore line work
- Branch and limb pick up
- Snow removal

What is the legality of residents who do not dispose of leaves properly?

- CWLP needs to communicate that leaves cannot be put into ditch or burned. Violators will be subject to fine according to City Code.

OTHER COMMENTS:

- “Language needs to be improved in annexation letter.”
- “People show up when I call 911. They don’t ask what township I’m in.”
- “CWLP needs to have a better attitude and customer service.”