

Town of Williamstown
October 5, 2015
Public Informational Meeting & Workshop Results

On October 5, 2015, 41 town and area residents gathered at the Williamstown Town Hall to discuss Town of Williamstown priorities and offer suggestions and comments to Town Leaders. The effort was announced via a direct mailing to all town residents and postings on the Town's web page and the three official posting locations.

The Town's Planning Consultant, Ken Jaworski, of Martenson & Eisele, began the evening by presenting national, state and regional level information on demographics, housing, agriculture, transportation, environmental and land use trends. Participants then engaged in an opinion-gathering process to provide answers to two questions. It must be noted that not all attendees participated.

Participants recorded individual answers to each question on a separate "post-it" note. There was no limit to the amount of answers a person could submit per question. Post-it notes were then placed on white sheets attached to the walls of the Hall. Facilitators reorganized the post-it notes by similar themes on the sheets.

Similar answers were placed in their own group and marked for voting. Participants were given three dots and asked to vote for their three favorite groups of answers per question. Each dot was assigned a weighted value. Red dots represented their first priority, and were worth a value of five (5) points. Green dots were their second priority and were worth a value of three (3) points. Yellow dots were their third and final priority and worth one (1) point. Please note that some participants elected not to use all of their assigned three (3) dots per question which is why the total point total is not exact for each question.

All white sheets were then collected and the dots counted and weighted values calculated. Based on the priority values, a final score was calculated for each grouping of answers. The final voting results from the workshop are presented as follows in order of priority:

1. What are Williamstown's Strengths/Opportunities?

Theme:

1) Taxes

- Low(er) Taxes – (6 times)
- Lower Taxes compared to Mayville (but still too high)
- Reasonable Taxes
- Relatively low property taxes due to landfill credit
- Affordable property taxes
- Good Tax base

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 10 votes

#2 – 2 votes

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 57

2) **Benefits of Country Living**

- Friendly Community Base (2 times)
- Great living environment
- Low Crime
- Small Population
- Safe Township/area
- Left alone/peaceful

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 6 votes

#2 – 6 votes

#3 – 5 votes

Total Score: 53

3) **Good Government**

- Financially sound
- Township in excellent financial position
- Practical & fiscally responsible town officials
- Excellent leadership in the township
- Good and fair rules & regulations from our township

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 2 votes

#2 – 4 votes

#3 – 3 votes

Total Score: 25

4) **Hunting**

- Keep hunting

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 2 votes

#2 – 1 vote

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 14

5) **Farm/Rural Lifestyle**

- Agriculture (2 times)
- Rural environment/area (2 times)
- Quality of life
- Rural way of life
- Good agricultural base
- Ag Preservation
- Keep the farmland
- Open space
- Buy development rights from key areas
- Extensive fertile agricultural ground/land

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 2 votes

#2 – 1 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 13

6) **Landfill**

- Got the dump
- Landfill needs to be totally free
- Free garbage dropoff

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 2 votes

#3 – 7 votes

Total Score: 13

7) **Benefits of Nature**

- Conservation Studies
- Nature or conservation area
- Natural features – Horicon Marsh
- Horicon Marsh - Williamstown should do more to support it
- The trails that are available
- Scenic area – Marsh recreation

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 3 votes

#3 – 2 votes

Total Score: 11

8) **Smart Growth**

- Past smart growth
- Controlled growth
- Williamstown could & should create their own destiny by allowing some development or they will get swallowed up by the city

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 1 vote

#2 – 1 vote

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 8

9) **Quality Schools**

- Quality schools and school staff

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 2 votes

#3 – 2 votes

Total Score: 8

10) **Location**

- Many amenities with 20 minute travel
- Proximity to larger communities
- Location in the state
- Being close to a variety of stores
- Reasonable distance to major cities/urban areas = Fox Valley, Madison, Milwaukee

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 1 vote

#2 – 1 vote

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 8

11) Housing

- Can buy a lot of house for relatively low cost versus metro (Milwaukee) area and is comutable

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 1 vote

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 4

12) History

- A wealth of historical knowledge

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 0 vote

Total Score: 0

13) Employers and Employment

- Low local wages should make area attractive for potential employers
- Good job/employment opportunities

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 0

14) Good roads

- Good roads
- Good roads and service of them

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 0

2. What are the potential Issues or Problems?

Theme:

1) City Expansion/Annexation

- Annexation in every direction from Mayville (2 times)
- Mayville wanting more Williamstown land without a direction for growth
- Williamstown will be swallowed by Mayville over time
- Expansion of Mayville, eroding tax base
- Mayville has too much power when it comes to extraterritorial land use!
- City Expansion

Voting Priority:

#1 – 8 votes

#2 – 3 votes

#3 – 3 votes

Total Score: 52

2) **Landfill**

- Landfill (2 times)
- Speaking on water – What is township response or right in regards to water from landfill?
- Dump – stay or leave

Voting Priority:

#1 – 7 votes

#2 – 4 votes

#3 – 3 votes

Total Score: 50

3) **Technology Services**

- Technology issues – access to cables, etc.
- Slow internet

Voting Priority:

#1 – 5 votes

#2 – 3 votes

#3 – 3 votes

Total Score: 37

4) **Waterway regulations**

- Why are DNR permits required for some people & not for other people for the 300' setback from waterways?
- Mayville dumping storm sewer water onto Williamstown land
- The ditches on the edge of town are declared waterways not farm ditches on maps
- Sediment pond requirements for subdivision falling on Williamstown land
- City of Mayville not managing storm sewer water ditches

Voting Priority:

#1 – 3 votes

#2 – 2 vote

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 22

5) **Pollution**

- Pollution from run-off and groundwater

Voting Priority:

#1 – 2 votes

#2 – 3 votes

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 20

6) **Landfill Tax Credit Elimination**

- Eventual elimination of landfill tax credit causing significant increase in property tax

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 4 votes

#3 – 5 votes

Total Score: 17

7) **Economy**

- Better economic development
- No jobs
- Struggle to keep jobs in the area

Voting Priority:

#1 – 2 votes

#2 – 1 vote

#3 – 3 votes

Total Score: 16

8) **Sprawl & Uncontrolled Growth**

- Uncontrolled residential growth
- Subdivision pressure/urban sprawl

Voting Priority:

#1 – 1 vote

#2 – 2 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 11

9) **Roads**

- Deteriorating roads
- Roads degrading

Voting Priority:

#1 – 1 vote

#2 – 1 vote

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 9

10) **Communication with residents**

- Communication with residents!
- Government involvement by its citizens

Voting Priority:

#1 – 1 vote

#2 – 1 vote

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 9

11) **Taxes going up**

- Taxes are going to have to go UP.

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 1 vote

#3 – 5 votes

Total Score: 8

12) Cost/Lack of Town services

- Cost of sewer/water usage to Williamstown residents if or when connected
- Lack of services
- Services are starting to fail
- Services = Consolidation – Fire Dept
- Need siren to warn of tornado

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 2 votes

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 7

13) Distance to medical/shopping

- Distance to medical care and shopping
- Need car

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 1 vote

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 3

14) Rural Issues

- Is farmland preservation a potential problem for development, etc
- Rural

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 1

15) Parks & trails

- Update on proposed bike trail from Mayville to DNR visitor center and its cost to property owners
- Bike trail
- Is there any interest in developing green spaces or parks?

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 vote

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 1

16) Tourism Promotion

- Tourism promotion

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 0

17) No growth projected

- No growth in population

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 0

18) Schools

- Schools - Mayville, Horicon

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 0