

OUR VIEW

'Yes' to village of Crystal Lake

This is the 13th in a series of 18 endorsements The Daily News will present leading up to the Nov. 7 general election. Another endorsement will appear here Thursday.

Establishing a village of Crystal Lake has been discussed for five years now.

In less than two weeks, inhabitants residing within the village's proposed boundaries will decide whether that process should move forward by answering the question, "Shall the proceedings continue that propose to incorporate certain territory in Crystal Township as the village of Crystal Lake?"

Proponents say incorporation would provide the village with \$248,431 in state funds each year, that there would be no new taxes and that Crystal Township wouldn't lose any money.

Opponents charge that nothing is free — that taxes would go up, that the township would lose money and that many costs now shouldered by the township would have to be assumed by the village.

We've researched the topic in depth. At issue is incorporating 4.18 square miles of the township — including Crystal Lake — into the village. The proposed village would represent 13 percent of the township geographically, specifically Crystal Lake, Swan Lake and the Crystal business district.

About 1,380 residents — 48 percent of the township's current population — would make up the proposed village. Only those people will be voting. That's as it should be. As we've indicated in this space before, their right to self-determination is paramount on this issue.

There are all sorts of allegations and untruths surrounding this referendum. For the voters'

good, both sides need to understand the facts.

The proposed village is a well known lakefront community. An infusion of state money would help develop a resort atmosphere, improving deteriorating buildings and dirt roadways. Promoting the resort aspect would bring more people to the Crystal Lake area.

The push for a village has been citizen driven. Nothing has been imposed on anyone. Furthermore, the Village Creation Group has gone through all the steps required for incorporation. Now it's up to the citizens residing within the proposed village to decide.

It should be pointed out that when it comes to operations, \$248,431 — with about \$145,000 of that devoted specifically to the village's 14 miles of roads — isn't a lot of money.

Plenty of people will need to step forward to do the heavy lifting necessary to promote and grow a new village. When those folks get tired, more volunteers will have to step up.

Should the referendum be approved, more steps would be required for the village to become a reality. The State Boundary Commission would order an election for five village charter commissioners. Those commissioners would create a charter and residents of the proposed village would vote whether to adopt or reject the charter.

Only if the charter is adopted would the village be formed. So the Nov. 7 vote isn't the final step in achieving incorporation.

We see exciting possibilities in moving ahead to incorporation, with not much on the downside.

The Daily News endorses a "yes" vote on the village of Crystal Lake referendum.

Editorial opinions are the consensus of The Daily News editorial board.

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