PRESENT: Barnett, Buckley, Devine, Payne, Roncelli, Savoie
Also present, Attorney Bill Hampton

ABSENT: None

ITEM #3 Review of Plante/Moran Study on the Consolidation of Bloomfield Township and Birmingham's Police and Fire Departments

Christine Andrysiak, Manager, Plante & Moran, made the presentation. The study to explore the possibility of consolidating police and fire services between Birmingham and Bloomfield Township was funded through the Oakland County Capital and Cooperative Initiatives Revolving Fund (CCIRF). This feasibility study was completed from a series of meetings involving both communities.

Economies of scale do appear to exist by combining police and fire and still deliver the same or improved services.

- For police and dispatch, operational savings over a seven-year period are projected to be up to 5 million dollars, with annual savings thereafter of approximately 1.75 million dollars. Savings for police operations would result from consolidating the administrative command structure into one larger department. Andrysiak advised the Board that it is possible to handle police operations from two locations, but a one-station location would be ideal. This one-time investment is estimated to have a cost between 3.6 and 5.6 million dollars.
- For fire, operational savings over a seven-year period are estimated to be up to 4.5 million dollars, with annual savings thereafter of 1 million dollars. The fire departments would observe savings in the areas of equipment, command staff, and redundant firefighter positions.
- This consolidation would offer improved services to both communities with increased emergency manpower.

There are significant cost-saving opportunities for both communities by consolidating. With revenue projections expected to decrease by 17 percent over the next three – four years, consolidation is a viable service preservation strategy. Also, the saving estimates by Plante & Moran are conservative and could actually be greater. Sharing certain services such as dispatch first, provides a preliminary attempt at consolidation, which may be reviewed for its cost effectiveness before all operations are combined.

Consolidation between Bloomfield Township and Birmingham may be accomplished through the Urban Cooperation Act, which allows public agencies to exercise their power together by executing a contract between the two units of government. If both municipalities approve of the Plante & Moran Consolidation Study (Birmingham City Council will review on February 10, 2009), the next step in the process would be to develop an inter-local agreement between the communities.

MOTION by Devine and SUPPORT by Barnett to APPROVE the Police and Fire Consolidation Feasibility Study by Plante & Moran AND to Move Forward With the Study by Developing an Inter-local Agreement Between Bloomfield Township and Birmingham.

AYES: Barnett, Buckley, Devine, Payne, Roncelli, Savoie
NAYS: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

I, JANET M. RONCELLI, TOWNSHIP CLERK of the Charter Township of Bloomfield, County of Oakland, Michigan, do hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at their regular meeting held on February 9, 2009.

JANET M. RONCELLI, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK