

February 10, 2013 Revision 1

Tyrone Township Comprehensive Plan Survey result

A. Introduction:

In 2004, Western Schuylers County published an Inter-Municipal Comprehensive Plan that included Tyrone, Orange and Reading Townships and the results of that process were inputted into the Schuylers County Comprehensive plan. The purpose of the CP is to articulate the vision of the community based upon its past history and future vision of its community. Each community possesses its own unique set of valued resources and when used wisely by its community can result in ideal living communities.

In the Summer of 2012, The Tyrone Planning Board decided to survey the citizens of Tyrone to specifically determine the needs and the vision of its local residents. What is of prime value to you in your life here in Tyrone? What changes or improvements would you make living in Tyrone more satisfying to your life? What is your vision of a future for the Town of Tyrone? Upon completion of the Comprehensive survey, a report will be written to present the needs and vision of Tyrone residents of to the Town Board and that report will also be circulated to the local citizens. The report will also be input for the larger Schuylers County Comprehensive plan of 2013. All comments in the following written results are in the words of the people who responded to the survey.

In the Fall 2012, the planning board circulated a questionnaire to local town residents and also to the Lake Association who will send this survey to lake residents in April 2013. The Lake Association will ask its lake residences to fill out the questionnaire at their first meeting in April 2013 and send them to the Planning board. To date 76 local questionnaires have been returned to the planning board and the following report is based on this initial survey information. All of the results are written to completely acknowledge all of the community comments as they were received from each respondent. The planning board wants to thank all of its local citizens that participated for sharing their unique home based views of the present and a future for Tyrone Township. All rural communities need to find ways to ask their local citizens what is important to them; for that is the only way that local rural communities can maintain some influence over their own future destiny.

B. Survey results

1. Do you support the (3) part planning board concept to preserve and restore our local community?

(This concept goal included cleaning up Dann's storefront area, a local farm market and signage for the local Tyrone Township).

(69%) answered yes. (8%) said yes as long as no grants, taxes or town support was required. The reasons, as stated from local citizens, are that it improves the towns appearance, restores local history, it is a part of their childhood history, preserves an important local landmark, that its a visual focal point to passing tourists, it improves town value, cleans up and neatens the area, some expressed the town made error in letting the town rundown, two made offers of volunteering to help, helping Ray is meaningful, that neatness is good for community. **Positive yes votes (69%+8%=77%)**

(8%) said yes to the construction of a local farm market and installing local Town signage but did not make a comment on a goal to preserve Danns' trading post, because they did not have enough information about the goals and objectives. (This lack of information can be directly blamed on me because my goal, to start the project quickly; overshadowed a need to invest time to promote the idea. I wanted to get to work!) So potentially the yes vote could have been as high as 80%.

(12%) said no because it was a waste of time, too late and that Danns building should be torn down, no entitlements given, a private owner is responsible and no help should be given to them.

10%) wrote no comment. Blank.

In summary, 77% approved and said yes to restoring Dann's Trading Post and preserving Tyrone and that total could well have been as high as 85%. Only 12% did not approve of doing a restorative effort. That is a very significant and positive vote by the local citizens of Tyrone to restore and preserve their community. In the future any goal or effort defined by the Planning Board will be made public prior to starting the project and will be done only on a volunteer basis. No local tax funds will be used. It is very encouraging that a large majority of the Town approved of the effort to try to preserve and restore a last landmark of the town, place identifying signage and start a local farm market. Tyrone has shown itself to be a friendly, cooperative town that values preserving its past history and that has been expressed in this survey.

2. What do you value the most in living in our local rural town?

In total, 85% of all respondents placed a very high value on living locally in Tyrone and because I want to include all of the received comments, I have broken down that 85% down into three more specific categories. Those three categories are based upon nature, ambiance and community relationships and they are broken out in more detail below.

28% valued the clean fresh air, a natural ecosystem, natural forests, clean environment, agriculture and local farming, Lakes, rolling hills, outstanding views, recreation. Hunting, wilderness, scenic lakes and hills, open undeveloped space.

28% valued no hustle/bustle, relaxed atmosphere, quiet beauty, the peace and quiet, image of country living, small town atmosphere, small schools, low traffic.

29% valued people pride in community, cooperative friendly atmosphere, a pride in living, friendly neighbors, honesty of neighbors, preserve the town and community attitude, working together valued, trust in others, concern for others, safe, low crime rate, history and heritage, small size, good local paper, fire department and churches, more cleanup.

9% valued the privacy, freedom and the spaciousness of the community.

4% made no comment.

In summary, a very significant total of 85% of the respondents, highly valued a living in a natural rural community and would like to see it remain that way. The people of the community appear ready to work together to cleanup and preserve the area in which they have made a home.

3. Does our rural area provide you with a sustainable income? What would be helpful?

78% -answered no. Of that total, 35% are retired and moved here after they retired from work. Some suggestions of what may help create jobs is to lower taxes to attract business, new small businesses such as gas station, ice cream, fruit or vegetable stand, fracking could help, low income programs, more agricultural information, grants for startups, use open unused space for solar energy, pizza parlor, work outside the area and drive. A special community person in Tyrone raises chickens and donates the eggs to others.

22%- answered yes. These respondents are self employed, drive to work outside the area, farm, sell firewood, garden locally, favor lower taxes and less state regulations, and try to preserve the area by driving to work.

Summary, a majority of residents are retired and do not depend upon income from the area but would welcome smaller businesses that could provide part time jobs and conveniences to the residents, especially to the older populace.

4. What is your 1-2 year vision for Tyrone? What goals are important to you as a resident?

30% -valued preserving and maintaining of the community. Cleanup properties, no dumping or junkyards, maintain property, implement zoning rules, if necessary, no heavy industry, no fracking, improve and maintain local roads, enforce speed limits.

26% -valued more economic development and a community working together. Promote more small business, stores library, farm market, gas station, tourism, work together, more cooperation, community outreach, peaceful togetherness, community projects, volunteerism, brainstorm ideas, cooperate, local leadership.

22%- valued preservation of our natural resources and community. Relax enjoy the town and retirement, preserve lakes, weed free lakes, keep it the same, no great changes, preserve clean water of the area, maintain preserve natural area, reuse when possible, cleanup the junk, restore old property, get grant rewards if possible, continue goals of planning board.

11%-blank. No comment.

9%- More assistance to seniors, low income help, lower the taxes, improve tax base, more control of tax assessments.

In summary, the results listed in answer to question #4, strongly support and relate to the ideas and values that were expressed in question #2. 30% valued cleaning up properties and preserving the community. 26% valued somewhat more economic development and working together to attain that goal. People did not favor turning the rural community into an industrial zone. Many have retired here for the peace and quiet of a rural community and 22% valued the natural beauty of the area and wish to see it better maintained.

5. What is your 5-10 year vision of the future of Tyrone?

46% -Valued preservation and maintenance. Seek grants to preserve, restore Lakes, protect local environment, no weeds, preserve lakes, and land, ban fracking, dredge channel, no big industry, keep it small, less junk, cleanup, maintain, no trailers, preserve, improve roads, install curbs, minimize change.

17%-valued stronger small local economy. Farm market, campground, picnic areas, laundry, seasonal tourists, boat launch, public beaches, high speed net, engage and create local community again, Dann's, Green Valley diner, Crebs, Lamoka hotel, Waneta Inn, summer rentals.

9% -valued local community as it exists. Connect lake more with local people, leadership needed, involve good neighbors, retirement town, stay small, help seniors, more homes, less crime area.

6%-Less government. Taxes too high, less mandates, stabilize taxes.

6%- No ,dissolve the town,leave it alone, get a job, lost your senses.

2%- Concerned about a future for Tyrone. Solar energy for income to town.

15%-No comments

In summary, **72%** directly valued maintenance and preservation while developing a small local economy.

6. Do you believe that fracking for natural gas is important to our local future?

49%-No. Too destructive of water and lakes, short term profit-long term ruin, keep out, will destroy quiet peaceful rural area, zone it out, contaminates air,water and soil, traffic and noise will kill tourism, methods and chemical secretive and undisclosed, renewable energy solutions preferred.

33%-Yes, If it -would not destroy our water wells, if our natural gas prices would go down, if it brings local jobs, if gas goes to benefit locals, if it would be safe, needs to be proved, don't want to lose rural quiet, no harm to clean water, no contamination in my water well, want proof that water would not be destroyed.

2%- unsure, hard to believe the gas companies.

11%-maybe. Not sure, no valid local controls but would be our own local resource.

4%-no comment.

In summary, **49%** of all respondents expressed a definite no to industrial fracking in the rural area and an additional **33%** of all respondents said yes but only if fracking conditions would not damage the water, roads and be safe to all residents.

7. Would you like to learn more about fracking and alternative energy that could pay income to you?

59%-Yes. If meeting is not combative or hostile, ads are very biased to gas, need a complete picture, facts, want to learn more, open to hear.

36%-No. Prefer fracking, not interested in alternatives, information is available, don't want planning board telling me what to do, already informed. (many respondents saying no, voted yes in favor of fracking.)(jww)

5%- blank, no comment

8. What issues trouble you in living in the Township of Tyrone and what changes would be helpful?

35%- Preservation/maintenance issues. Preserve or repair old buildings, preserve historical sites, clean up junk cars, trailers, blight cleanup, take care of property, revitalize community, unsightly, enforce cleanup, make attractive, enforce zoning, want zoning, no junk trailers, grants available?

27%- Township items. Improve town and county roads, taxes too high, Lake taxes too high, with no benefits, lower tax, crime and drugs, control speed limits, more security, Rumsey thieves, no police, cleanup mess, disrespect of people, improve lake accesses, septic update, no zoning please.

24%- Community. "all my life here I have never seen any progress", don't feel represented, need more communication by township officials, grocery store, senior housing, gas station, more cooperation between Lakes and town, we vs. them, improve activities in community, lake pollution, preserve the lakes, educate on leasing property, weather related conservation programs, improve self sufficiency in community, INTERNET option needed, solar lease cooperative-sell power to grid, question-where does the money go?,

13%- Satisfied, no issues.

In summary, an **86%** majority of respondents like the beauty of the natural area but would like to see it better maintained and taken care of for benefit of all. **13%** satisfied with no change.

9. Other comments: There were a total of **50** -no comments. There were **16** comments written and I am listing them individually without percentages because most comments were individual feelings. **6** of the comments were a thank you, its a hard job, hope it does some good and the remaining comments were don't use town money, lower my taxes, great place to live, make zoning laws, dissolve the town, lower my assessment, outdoor market, more community participation, make roads safe for bikers, clean it up, close the boat launches, need email newsletter, renewable energy independence is vital. In conclusion, I wish to thank all of the local citizens who participated in the Tyrone township comprehensive survey, and with it we in governing the local township will have a greater understanding of what the people value the most in living in Tyrone Township, what issues are troubling you, and what are your ideas that could resolve issues that trouble you? I have written up the results without personal judgment and have reported only the facts in a short direct manner. Work on the Schuyler County Comprehensive plan will begin on February 6 and this information will define the real needs and values of the people in the local community.

Written by: Jack W. Wilbert, Chairman of the Tyrone Planning Board