

Town of Hartford Smart Growth Kickoff Meeting
S.W.O.T. Workshop Results
March 15, 2006

Residents attending the Town of Hartford Smart Growth Kickoff meeting had an opportunity to participate in a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (S.W.O.T.) assessment of their community. Residents worked in groups of 6-10 people brainstorming issues on each component of the S.W.O.T. workshop. After each component, groups were asked to “*” three issues that were of most importance that they would like to share with the entire group of participants. The following is the result of that workshop.

Strengths: Something that makes a community stand out when compared to other communities; Resources or capabilities that help a community be successful/strong.

- *Prime agricultural land
- *Kettle Moraine/Pike Lake/State park (no better place to live)
- *Sanitary Districts in Town without annexation
- *We have some of the most successful farming families in Washington County
- *Rural Character
- *Location
- *Pike Lake State Park
- *Quality Water
- *Rural Character – green space
- *Pike Lake – needs to stay in Town
- *Physical beauty and natural resources
- *Farmland and agricultural aspects
- *Lower taxes
- Golf Course
- Still have rural character, farmland, open space
- Recreational Opportunities
- Excellent Education
- Location
- People – Intelligent and resourceful
- Safe place to live, low crime
- Washington County Golf Course
- Small town character
- Feisty attitude of residents
- Small population
- Wildlife
- A more democratic form of government
- Attraction of Pike Lake
- Abundance of open space
- Rural Atmosphere
- Farming Community
- Just far enough away
- Reasonable access to highways

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Weaknesses: Deficiencies in resources for a community to be successful.

- *No legal resource to maintain township
- *Shrinking tax base
- *Town board not complying with land use plan
- *Constitutional restrictions governing the township
- *Lack of industry – tax revenue
- *Getting the town board to respond to the people wishes (Land Use Plan)
- *Inherent structural shortcoming to the town in relation to city/village (State ruling)
- *City that has grown located in the middle of our township
- Relationship between city and village
- Poor planning for traffic through Hartford
- Development – too much too fast
- Taxes rising as a result of growth
- Too many wetlands
- Lack of city representation
- Division (physical) of township
- Hartford’s extra-territorial zoning
- Road infrastructure
- Lack of our growth and development
- Subdivisions developing near working Agricultural land
- Lack of cooperation between Town of Hartford and City
- Relative inability of Town of Hartford and Town Board to implement desires of residents
- Near total control over Town of Hartford by City of Hartford
- State law not on town side
- Lack of tax base compared to city or village
- Inability to balance individual property rights with community/town interests
- Not consistently sticking with long term plan

Opportunities: Something that could be done to improve a community; Factors or situations that can affect a community in a favorable way.

- *PDR program to preserve existing town farmland – town and county collaboration
- *Land preservation
- *Better cooperation between town and city
- *Improve roads and infrastructure
- *Boundary agreements
- *Intergovernmental Cooperation
- *Sharing of services
- *Jobs – other than Wal-Mart
- *Maintain rural character
- *Parks and Recreation
- *School activities and recreational center
- Better cooperation with City/Village
- Growth of hobby farm, rural, or agricultural type ventures
- Preserving land through PDR
- Chance to work with village/city
- Creation and/or preservation of recreational areas and natural resources
- Ability to keep rural atmosphere
- Ability to limit commercial development
- Increased use of ethanol and bio diesel
- Protect “rural character”
- Protect money making opportunities for farmers/rural land owners
- Allow farmers to split reasonable size lots
- Reliever route around city
- Cluster development
- Traffic flow plan

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Threats: Anything that could jeopardize the future success of a community; Factors or situations that can affect a community in a negative way.

- *Development – too fast and too much
- *Loss of Farmland
- *Ground water levels in jeopardy
- *Town Board is not complying with the land use plan
- *Annexations
- *Loss of rural character
- *Annexation to elimination
- *Loss of rural character
- *Loss of natural resources (wetlands, lakes, wooded, open space, ground water)
- *City of Hartford Annexation
- *Taxes – due to growth – too many service required
- *Transportation needs – Hwy 60 already poor condition
- *City and Village encroachment
- *Environmental non-point pollution
- *Using tax dollars to preserve useless land
- City of Hartford – Extraterritorial Zoning
- Walmart issue
- Increased traffic
- Loss of wetlands
- Loss of cultural beauty
- Increased crime due to density
- Economic impact to area agribusiness
- Urban sprawl
- Current roads not meeting traffic needs
- Shrinking water supply
- Increased traffic
- Increased need for services increase need for more property taxes
- Quality of life
- Growth – schools needed
- Growth – crime drugs
- Continued annexation of Town of Hartford land by city of Hartford, as well as the Village of Slinger
- Forcing of reliever routes upon Town of Hartford roads caused by lack of planning by City of Hartford
- Effects on water Quality and water table caused by continued commercial and residential development
- Eminent domain
- Funding for P.D.R.
- Diminishing lot sizes in future housing
- 35 acre lot minimum