


TOWNSHIPS IN CRISIS: WHAT CAN WE DO?

Township Officials of Illinois
November 2013


Presented By:

Keri-Lyn J. Krafthefer
Robert A. Porter




Governmental Consolidation

- **The Local Government Consolidation Commission Act of 2011, 20 ILCS 3987/1.**



Governmental Consolidation

- **2012 Census of Governments**
 - 89, 004 local governments across the United States
 - Illinois has 6,968 units of local government
 - Pennsylvania has 4,905 units of local government
 - Texas has 4,856 units of local government
 - 85 of Illinois' 102 counties have township governments
 - Illinois has 1,432 townships



Governmental Consolidation

- › Why does Illinois have so many different units of local government?
 - Illinois' 1870 Constitution
 - Illinois has 3,249 special districts

Ance
Glink

THOMAS BOH
MICHAEL
& KAUFHEIM

Governmental Consolidation

- › This Act creates the Local Government Consolidation commission.
 - 17 members –
 - 12 from the General Assembly,
 - 5 from local governments, including 1 representing townships (Bryan Smith)

Ance
Glink

THOMAS BOH
MICHAEL
& KAUFHEIM

Governmental Consolidation

– Functions

- Examine all laws regarding local governments' organization, powers, jurisdiction and functions;
- Study the interrelationships of local governments to each other and federal and state government;
- Make specific recommendations to reduce the multiplicity of local governments, eliminate overlapping and duplication of unnecessary powers; increase efficiency and economy; increase cooperation among levels of government.
- Make a final report with findings and recommendations no later than September 30, 2013.

Ance
Glink

THOMAS BOH
MICHAEL
& KAUFHEIM

Governmental Consolidation

- **The Cox Report: “Local Democracy and the Townships of Illinois: A Report to the People”**

- Smaller local governments throughout America spend and borrow less per capita than larger governments.
- Smaller governments in Illinois spend and borrow less.
- Illinois local governments rely less on state funding and pay for themselves to a greater degree than in 38 other states.

Ance
Glink

THOMAS R. BOH
MICHAEL
R. KAUFHEIM

Governmental Consolidation

- Township expenditures have grown at a lower rate than any other level of government in Illinois since 1992.
- Townships have the lowest labor costs.
- In a 2001 survey, 88 percent of residents rated the performance of township officials high, compared to 42 percent for state officials and 27 percent for federal officials.
- Individual citizens have more influence in smaller governments.

Ance
Glink

THOMAS R. BOH
MICHAEL
R. KAUFHEIM

Governmental Consolidation

- Local government consolidations that have been implemented do not result in material cost savings and usually result in higher costs.
- Government consolidation does not improve government efficiency.
- Consolidation leads to higher personnel costs because it produces larger organized labor contracts, which incorporate the highest compensation rates and least productive work rules.

Ance
Glink

THOMAS R. BOH
MICHAEL
R. KAUFHEIM

Governmental Consolidation

- Governmental consolidation detaches people from their local governments.
- If the bigger-is-better theory of government efficiency is correct, then states with larger populations should have lower per capita state and local taxation, but the data did not support that claim.

Ance
Glink

THOMAS R. BORN
JACOB
& KATHLEEN

Attacks by the General Assembly

- Public Act 97-0857 eliminated Cook County tax collectors.
- Public Act 97-0611. Cook County Townships can abolish Cook County Road Districts by referendum.
- Senate Bill 2073 past legislative session (Did not pass) Proposed to eliminate COLA increase in property taxes if the Township's total EAV declined.

Ance
Glink

THOMAS R. BORN
JACOB
& KATHLEEN

Attacks by the General Assembly

- Senate Bill 1585 (passed - Public Act 98-0127) Allows for a binding referendum to abolish Evanston Township and turn its duties over to the city of Evanston, which has conterminous boundaries. An advisory referendum passed tow years ago there by a large margin to discontinue the township. As originally introduced, it would have applied to all conterminous townships in Cook County. This bill became effective August 2, 2013.

Ance
Glink

THOMAS R. BORN
JACOB
& KATHLEEN

Attacks by the General Assembly

- **House Bill 440 (Rep. Yingling)** An amendment was filed to this bill that would abolish township road districts with 15 miles or less. It died in the House Rules Committee

Ance
Glink

THOMAS BOH
JACOB
& KAUFHEIM

Attacks by Taxpayers

- **Caused by Lack of Understanding About the Functions of Townships**
- **Caused by Frustration over Current Economic Conditions**
- **Better Government Association – Andy Shaw**
- **Openthebooks.com – Transparencymania! Everything is out there.**
- **Illinois State Comptroller website – finances are open**

Ance
Glink

THOMAS BOH
JACOB
& KAUFHEIM

Attacks by Taxpayers

- **Public has lost trust in government management**
- **It's the economy, stupid!**

Ance
Glink

THOMAS BOH
JACOB
& KAUFHEIM

Attacks by Other Units of Government

- **Eyes on the Prize – They want your money!**
- **They do not understand the limitations of their power – (City v. Township)**

Ance
Glink

THOMAS BOH
JACOB
& KAUFHEIM

Township Officials Attacking One Another

- **Officials do not understand their duties or responsibilities**
- **Officials do not understand the powers of other elected township officials**
- **Assessor Wars**
- **Highway Commissioner Wars**
- **Disgruntled Employees**
- **Elected Township Officials**

Ance
Glink

THOMAS BOH
JACOB
& KAUFHEIM

Attacks because of Problems of Other Governments

- **The General Assembly is using local government to shift focus off of State problems**
- **Pension Reform**
- **IMRF Audits**
- **Zero-based budgeting**

Ance
Glink

THOMAS BOH
JACOB
& KAUFHEIM

Survival Options

- Educate the Public
- Educate the Press
- Educate your Public Officials
- Work Cooperatively with Other Units of Government
- Strive for Peace
- Pick Your Battles
- Pay Attention to Shifting Public Attitudes (pensions, salary increases, etc.)

Ance! Glink

Diamond Bush
DiCianni
& Krafthefer

Survival Options

- Business is Changing – Get Smarter and More Creative
- Dig Fox Holes for Long Term Applications

Ance! Glink

Diamond Bush
DiCianni
& Krafthefer

Contact Information

Ance! Glink, Diamond, Bush,
DiCianni & Krafthefer

Keri-Lyn J. Krafthefer
Robert A. Porter

Chicago: (312) 782-7606
Vernon Hills: (847) 247-7400
Naperville: (630) 596-4610
Crystal Lake: (815) 477-8980
Bloomington: (309) 828-1990

www.ancelglink.com



Ance! Glink

Diamond Bush
DiCianni
& Krafthefer
