



## Merger makes sense

There doesn't appear to be a downside to

Daily Record/Sunday News

Article Last Updated: 10/26/2007 09:26:26 AM EDT

Oct 26, 2007 — There's everything to like about a report on the proposed merger between Mount Wolf and East Manchester Township.

As Dave Naylor, vice chairman of the township's board of supervisors says, it would be a seamless transition.

According to a draft report on the study conducted by the highly respected Pennsylvania Economy League, nothing much would change except tax millage rates.

And that would be for the better - at least for residents of the tiny borough.

Mount Wolf would no longer be a borough with autonomous government, but it would retain its identity as a designated "village" within the township.

During the transition period, the borough would have two seats on the board of supervisors, which would be temporarily expanded to five members from the current three. The number

would revert to three by 2011.

Village residents would get the benefit of having regular access to their municipal officials - Mount Wolf currently has no office hours for government services, but the township does.

Streets in the village would be maintained as they currently are.

Best of all, the tax rate for borough residents would drop: from the current 2.90 mills to 1.505 mills. Yes, that's slightly higher than the 1.04 mills township residents would pay, but the extra revenue would be used to fund the borough's, oops, *village*' fire hydrants and streetlights.

Still, it's a great deal for borough residents - and, as they say, no skin off township residents' noses.

In fact, township residents get to feel virtuous that they've helped a landlocked municipality avoid endless tax hikes.

Township residents also would be considered trailblazers in our community, which for years had been discussing the idea of municipal consolidation but not taking any tangible steps in that direction.

Let's hope this spawns a series of municipal mergers not seen in York County since school districts formed in the 1950s.

Its success - and we have no doubt it would be

Advertisement



A bright idea in online advertising.

PrinterStitial® ads by Format Dynamics.



FormatDynamics®

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

# ydr.com

successful - might well encourage other municipalities start moving in that direction.

[top](#)

That's not to say that we should completely abandon our commonwealth's municipal structure. But "right-sizing" municipalities, taking advantage of economies of scale, is a movement that's long overdue.

Let's just hope egos and hunger for political power don't prevent this merger from moving forward.

A public meeting is slated on the proposal for Nov. 15 - coincidentally, the same day the Metro-York subcommittee of YorkCounts is scheduled to unveil its proposals for regional cooperation to help save the city.

The merger of Mount Wolf and East Manchester could serve as a symbol of such possibilities.

We urge borough and township residents to attend the public meeting in force. Bring questions and concerns, by all means - but also bring an open mind.

And remember, any proposal would be put to a ballot, perhaps in next year's elections. And we believe the good idea will win the day.

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

The next meeting to discuss the proposed merger will be 6:30 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Mount Wolf fire hall, 54 Center St.

Advertisement



A bright idea in online advertising.

PrinterStitial® ads by Format Dynamics.



FormatDynamics®

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™