

# Reporter



## Boundary Agreement

As you are probably aware, we have reached a tentative boundary agreement with the Cities of Madison and Fitchburg. Copies of the agreement were distributed at the October 16 and 22 public meetings, but if you were unable to attend those meetings, they are available at the Town Hall or you can call the town office (210-7260) and we'll send or E-mail you a copy. It's only nine pages long and fairly easy to read.

The Town Board is scheduled to vote on the proposal at its meeting on November 4. There will be an opportunity for public comment before a vote of the Town Board is taken.

The main points of the agreement are:

- The Town will remain a town for twenty years, and except as noted below, the Town will remain intact dur-

ing this period.

- Three early annexations are permitted: Arboretum lands owned by the UW (not resident homes); the Genesis Corporation property on the West Beltline and the Mortenson Investment Group office park.
- Up to three additional annexations are permitted if they are part of a Tax Incremental District or Redevelopment Plan.
- The Town's financial health is protected by revenue sharing payments from these early annexations.
- At the end of twenty years, there will be an orderly transition, with some lands going to Madison and some to Fitchburg.
- Town employees gain job security in

the form of continued employment or severance benefits.

Is this a perfect agreement from the Town's standpoint? The quick answer is no. But when viewed in context to the alternatives, I believe it's a reasonable one. It attains four primary goals of our negotiations:

- To maintain town government for as long as possible.
- To maintain the Town's financial viability.
- To avoid disruption or degradation of services.
- To protect job security for Town employees.

To return to the status quo means continued border wars with Madison, further

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erosion of our tax base and possible future adverse state legislation. After all of this, we would likely cease to exist well within the twenty year period anyway. This agreement establishes stability, continuity of government and certainty of future events. It replaces costly and wasteful confrontation with cooperation. I also believe this agreement will foster further agreements for services between the three municipalities that will save tax dollars.

**Jim Campbell**  
Town Chairman