

## **KEKOSKEE CORNER**

Don Hilgendorf, Village of Kekoskee President  
October 25, 2018

Readers of this newspaper are likely aware that on October 4th, the Wisconsin Department of Administration approved the Cooperative Plan between the Town of Williamstown and the Village of Kekoskee.

Implementation of the Plan began on October 5th with the attachment of Williamstown to Kekoskee. The attachment provides a larger pool of residents to run for elected office and a way for rural residents to have greater control over the use of their land.

Village officers first approached the Town in 2015 to discuss ways to accomplish an orderly merger of our two municipalities that was fair to both. The previous Village Board wanted to retire, and the Village could not find residents willing to serve on the Board. The Town and Village Boards met several times over the following year to review options and start the process for a cooperative plan. Public hearings and revisions of the original Plan proceeded during the next year, becoming better and better for all stakeholders by allowing sufficient area for Village resident detachments to the City of Mayville.

The Plan also ensures that any Village resident located within the Village Detachment Area who wishes to receive higher-level services in order to develop their property will receive the Village's assistance in making that happen. Those concerned that the Plan might limit Mayville's ability to grow and develop should read Section 24 of the Plan, which can be found on the Department of Administration's website <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/MunicipalBoundaryReviewNews.aspx> as well as the DOA's review and approval documents located on the same webpage.

For Kekoskee and Williamstown, the Plan offers increased efficiencies and savings as well as the opportunity to see enhanced use of the downtown Village park system by all community residents.

Village Board resignations and appointments started on October 5th and were completed on the 10th. The new Board wishes to thank Lloyd Lechner, former Village President; Jerry Barker and John Becker, former Trustees; Steve Bachhuber, former Treasurer; and Bonnie Hoyt and Diane Beine, former Clerks, for their dedication in serving the best interests of the Village above their own personal wishes to step down. The new Village officers consist of myself, Don Hilgendorf; Al Schellinger and Loris Geschke, Trustees; Cindy Fredrick, Treasurer; and Mary Dessereau, Clerk.

As a life-long resident of a small area, I have seen many changes. Becoming a village works for all in many ways. Towns respect cities. Cities need to respect towns and villages. The

Cooperative Plan provides for better combined services to the whole area. If leaders understand detachment areas, this arrangement will work for 100 years. We look forward to the continued growth of Mayville and Kekoskee as we all live, work and play together.