THE MUNICIPAL BOARD

Principles, Standards, and Criteria for Annexation and Amalgamation

The Municipal Board has developed a series of principles, standards, and criteria that it uses and applies in dealing with annexation and amalgamations. They are as follows:

1. **Servicing:** The municipality which can best provide the needed municipal infrastructure to the residents and land owners of a particular area should normally exercise municipal jurisdiction over that area. Environmental imperatives will be considered in determining the need for municipal infrastructure, in particular, water and sewer services. The ability to provide water and sewer service to a particular area is a strong indicator that the area should be annexed to the municipality which provides the service.

2. **Social and Economic Ties:** Residents within a particular area should be under the jurisdiction of the municipality to which they have the greatest affinity or relationship. The Board will consider the social and economic ties to each of the municipalities involved. Which municipalities are the affected residents and land owners "a part of"?

3. **Land Uses in Area:** In general, agricultural and other rural uses should be confined to Rural Municipalities; urban land uses should be located within Villages, Towns, and Cities.

4. **Viability and Future Growth:** Annexation of the land needed to maintain the viability of a municipality and to enable it to fulfill its role in the broader community should be supported. An adequate inventory of suitable residential, commercial, and industrial land should be available to meet potential future demand. Planning documents such as Development Plans will be considered in determining the role of the municipality and its future growth and planning needs.

5. **Will of the People:** An attempt should be made to accommodate the will of the majority of the residents and the land owners of an area proposed for annexation.

6. **Geographical Boundaries:** Geographical or natural barriers which may serve as a logical boundary line should be considered. An attempt will be made to define a line which is straightforward and easily recognizable.

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