

Dear Aberdeen Residents and Business Owners,

Hello everyone, and happy Fall!

A few weeks ago, at 5:30 PM, eleven of your neighbors attended a Zoom call for two hours to visit about continuing the annexation discussion with the City of Valparaiso. As explained before, this entire process takes initiation from us and is an exploratory endeavor at this time.

I want to first thank the committee members for raising their hands to help and taking the time to attend and discuss. **By the way, everyone is welcome to join any meetings and is welcome to join the committee at any time.**

Considered an ad hoc committee by our present Aberdeen Property Owners Association Board, this group met to obtain their temperature, thoughts, and opinions regarding the potential annexation request. Many attendees learned some new things, and all of us were pleased with the candor of the group and the respectfulness of how the meeting went. After this call, most of us are conflicted and trying NOT to have an opinion before investigating ALL the options. Everyone seemed to agree that we should run the race, and if we got to the finish line and decided not to break the ribbon, so be it. We can then be proud of running the race and learning about ourselves and our community.

We intend to host another meeting with City members in attendance within the next month and will have details soon. Our date is December 5th at 5:30, but we are looking for a venue to host about twenty people.

One of the significant decisions was how and when to share information when received.

Some members wanted any information disseminated immediately to everyone. When considering full transparency with the community, rightly so. It is very prudent. This information is about you, and you should know, of course. It was mentioned that no one should have the power to withhold information from anyone, and I agree.

Some members wanted to gather more information and disseminate information in one giant package with **ALL** info included so everyone could make an informed decision. They mentioned that more than ten percent of the data for a huge decision is needed to form an opinion, which seems imprudent. This also made sense.

Both parties are correct.

We came to a compromise on one piece of information that has enormous implications for all of us...taxes. At a Board meeting in July with the Mayor and the Superintendent of Valpo Schools, I mentioned that when I receive the tax information from the City and their commissioned report from the outside firm they hired, you will receive it. I presented this report to the committee last night.

What would your tax bill be if you were to accept to annex?

My vision back in July was to place the entire spreadsheet on our private Aberdeen section of the www.aberdeenvlparaiso.com website and have each homeowner look up their tax liability. Regarding privacy, even though all tax bills are available to the public, the group decided against this but came up with an alternative.

Keeping my word, you can now receive this information by reaching out to the annexation mailbox we created, aberdeenannexation@gmail.com, and the 1st American team will respond. Or reach out to Morgan McCall directly at mmccall@1stpropertymanagers.com. Put in the headline **TAX REQUEST** and your name and address, so they can copy and paste the lot number and details. They do not need six-hundred people calling them out of respect, so please give them time to respond, as this is not an emergency. This process will allow us to keep your information private and send it directly to you.

Again, a reminder, this is simply one piece, probably only ten percent of the puzzle piece, and the study was done with data from the years 2000-21 data. More recent data will have to be used. The other pieces, like how much assessments will be lowered by offloading many of the structural requirements of our community, including tree, snow plowing, road maintenance and trash pick-up, are still entirely up in the air.

I hope that helps continue the discussion and I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Hope you and your families have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Yours in service,

Greg Farrall

Aberdeen HOA President