

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP ANNUAL  
MEETING INCORPORATION  
PRESENTATION

# WHAT IS INCORPORATION?

- Township adopts City form of Government.
- 5 person City Council replaces 5 person Town Board.
- Cities do not hold annual meetings, but do hold a public hearing every December to hear from the people on the proposed tax levy.
- All existing ordinances remain in place.
- City of Baldwin will continue to operate much like the Township has for the past decade.
- A number of Townships have become Cities in the last 30+ years, including Otsego, Nowthen, Oak Grove, Credit River, St. Augusta, Empire, Columbus, Rice Lake, Grant and Scandia.

# WHY INCORPORATE?

- Solidifies the Township's borders—makes annexation very difficult.
- The City of Baldwin will receive approximately \$460,000 in Municipal State Aid money every year for use in maintaining and reconstructing collector streets.
- The City of Baldwin may receive an additional \$210,000 in State Local Government Aid annually. This will require special legislation similar to what Rice Lake received.
- Helps preserve Baldwin's low tax rate. If Princeton were to annex 1/3 of the Township, tax rates on the remainder of the Township would increase significantly.
- Township is going to reconstruct several roads and did not want to pay for reconstruction with a bond issue, only to have Princeton annex 37% of the tax base leaving the remainder of the Township to pay back the debt.

# WHAT WILL CHANGE WITH INCORPORATION?

- Elections every even-year in November instead of every March.
- No more annual meetings every March.
- City will hold a Truth-in-Taxation meeting each December.
- Township has no additional mandates from the state simply because it is a City.
- Township will prosecute misdemeanors instead of the County—estimated cost is \$25,000 per year.
- City will issue liquor licenses instead of the County.
- Princeton will not be able to annex land from the City of Baldwin.

# WHAT WILL NOT CHANGE?

- The Sheriff's Office will continue to respond to police calls in Baldwin.
- The Fire Department will continue to operate as before.
- The City will not be required to provide sewer and water services.
- The City will be free to modify its zoning ordinance to allow things that the County's zoning ordinance does not (e.g. larger outbuildings)
- You will still vote at the Town Hall.
- Taxes will only increase if the City Council decides to spend more money—taxes do not automatically increase because of incorporation

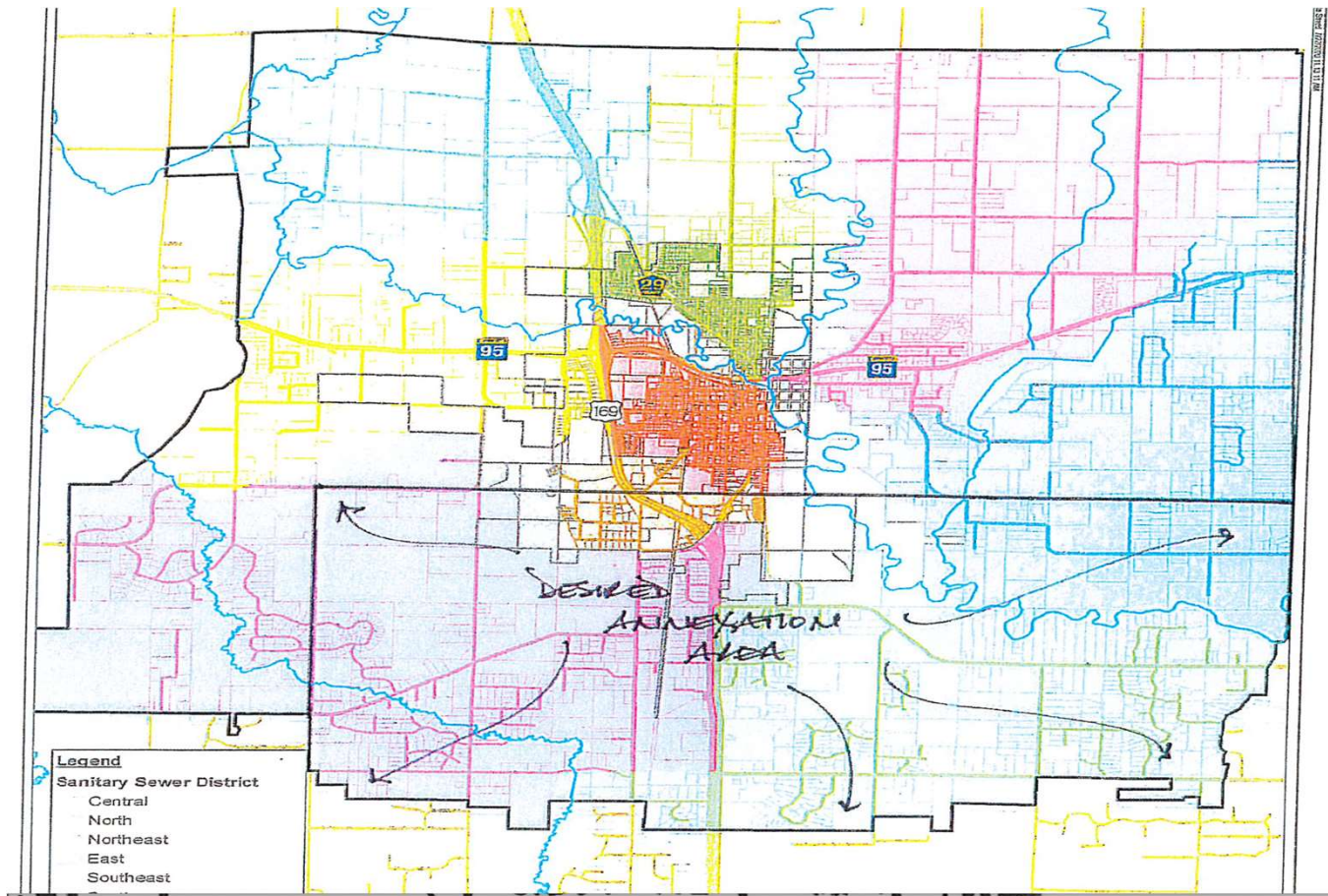
# WHAT IF THE TOWNSHIP DOESN'T INCORPORATE?

- The Township will slowly get annexed piecemeal until the entire Township becomes part of neighboring cities.
- Princeton has anticipated annexing the northern 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Baldwin Township since it updated its comprehensive plan in 2015.
- The Township missed out on \$300,000 in State public safety money because it was not a City. It would likely miss out on any future allocations.
- The Township residents would be eventually be taxed for the \$460,000 in annual MSA money that the City needs to reconstruct miles of collector roads in the City.

# WHEN WILL BALDWIN KNOW IF IT WILL BE INCORPORATED?

- The Trial ended last Friday.
- The Judge will likely make a decision by this July.

# PRINCETON'S ANNEXATION REQUEST





# CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S PUBLIC STATEMENT

Government organization

389-2040

[tonmn.org](http://tonmn.org)

now ▾

3.5 (30 Reviews) ⓘ

City of Princeton Public Statement, Public Comment –

Thank you, Honorable Judge Palmer-Denning, for allowing the City of Princeton to provide a statement at the opening of this public comment period.

The City would like to state the following in response to questions and statements regarding Baldwin's request to incorporate:

First, the City would like to state unequivocally that they do not support Baldwin's request for incorporation. The City is not requesting annexation.

Second, the City would like to state that absent Baldwin's request, the City would have been content to allow the City to grow organically by landowner requested annexations. The City is not requesting annexation.

Third, Baldwin's incorporation request has placed the City in a position to protect its long-term vision of how the City would grow in the future as identified in its long-range land use, sewer, and water plans as well as its current investments in its wastewater treatment plant. Such vision may take decades to come to fruition. The City is asking Honorable Judge Palmer-Denning to grant a portion of the Township to the City of Princeton.

# PRINCETON'S COURT FILING

**Alternatively, if Baldwin Township is deemed to have met the incorporation standards, the property abutting the City that is readily able to be served with city sewer, water and all other city services, should be excluded from the incorporation and ordered to be annexed to the City of Princeton.**

Approximately 9,740 acres of land in Baldwin Township abutting the South, Southwest, and Southeast boundaries of the City of Princeton are readily able to be served with public sewer and water, provided with expanded police services, road maintenance and

# PRINCETON'S RURAL/URBAN TAXING DISTRICT

- Princeton has a rural/urban taxing district that taxes rural properties at a lower rate than urban properties.
- State law only allows properties that are RURAL in nature to be placed in the rural tax district.
- The 900+ residential lots in the proposed annexation area are suburban in nature, based on the incorporation findings of the Credit River, Nowthen and Grant incorporation cases.
- As suburban lots, the 900+ homes cannot qualify for the rural tax district.
- The City Council determines what is rural and what is urban (subject to state law) and can change their mind at any time.

# TAXES PAYABLE COMPARISON

Property Classification	Estimated Market Value	2024 Township Taxes Paid in Baldwin	2024 City Taxes Paid If Annexed Into Princeton	Tax Increase
Homestead Residential	\$ 155,400	\$ 215.24	\$ 932.87	\$ 717.62
	\$ 202,200	\$ 280.07	\$ 1,213.81	\$ 933.74
	\$ 254,300	\$ 332.29	\$ 1,440.12	\$ 1,107.83
	\$ 300,100	\$ 401.54	\$ 1,740.27	\$ 1,338.73
	\$ 350,100	\$ 477.03	\$ 2,067.43	\$ 1,590.40
	\$ 400,000	\$ 552.38	\$ 2,394.00	\$ 1,841.62
	\$ 450,500	\$ 623.99	\$ 2,704.35	\$ 2,080.36
Commercial and Industrial Preferred	\$ 501,100	\$ 694.49	\$ 3,009.90	\$ 2,315.42
	\$ 144,500	\$ 300.29	\$ 1,301.45	\$ 1,001.16
	\$ 257,200	\$ 608.61	\$ 2,637.72	\$ 2,029.11
	\$ 351,500	\$ 869.84	\$ 3,769.88	\$ 2,900.04
	\$ 454,300	\$ 1,154.62	\$ 5,004.10	\$ 3,849.48
	\$ 651,000	\$ 1,699.52	\$ 7,365.68	\$ 5,666.16
Unimproved Residential Land	\$ 1,305,400	\$ 3,512.34	\$ 15,222.41	\$ 11,710.07
	\$ 35,100	\$ 60.81	\$ 263.53	\$ 202.73
	\$ 71,000	\$ 118.56	\$ 513.86	\$ 395.29
	\$ 118,400	\$ 204.99	\$ 888.44	\$ 683.45