

# Crystal village proposal heads for Nov. 7 vote

■ *State Boundary Commission said "yes" to going forward yesterday*

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## CRYSTAL TOWNSHIP —

The proposed village of Crystal Lake is officially headed for a Nov. 7 vote.

The State Boundary Commission on Thursday unanimously approved legal sufficiency of a referendum petition for incorporating the village. Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth Director Robert Swanson signed an order June 19 allowing the village incorporation process to move forward unless a valid petition for a referendum was filed with the Boundary Commission.

Registered electors residing in the area approved for incorporation had to submit 5 percent of their signatures on that petition. There are 784 registered electors in the approved village

## NOV. 7 BALLOT LANGUAGE

Shall the proceedings continue that propose to incorporate certain territory in Crystal Township as the village of Crystal Lake? Note: A yes vote permits incorporation proceedings to continue. A no vote terminates incorporation proceedings.

area so 40 signatures were necessary.

According to Boundary Commission Manager Christine Holmes, a total of 210 signatures were submitted and Crystal Township Clerk Nan Hagerman certified 207 of those as valid.

"The ballot language is very straightforward and simple," Holmes said. "It's a simple yes or no question."

Only residents of the proposed village area may vote. Should the referendum pass, the Boundary Commission will order an election for village charter commissioners.

Village Creation Group Spokesman Steve Meinhardt

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# VILLAGE

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along with Rosemary Horvath and Genevieve Werdehoff, members of the Stop Village Incorporation committee, all were unavailable for comment.

Crystal Township Supervisor Bill Powell, Clerk Nan Hagerman, Treasurer Paula Plank and Trustee John Hagerman all are opposed to the village proposal, citing a financial impact with no stated benefits, according to Powell.

He said Township Trustee Richard Chalmers signed the petition supporting the village proposal. Powell said Chalmers is the only township board member residing in the proposed village area.

The Village Creation Group

wants to incorporate 4.18 square miles of the township — including Crystal Lake. The proposed village would represent 13 percent of the township geographically, specifically Crystal Lake, Swan Lake and the Crystal business district.

About 1,380 residents — 48 percent of the township's current population — would make up the proposed village and 57.4 of the township's taxable value would be inside the village. The proposed village area would include the 750-acre Crystal Lake.

A map of the proposed village area can be found at [www.villageofcrystallake.org](http://www.villageofcrystallake.org) on the World Wide Web.

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## VILLAGE OF CRYSTAL LAKE TIMELINE

• **Feb. 23, 2004:** A petition was filed by the Village Creation Group to request that territory in Crystal Township be incorporated as the village of Crystal Lake.

• **April 15, 2004:** The State Boundary Commission found the petition to be legally sufficient.

• **July 8, 2004:** The Boundary Commission conducted a public hearing in Crystal Township to receive input.

• **Oct. 21, 2004:** State and local commission members unanimously approved a motion to revise the area to be incorporated.

• **April 20, 2006:** State and local commission members unanimously approved the petition for incorporating the revised territory and ordered that commission staff members prepare the draft summary of proceedings, findings of fact and conclusions of law.

• **May 18, 2006:** State and local

commission members unanimously approved the summary of proceedings, findings of fact and conclusions of law with certain revisions at the request of Crystal Township and unanimously recommended that Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth Director Robert Swanson sign the order to approve the proposed incorporation.

• **June 19, 2006:** Swanson signed the order to approve the proposed incorporation unless a valid petition for a referendum was filed with the Boundary Commission.

• **Aug. 17, 2006:** The Boundary Commission approved legal sufficiency of a referendum petition on the proposed incorporation after receiving a total of 207 signatures from residents who live in the proposed village area.

Source: Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth