

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT UNIT

In the Matter of OA-936-2  
Howard Lake/Middleville Township  
Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 414

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER**

The city resolution for orderly annexation submitted by the City of Howard Lake was reviewed for conformity with applicable law. By delegation, the Chief Administrative Law Judge hereby makes and files the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. A joint resolution for orderly annexation was adopted by the City of Howard Lake and Middleville Township pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 414.0325 and duly filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings-Municipal Boundary Adjustment Unit.

2. A resolution adopted and submitted by the City of Howard Lake, requests annexation of part of the designated area described as follows:

Starting at the Northwest corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 34, Township 119, Range 27, Wright County, Minnesota, thence South on 1/16 line a distance of 309.2 feet to the point of beginning, thence South on said 1/16 line which is the center of a Township road a distance of 275 feet; thence deflect 90 degrees, 00 minutes left, for a distance 317 feet, thence deflect 90 degrees 00 minutes left, for a distance of 275 feet, thence deflect 90 degrees 00 minutes left, for a distance of 317 feet to the point of beginning, containing 2.0 acres, more or less.

3. Minnesota Statutes § 414.0325, subd. 1(h) states that in certain circumstances the Chief Administrative Law Judge may review and comment, but shall

within 30 days order the annexation pursuant to the terms of a joint resolution for orderly annexation.

4. The joint resolution contains all the information required by Minnesota Statutes § 414.0325, subd. 1(h), including a provision that the Chief Administrative Law Judge may review and comment but shall order the annexation within 30 days in accordance with the terms of the joint resolution.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Office of Administrative Hearings has duly acquired and now has jurisdiction of the within proceeding.

2. An order should be issued by the Chief Administrative Law Judge or authorized designee annexing the area described herein.

### **ORDER**

1. The property described in Findings of Fact 2 is annexed to the City of Howard Lake, the same as if it had originally been made a part thereof.

2. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 414.036, Middleville Township will be reimbursed by the City of Howard Lake in accordance with the terms of the Joint Resolution signed by the City of Howard Lake on May 6, 2003 and Middleville Township on May 13, 2003; and City Resolution No. 12-13.

Dated: September 11, 2012

  
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Timothy J. O'Malley  
Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge  
Municipal Boundary Adjustment Unit

**MEMORANDUM**

In ordering the annexation contained in Docket No. OA-936-2, the Chief Administrative Law Judge finds and makes the following comment:

Paragraph 22 states the agreement shall “expire and be of no further force and effect after December 31, 2013.” End dates or ending mechanisms are problematic in that they appear to run afoul of the act of conferring jurisdiction to the Chief Administrative Law Judge. Once jurisdiction is conferred, it cannot be taken away by written consent of the parties. Jurisdiction ends when all the designated area is annexed. The issue whether jurisdiction could be “given back” by the Chief Administrative Law Judge upon written request of the parties to the agreement to mutually end their agreement has not been addressed.

The parties are encouraged to consider this comment in light of any further amendments that may be otherwise necessary to this agreement for orderly annexation.

T.J.O.