

Deerwood Township  
Special Meeting  
For Input Regarding Possible Annexation  
By City of Crosby for Property  
Deerwood Town Hall  
April 4, 2022  
7:00 pm

Board of Supervisors  
James Walth - Vice Chair  
Josh Thompson - Supervisor  
David Gray - Chair

Clerk - Carol Pundt  
Treasurer - Amy Donovan  
Road Overseer - Steve Reilly

Present: James Walth, David Gray, Steve Reilly, Carol Pundt, Josh Thompson  
Absent: None  
Residents Present: 57 Residents Signed In

David Gray called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance

A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by James Walth to approve the agenda. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

David Gray introduced Matthew Hill, City of Crosby Administrator, who made a presentation to the group regarding the City of Crosby's process involved regarding the vision for the possible proposed orderly annexation. He told the group at this time the City of Crosby has no solid plans. He is attending this special meeting to listen to the group and participate.

David Gray introduced Ginny Knudson, from Borden, Steinbauer, Krueger & Knudson, PA, who is the attorney representing Deerwood Township. Ginny explained to the group options the Township has regarding an annexation process. Annexation Basics, a handout, was available for those in attendance to review as Ginny reviewed the process. This meeting is just a beginning.

The Special meeting was then opened up for questions and concerns from those in attendance. Most of those in attendance were property owners who would be affected by a City of Crosby annexation. No one in the group expressed positive outcomes regarding an annexation. There were many concerns regarding increasing property taxes, cost of city water and sewer hookup when they have private well and sewer systems in compliance with DNR and Crow Wing County Ordinances. None of the property within the proposed area for annexation is owned by the City of Crosby or is for sale. The group was in agreement regarding not wanting the annexation. They wanted to know how the Township would benefit. What the possibility would be of not annexing the properties South of Hwy 6. Was the City of Crosby looking at improving property within the City limits to create additional housing. Many in attendance said they would be prepared to donate monies to the Township for litigation costs to fight any annexation by the City of Crosby. A petition was encouraged.

David Gray responded to those in attendance, this meeting was the Township Board's first chance to listen and to formulate a response to what the city is thinking about doing. The Township has no position regarding the City's plan. The possible annexation by the City of Crosby is not the Township's idea. What the Board has heard tonight is the majority of this group opposes the idea. This meeting was called to order to get ahead of the City of Crosby to get input. Legal options will be considered.

James Walth encouraged the group to contact Senator Carrie Ruud and Representative Dale Lueck regarding legislation pending at the State Capital giving landowners more rights regarding annexation of their property. He stands with what the majority of the group wishes whether they are opposed or in favor of the possible annexation.

Josh Thompson said he felt the City's arguments for annexation are very weak. He was curious about the statutory requirements regarding annexation. Response from the Township attorney was there are many factors to consider.

Steps to consider tonight. At this time, the Township has nothing to respond to. There will be a Township Board Supervisor attending future City Council meetings regarding plans to annex property. Property owners need to be aware of future Township meetings regarding annexation plans by checking the Township website at [deerwoodtownship.org](http://deerwoodtownship.org) where the agenda is posted ahead of the monthly board meetings held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Future affected property owners will be notified of Special meetings.

The City of Crosby Council meetings are posted at city hall and on the city website.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

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