

Bridgewater Incorporation

Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Background on incorporation
- Discuss incorporation
- Discuss changes in land use that could happen with incorporation.

Goals for this Meeting

Educate ourselves on the options

Provide input to the Town Board

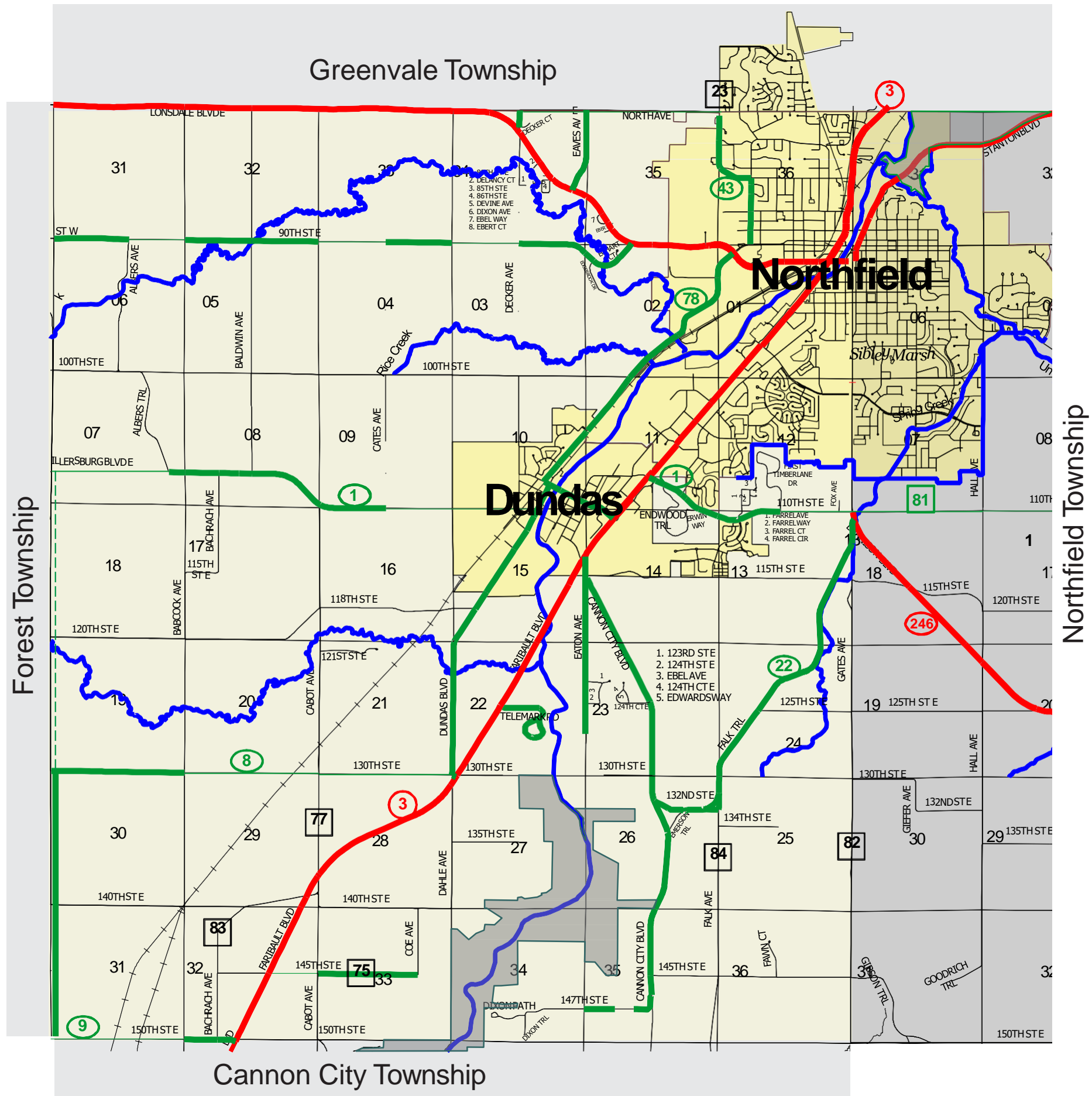
Ground Rules

- Residents have precedence in discussions
- Let everyone complete their statement
- Be mindful of the time when you speak
- The moderator may interrupt long statements
- Use the parking lot to discuss topics not on the agenda

The Process for this Meeting

- Discussion (minutes will be taken)
- Sticky Notes (issues, questions - attach to large sheet on the wall)
- Send questions, comments by email to the Clerk
- Talk with Supervisors and Planning Commissioners

Background on Incorporation



Bridgewater Information

- Organized as a Township in 1856
- Land Area: Originally 42 square miles. Currently 36.4 square miles. Northfield & Dundas annexed 5.6 square miles.
- 2017 Population: 1819 with 689 households
- Roads: 32.1 miles of gravel and 5.4 miles of asphalt
- Planning & Zoning are done internally
- Road maintenance is done internally

What is “Incorporation”

Minnesota has 2 types of cities:

- **Statutory** (governed according to various state statutes)
- **Charter** (governed according to a locally written charter)

- Upon incorporation Bridgewater becomes a statutory city
- Following incorporation, residents could write a charter and make Bridgewater a charter city.

Why Consider Incorporation?

1. Strengthen local control
2. Preserve quality agricultural land
3. Broaden tax base

Other Options

Manage
Boundaries

Annexation Agreements

- Northfield
- Dundas
- Faribault (in 10 years)

Modify
Zoning

Rice County

- Change zoning
- Revise Comp. Plan

Timeline for Decision

Township Meetings		February & March
Is Incorporation Feasible?		April
Develop Petition		May - August
Decision on Submitting Petition		September
Submit Petition		November

Legal Process

- Send petition to Municipal Boundary Adjustment Unit
- Administrative Law Judge presides
 - Considers only the 13 factors in MN Statute 414.02
 - Holds public hearing within 90 days
 - Renders decision

A RISK

The Administrative Law Judge can decide to give some Bridgewater land to adjacent cities.

From 1968 to 2018 this has happened twice:

- 43 petitions to incorporate over this period
- In 1999 St. Augusta became a city but 4,253 acres was given to St. Cloud.
- In 1999 Forest Township was annexed into Forest Lake

QUESTIONS?

Operating as a City

PROS

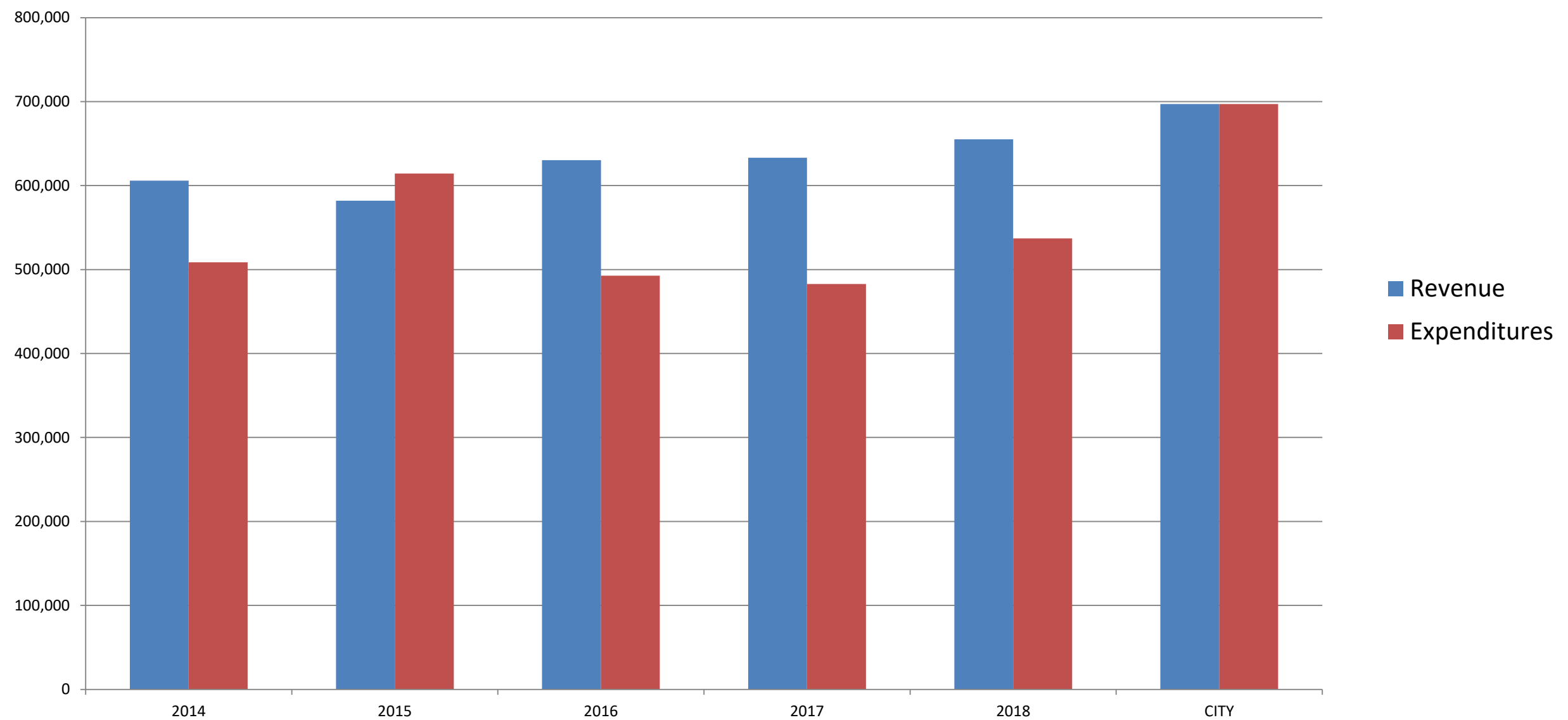
- Borders are stable
- Planning & Zoning are independent of the County
- Access to State funds: LGA, DEED, Highway

CONS

- Responsible for police protection
- Annual audit required
- Council sets levy, not residents

Cost of Operating as a City

Revenue & Expenses



Cost of Operating as a City

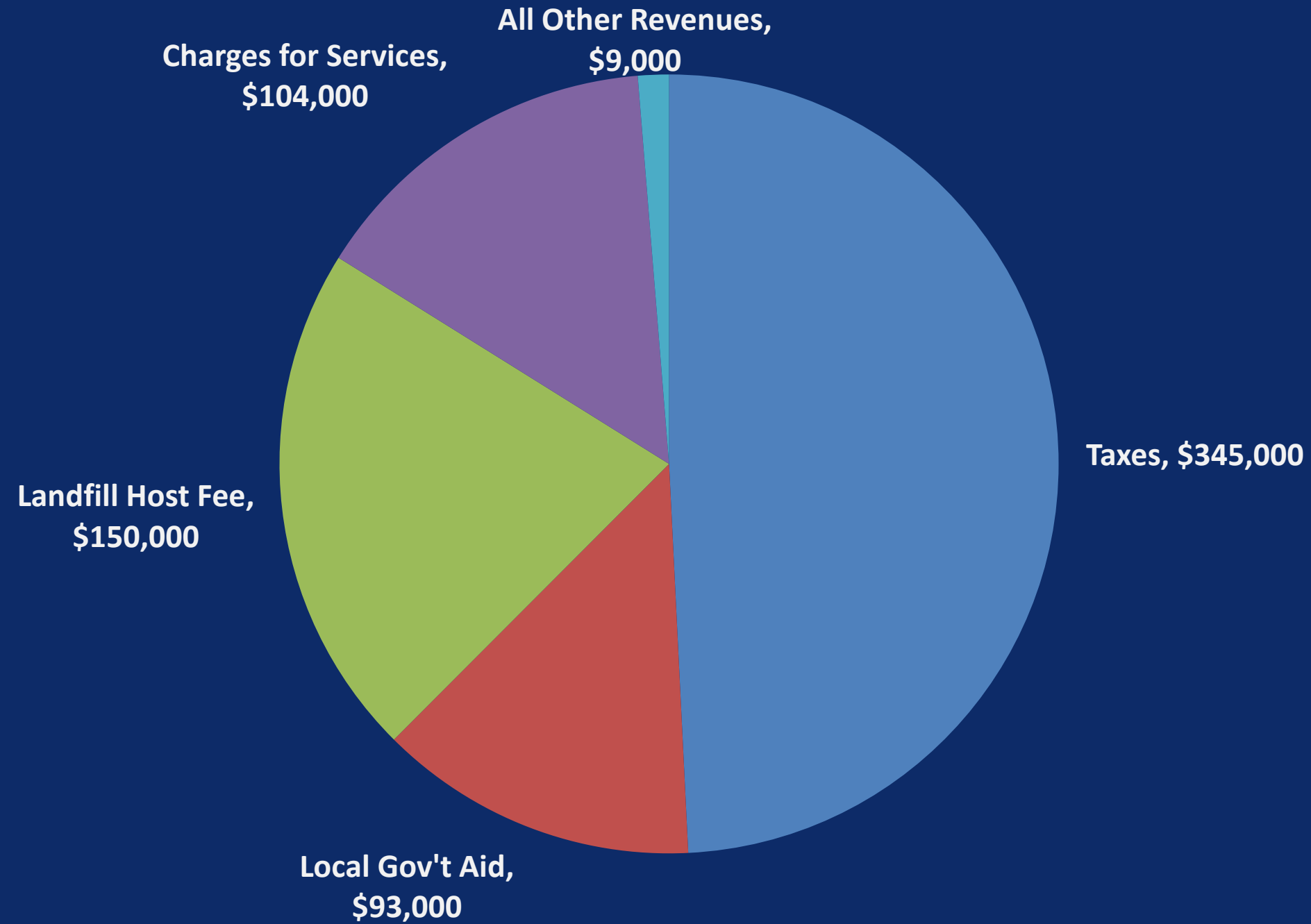
Increased Costs

- City must provide Police
 - Currently provided by Sheriff
 - As a city: contract with Sheriff for \$100,000
- Full-time clerk
 - Currently half-time clerk for \$17,000
 - As a city: add another half-time clerk for additional \$35,000.
- Mayor and 4 Council Members
 - Currently 3 supervisors & treasurer receive \$18,000
 - As a city: estimate \$22,000

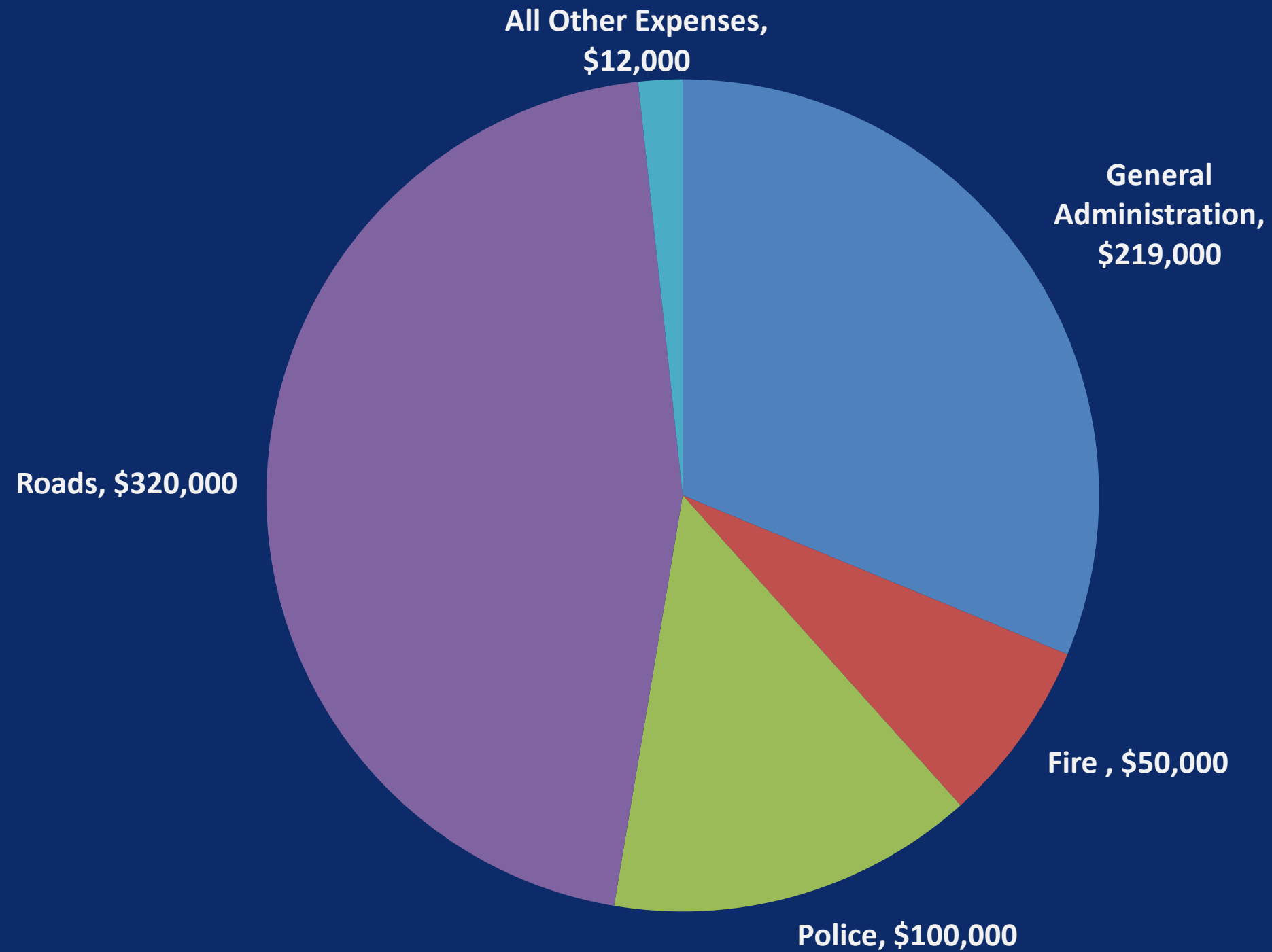
Increased Revenue

- Local Government Aid – estimated to be \$93,000
- Access to State Highway Funds
- Access to MN Department of Employment & Economic Development funds

Estimated Revenue Post Incorporation



Estimated Expenses Post Incorporation



Possible Land Use Changes

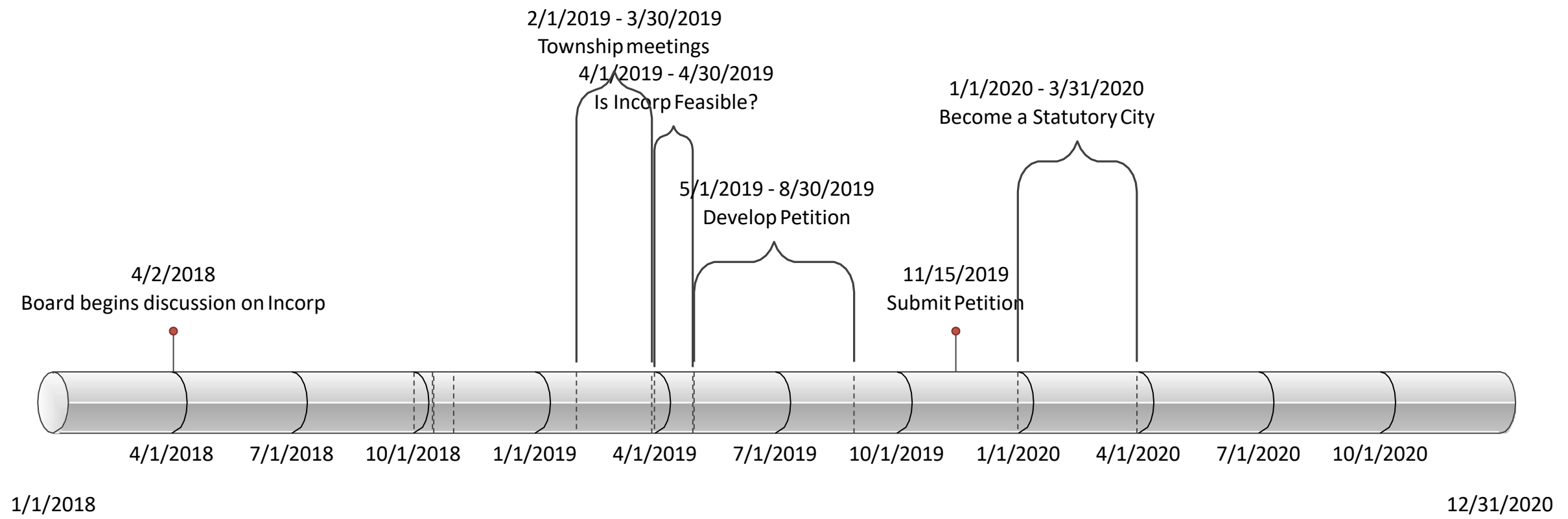
Housing cluster

- Similar to Upper Oak Hills
- 30 to 40 residences
- On land not suitable for farming

Industrial Area

- Highway 3 gravel pit area
- Comus junction area

QUESTIONS?



Timeline