

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC
AND LONG RANGE PLANNING
OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Dean Barkley, Director

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOTION TO)
INITIATE CONSOLIDATION PROCEEDINGS)
FOR THE CITIES OF ST. BONIFACIUS AND)
MINNETRISTA PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA)
STATUTES 414)

SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER
FOR ELECTION
ON CONSOLIDATION

Minutes of the City of Minnetrista's February 2, 2000 Council Meeting disapproving the Order of the Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning (hereinafter "Minnesota Planning") dated January 20, 2000 approving the consolidation of the City of St. Bonifacius and the City of Minnetrista were received February 17, 2000; and minutes of the February 10, 2000 Council Meeting of the City of St. Bonifacius disapproving Minnesota Planning's Order were received March 1, 2000.

On May 8, 2000, two separate petitions for a referendum, each by more than ten percent of the resident voter who voted for governor at the last general election, were received from the City of St. Bonifacius and from the City of Minnetrista. Minnesota Planning's Order approving the consolidation is therefore deemed approved by the City of Minnetrista and the City of St. Bonifacius and Minnesota Planning hereby issues its:

SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER

1. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That a special election shall be held on the

question of the consolidation of the City of St. Bonifacius and the City of Minnetrista.

2. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the date of the election shall be November 7, 2000.

3. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That Dorothy McQueen is hereby appointed as Chief Election Judge for the City of Minnetrista, and that Mary Lou Hilgers is hereby appointed as Chief Election Judge for the City of St. Bonifacius. The election shall be conducted in each city pursuant to laws governing special or general elections insofar as applicable.

4. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the ballot shall contain the words:

"Shall the consolidation of the City of Minnetrista and
the City of St. Bonifacius be approved?"

Yes No

5. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the results of the referendum in each city shall be certified to the Director of Minnesota Planning by the Chief Election Judges within ten days after the referenda.

6. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the Director shall upon receipt of the certificate, notify all parties of the election results.

7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That if a majority of the votes cast in each affected city are in favor of the consolidation, the Director shall issue a further supplemental order for the election of new municipal officers.

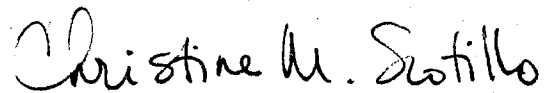
8. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That Minnesota Planning retains jurisdiction for the purpose of determining whether a special levy should be authorized if

necessary.

9. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the effective date of this Supplemental Order is August 14, 2000.

Dated this 30th day of August, 2000.

Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning
658 Cedar Street - Room 300
St. Paul, MN 55155



Christine M. Scotillo
Executive Director
Municipal Boundary Adjustments

MEMORANDUM

Although Minnesota Statutes Section 414.041 does not articulate some of the specifics for the referenda, the Director of Minnesota Planning assumes that pursuant to this Order the cities will conduct the referenda consistent with the laws governing special or general elections insofar as applicable.

Some of the specifics for the referenda the Director anticipates the cities will carry out in their usual manner insofar as applicable include:

1. The usual polling place or places;
2. The usual election judges;
3. The usual hours that the polling places shall be open;
4. The preparation of the Notice of Election;
5. The posting and publication of the Notice of Election; and
6. The proper supervision of the election judges.

Again, the Director thanks the Consolidation Study Commission Chair Desyl Peterson, and all of the Consolidation Study Commission members for their fine work.

CNS

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC AND LONG RANGE PLANNING
OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Dean Barkley, Director

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOTION TO)	
INITIATE CONSOLIDATION PROCEEDINGS)	<u>FINDINGS OF FACT</u>
FOR THE CITIES OF ST. BONIFACIUS AND)	<u>CONCLUSIONS OF LAW</u>
MINNETRISTA PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA)	<u>AND ORDER</u>
STATUTES 414)	<u>AND MEMORANDUM</u>

The above-entitled matter came on for hearing before the Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 414 as amended, on July 28, 1999, at the St. Bonifacius Fire Station, St. Bonifacius, Minnesota. The hearing was conducted by Christine M. Scotillo, Executive Director of the Minnesota Municipal Board Office as designee of the Director of the Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 414.01, Subdivision 12, 414.11 and 414.12. Also in attendance were Steve Palmer from the Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning.

Desyl Peterson, Chair of the Consolidation Study Commission, represented the Consolidation Study Commission and presented its Report. Commission Members Gary Erickson, Gerry Elling and Jerry Thurk testified in support of the report. Mike Segner, Consolidation Commission Member, presented a case in opposition to the Commission's Report.

Testimony was heard and records and exhibits were received. All persons desiring to be heard were heard. Several members of the public gave comment for the record.

After due and careful consideration of all evidence, together with all records, files and proceedings, the Director of the Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning hereby makes and

files the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order, and Memorandum.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On March 3, 1997, the Municipal Board by its own motion pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Sec. 414.041 subd. 1(c), initiated consolidation proceedings between the City of Minnetrista, hereinafter referred to as "Minnetrista," and the City of St. Bonifacius, hereinafter referred to as "St. Bonifacius."

2. On August 5, 1997, the Municipal Board appointed the Consolidation Study Commission Chair, Desyl Peterson, Minnetonka City Attorney, who is not a resident of the affected cities, but who resides in Hennepin County; and the Consolidation Study Commission Members from a list of candidates submitted by each city pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Sec. 414.041, subd. 2.

3. On November 21, 1997; July 10, 1998 and again on October 2, 1998, the Municipal Board appointed replacement members to the Consolidation Study Commission.

4. On June 4, 1999, the Municipal Board Office received the report of the Consolidation Study Commission which states, among other things, that it has studied the proposed consolidation, conducted public hearings, solicited public comments, considered the statutory factors, and based thereon, recommends consolidation of Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius into a new city named Minnetrista. The Commission's vote for consolidation was seventeen (17) in favor, one (1) against, and one (1) abstention.

5. Upon receipt of the Consolidation Study Commission Report, a hearing was held on July 28, 1999. Due, timely and adequate legal notice of the hearing was published, served, and filed.

6. In 1990, Minnetrista had a population of approximately 3,439, and an estimated number of households of approximately 1,195. In 1996, Minnetrista had a population of approximately 3,890, and an estimated number of households of approximately 1,368. Minnetrista is expected to have a population of approximately 4,250 in the year 2000 with 1,550 estimated households; and a population of approximately 5,500 in the year 2010 with 2,200 estimated households.

7. In 1990, St. Bonifacius had a population of approximately 1,180, and an estimated number of households of approximately 398. In 1996, St. Bonifacius had a population of approximately 1,424, and an estimated number of households of approximately 495. St. Bonifacius is expected to have a population of approximately 1,900 in the year 2000 with 650 estimated households; and a population of approximately 2,350 in the year 2010 with 850 estimated households.

8. In 1998, Minnetrista had a population of approximately 4,093; and St. Bonifacius had a population of approximately 1,883; for a combined population of approximately 5,976. The combined population of the two cities is expected to increase by 25% in the year 2010 to approximately 7,987 with estimated combined households totals increasing to approximately 3,050.

9. Minnetrista is the most southwesterly city within Hennepin County, located on the western limits of Lake Minnetonka. Minnetrista has rolling wooded countryside with a high percentage of lakeshore lots and marshland. The landscape ranges from easily developable, gently rolling land to extreme slopes with high well-drained areas to large wetlands to attractive lakeshore and stream valleys.

St. Bonifacius has gently rolling terrain and numerous low lying wetlands, the result of glacial action. The city is developed on a series of hills and low-lying areas along State Trunk Highway (STH) 7.

10. Minnetrista is located in the western part of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area in western Hennepin County. It is bounded on the north by the City of Independence (Hennepin County); on the east by the Cities of Mound , Orono and Shorewood (Hennepin County); on the south by Laketown Township and the City of Victoria (Carver County), and on the west by Watertown Township (Carver County).

St. Bonifacius, which is totally surrounded by the Minnetrista, is located near Minnetrista's southwestern corner.

11. Minnetrista was incorporated as a village in 1959 and became a statutory city in 1974. St. Bonifacius became a village in 1858 with the first city election being conducted in September of 1904.

12. Minnetrista is 19,824 acres in size or approximately 31 square miles. St. Bonifacius is 650 acres in size or approximately one square mile.

13. Minnetrista has the following land uses: approximately 8,200 acres, or 41%, in agriculture; approximately 4,330 acres, or 22%, for residential; approximately 4,264 acres, or 21.5%, for city, county, state and rail right-of-ways; approximately 2,450 acres, or 12%, for vacant, undevelopable areas including low-lands, watershed, streams, lakes, etc.; approximately 531 acres, or 2.7%, for tax exempt or institutional; approximately 58.4 acres, or 0.3%, for commercial; and approximately 19 acres or 0.1% for industrial.

14. St. Bonifacius has the following land uses: approximately 350 acres, or 53%, for

residential; approximately 150 acres, or 23%, for city, county or state and rail right-of-ways; approximately 80 acres, or 12%, is vacant, consisting of undevelopable areas including low-lands, watersheds, streams, lakes; approximately 29 acres, or 4%, for industrial; approximately 19.2 acres, or 2% for commercial; and approximately 2 acres, or 0.2%, for tax exempt and institutional.

15. St. Bonifacius and the southern parts of Minnetrista drain eastward into the Minnehaha Creek Watershed. Mud Lake and Six Mile Creek, which are both in Minnetrista, are the two largest drainage outlets for the watershed, eventually draining into Lake Minnetonka.

16. Minnetrista's pattern of physical development can be seen in its four major land uses: agriculture, single-family residential, lakes, and vacant areas, which account for over 90% of the city's total acreage. Single-family residential uses are located in the eastern part of Minnetrista on small lake lots and on larger lots in the northeastern part of the city. Vacant land is in the eastern two-thirds of the city and agricultural uses and large lot residential dominate the western portion of the city. Minnetrista has few commercial uses scattered in four locations.

17. The zoning pattern of Minnetrista follows a strong pattern of very low density in the west, low density in the middle and higher density in the east. Agricultural preservation and agricultural zoning cover approximately 80% of Minnetrista's land.

18. The physical pattern of development of St. Bonifacius resembles that of a small rural center consisting of single-family development and smaller amounts of commercial/industrial development. There has been an increased demand for residential development since 1990. Twelve percent, or 80 acres, of St. Bonifacius' land is vacant and unavailable for development due to wetlands, drainage ways and steep sloping terrain.

19. Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius are served by several highways that run through the two communities, connecting them with the rest of the Twin Cities. STH 7 is a principal arterial which enters Minnetrista near its southeastern boundary and travels westerly through the urbanized portions of Minnetrista and east/west through St. Bonifacius. STH 7 is a two-lane expressway which connects western Minnesota to the metropolitan area and serves as an important commuter route into the Twin Cities for residents in the western suburbs. Only minor upgrades for STH 7, such as turning and passing lanes are anticipated.

20. There are three A-minor arterials that serve the area, County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 92, which extends north/south through western Minnetrista and bisects St. Bonifacius; CSAH 15, which extends east/west connecting with Mound and points east and with Carver CSAH 24 and Watertown to the west; and CSAH 110, which connects with CSAH 92 north of St. Bonifacius and runs east into Mound and then north to Branch Road in northeastern Minnetrista. CSAH 92 serves as the "main street" for St. Bonifacius.

The major thoroughfares are maintained by the County or the State with the two cities able to maintain the current interior roadway systems.

21. A consolidated city with the combined population of Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius would qualify for State Aid funding for some existing roads and streets, but would not be expected to have a substantial effect on transportation in the area.

22. St. Bonifacius currently meets the benchmark goals established by the Metropolitan Council for affordable housing. Minnetrista cannot not currently meet its goals. A consolidated city would need to work aggressively to meet and maintain the goals established for affordable housing making it eligible to access additional revenue for pollution clean-up,

transportation, affordable housing and comprehensive planning pursuant to the Metropolitan Livable Communities Act.

23. The zoning ordinances for Minnetrista contain more detail and are more specific. Minnetrista allows large-lot development with 20,000 or 40,000 foot minimums and a 10 acre minimum for Planned Unit Developments.

St. Bonifacius has a more compact urban orientation with a 15,000 foot minimum and a 5 acre requirement for Planned Unit Developments.

24. Minnetrista's comprehensive plan allows for large open spaces with pockets of denser development. St. Bonifacius' comprehensive plan calls for higher density development.

Both cities have updated comprehensive plans which call for future expansion in and around St. Bonifacius.

25. Merging the comprehensive plans of Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius would preserve the planning focus and character of each city and provide flexibility for land use planning.

26. In reviewing St. Bonifacius' 1996 comprehensive plan, the Metropolitan Council recommended that St. Bonifacius work with Minnetrista to find mutual solutions to issues related to growth and development in the area, including jointly planned, financed and integrated municipal infrastructure and services through a variety of intergovernmental agreements, including consolidation.

27. Minnetrista has a municipal wastewater collection system which serves some individual homes and three school properties. Only half the homes in Minnetrista are connected to municipal sewer, the rest use septic tank/drainfield or elevated mound treatment systems.

There are a number of failing septic systems within Minnetrista which the city is working to resolve, and neither city is considered a responsible party in the investigation of an instance of petroleum discharge currently under investigation by the Pollution Control Agency.

28. Neither the correction of failing residential septic systems, nor the resolution of the one existing environmental matter will have an effect on consolidation of the two cities.

29. Wastewater treatment services are provided to Minnetrista through the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services division (MCES) at its Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is located in the City of Shakopee and is part of the metropolitan sewage disposal system. Sewage from Minnetrista's municipal urban service area is collected via lift station L24 located at STH 7 and Six Mile Creek in Minnetrista.

30. St. Bonifacius provides sanitary sewer services to all its residents as part of the metropolitan regional sewer system. Its wastewater treatment is also provided by the Blue Lake Treatment Facility, which has the capacity to serve anticipated growth for St. Bonifacius. Sewer pipes within St. Bonifacius range from 8" diameter up to the 24" diameter trunk sewer line that feeds into the wastewater lift station.

31. The St. Bonifacius and Minnetrista/Mound interceptors join together near the junction of STH 7 and CSAH 44 and continue into the City of Victoria. Each jurisdiction is charged separately for metered flows into the interceptors.

32. Existing regional sewer pipe capacity at the City of Victoria border is sufficient to handle the urbanization of the two communities according to the Regional Growth Strategy forecasts of the Metropolitan Council through 2020 and perhaps to 2040.

33. Both Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius have adequate capacity to serve their existing

properties. Extension of the sewer service and interconnection with the regional system for either city, or for a consolidated city, is dependent on the decisions and policies of the Metropolitan Council.

34. Regional facility expansions will be programmed to handle growth consistent with Metropolitan Council reviewed comprehensive plans and comprehensive sewer plans from local jurisdictions. The proposed consolidation of the two cities is not expected to have an impact on the regional wastewater services system.

35. Minnetrista operates two municipal community water systems that provide water for consumptive use and fire protection. These systems serve approximately 500 residents as well as two public schools. The rest of the city is served by private wells.

36. Minnetrista's community water system is served by four wells, three of which are interconnected. The fourth well is linked to a new 400,000 gallon elevated storage facility. There is capacity within Minnetrista's water system to serve exiting users and projected population growth within the area through 2005.

37. St. Bonifacius has recently expanded its municipal water system to include a third well and a water treatment plant. The system also contains one elevated storage tank. All three wells are tied to the water treatment plant and have treatment components that includes chlorination and fluoridation. This additional treatment process prevents it from being completely combined with Minnetrista's water system at this time, except in an emergency situation.

38. Consulting engineers have determined that St. Bonifacius has adequate water capacity to serve an additional 379 family units outside a fully developed St. Bonifacius, and that the water treatment plant could be expanded from 500 gpm to 1,000 gpm.

39. The residential water and sewer rates per quarter differ significantly between Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius with the rates in St. Bonifacius being lower. The rates for 2000, 12,000 and 22,000 gallons in St. Bonifacius are \$23.25, \$53.25 and \$73.25 respectively. The corresponding rates for Minnetrista are \$86.00, \$111.00 and \$136.00.

40. Potential savings may be possible in some cases by connections to the St. Bonifacius water system, rather than to Minnetrista's system, for future developments surrounding St. Bonifacius.

41. Each city provides police, fire, water, sewer, and road and park maintenance. Water and sewer service and road and park maintenance are provided separately by each city. Police and fire protection are provided through joint powers agreements or other contractual arrangements.

42. Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius have a joint powers agreement for the provision of police protection to both cities. Management of the provision of police services is shared equally by both cities. Police department facilities are located in the Minnetrista City Hall. St. Bonifacius has only an interest in the assets of the police department.

43. Minnetrista gave notice of its intent to terminate the joint powers agreement at the end of 1999.

44. St. Bonifacius has its own volunteer fire department which provides fire service to its residents. In addition, the St. Bonifacius fire department provides fire protection to portions of Minnetrista, Laketown Township and Watertown township.

Minnetrista contracts with the St. Bonifacius, Mound and Maple Plain fire departments for fire protection services.

45. A consolidated city would eliminate police and fire protection issues that currently exist between the two separate cities.

46. Street maintenance and repair services are provided in both cities by city employees and contracts with service providers. St. Bonifacius' general fund budget allocates 16% to streets and 5% to parks and recreation. Minnetrista's general fund allocates 25% for public works.

47. A consolidated city with a population of 5,000 or more would be eligible for Municipal State Aid funds for road maintenance which is estimated at \$275,000 to \$325,000.

48. Estimated savings would result from eliminating one mayor and city council and the reduction of legal, administrative, engineering, accounting, memberships and other fees. In addition, savings would result from utilizing only one full-time building inspector in conjunction with the efficiencies of combining existing support staff. The two cities have paid an average of \$156,000 a year over the last three years for building inspection services. A consolidated city could provide those services for approximately \$91,000 a year.

49. Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius receive seven types of governmental assistance from the state which include Local Government Aid (LGA), Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA), recycling aid, PERA reimbursement, Police State Aid, Local Performance Aid, County Road Aid, and Fire State Aid.

50. The potential net gain in intergovernmental aid as a result of consolidation is approximately \$245,000.

51. Minnetrista's 1997 total tax capacity was approximately \$6,183,246.00. Commercial and industrial property represented 2.5% of the city's tax capacity, farmland

accounted for 6.7% with the largest share from residential property. In 1998 and 1999, Minnetrista's total tax capacity was approximately \$6,241,815 and \$6,267,977 respectively.

52. St. Bonifacius' 1997 total tax capacity was approximately \$974,483.00 with commercial and industrial property representing 21.5%, 0% from farmland and the largest percent from residential property. In 1998 and 1999, St. Bonifacius' total tax capacity was approximately \$1,186,459 and \$1,208,052 respectively.

The combined tax capacity of the two cities in 1997 was \$7,157,729.00; in 1998 the combined tax capacity was \$7,428,274; and in 1999 it was \$7,420,310.

53. Minnetrista's outstanding bonded debt, as of 12/31/97, was \$2,600,000.00. Of that amount, \$1,070,000.00 is paid through general taxes, primarily for the construction of the Minnetrista City Hall. The remainder was for infrastructure improvements and is paid by special assessments.

54. St. Bonifacius' outstanding bonded debt, as of 12/31/97, was \$2,100,000.00. Of that amount, \$540,000 was for the fire station. This debt is financed from 30% from general taxes and 70% from service contracts to other governments, including Minnetrista. The remainder of the debt is paid by dedicated revenue sources such as special assessments and water fees.

The total debt per capita for Minnetrista is \$635 and \$1,115 for St. Bonifacius.

55. Indebtedness that does not have dedicated revenue sources and paid by property taxes funded the St. Bonifacius fire station and Minnetrista's City Hall. Both the fire station and the city hall would be assets of a consolidated city whose citizens could assume the responsibility of this indebtedness. The combined debt per capita for the city hall and fire station

would be \$269.

Assuming no changes in revenues and expenditures, property taxes in either city are not expected to be significantly affected.

56. Minnetrista has eleven full-time employees in the positions of administrator/clerk, city planner, deputy clerk, zoning administrator/assistant planner, administrative aide, and public works. St. Bonifacius has three full-time, one part-time, and one temporary part-time employees in the positions of clerk/treasurer, public works foreman, assistant clerk and secretary/receptionist.

57. Consolidation is not expected to change the current number of employees, rather, redundant duties would be eliminated and others re-aligned.

58. Both cities are subject to and enforce the state building code. Consolidation could achieve a savings of approximately \$65,000 by hiring one full-time building inspector and using the efficiencies of combining additional staff.

59. The form of government for the most populous city governs the form of government for a consolidated city until such time as an alternative may be adopted at any time. Minnetrista is the more populous of the two cities and operates under the Statutory Optional Plan A form of government consisting of a mayor-council format.

St. Bonifacius is also a statutory city operating under the Optional Plan A form of government.

60. The council-manager form of government delegates significant responsibilities from elected city council to a professional city manager, which is generally more appropriate for larger cities with complex organization and services. The mayor-council form of government is

more common for smaller cities.

61. A newly consolidated city would still have a relatively small population and lack the complexity requiring a professional manager with separate operating authority.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Minnesota Municipal Board, and now the Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning, duly acquired and now has jurisdiction of the within proceeding.

2. Consolidation will offer residents of the Cities of Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius the opportunity to exert control over development in the entire Minnetrista/St. Bonifacius area and better accomplish the shared goals of coordinated development.

3. Consolidation will allow zoning policies and decisions to be made for the entire area rather than for just individual cities.

4. Consolidation will generate higher revenues and greater efficiencies of scale in many areas and will eliminate duplication of costs for provision of the same services.

5. A consolidated city would be eligible for more State Aid money to meet current existing needs in each city. In addition, there would be significant savings accruing to the residents as the result of consolidation of city programs and services, and from the reductions of duplication of costs and infrastructure.

6. Consolidation is in the best interests of the area residents, the City of Minnetrista and the City of St. Bonifacius.

7. The Director of the Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning should accept the Report of the Consolidation Study Commission, issue an Order approving the consolidation, request the city councils of the Cities of Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius adopt said Order, and

establish a date for an election on the Consolidation.

ORDER

1. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That the Director of the Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning hereby accepts the Report of the Consolidation Study Commission.

2. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the City of Minnetrista and the City of St. Bonifacius, located in Hennepin County, Minnesota, be and the same hereby are consolidated to form a single city subject to adoption by majority vote of the respective city councils and approval of the voters pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Sec. 414.041.

3. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the consolidated city shall be named the City of Minnetrista.

4. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the plan of government of the new City of Minnetrista shall be Standard Optional Plan A.

The consolidated city shall be governed by a five-member council, which consists of four council persons and one mayor, all elected at large.

5. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the ordinances of each city shall continue in effect within the former boundaries until repealed by the governing body of the new City of Minnetrista.

6. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That all license privileges be maintained as permitted by each city, including the number of liquor licenses already authorized by the State of Minnesota, until repealed by the governing body of the new City of Minnetrista.

7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That upon consolidation, all money claims or properties including real estate owned, held or possessed by the former cities, and any proceeds

or taxes levied by such cities, collected and uncollected, shall become the property of the new City of Minnetrista with full power and authority to use and dispose of for such public purposes as the council deems best subject to claims of the creditors. This will include cash reserves/fund balances of each city and all public property and equipment held by each city.

8. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the former outstanding indebtedness, prior to consolidation, will be the financial obligation of all property owners within the newly consolidated tax district. However, the cities may, by resolution of their governing bodies, agree that the former outstanding indebtedness, prior to consolidation, remain the financial obligation of property owners within the former tax districts, until such time as the new city shall assume the bonded indebtedness of the former units of government existing and outstanding at the time of consolidation.

9. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the City of Minnetrista and the City of St. Bonifacius report their latest Population and Household estimates to the Minnesota State Demographer.

10. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the Executive Director of Municipal Boundary Adjustments shall cause copies of this Order to be transmitted to the city councils of the Cities of St. Bonifacius and Minnetrista for their approval by majority vote and adoption; that upon receipt of such approval and adoption, the Executive Director shall issue a Supplemental Order setting an election in each city.

11. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the ballot shall contain the words: "shall the consolidation of the City of St. Bonifacius and the City of Minnetrista be approved?"

Yes

No

12. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That if a majority of the qualified voters of each city approve the consolidation Order herein, the Executive Director shall cause a further Supplemental Order for the election of new city officers.

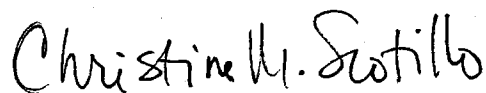
13. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That if either city councils of the Cities of St. Bonifacius or Minnetrista fail to approve this Order by February 11, 2000, it shall be deemed disapproved by that city council.

14. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notwithstanding a disapproval of the Order of the Director of the Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning for consolidation by the city councils of either St. Bonifacius or Minnetrista, the Director's Order for consolidation shall nevertheless be deemed approved by a city council if ten percent or more of the resident voters of that municipality who voted for Governor at the last general election petition the city council for a referendum on the consolidation and a majority of those voting in that municipality approve the Director's Order for consolidation.

15. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: That the effective date of this order is January 18, 2000.

Dated this 20th day of January, 2000.

Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning
300 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155



Christine M. Scotillo
Executive Director
Municipal Boundary Adjustments

MEMORANDUM

The Director of the Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning today has ordered the consolidation of the Cities of St. Bonifacius and Minnetrista.

Based on the population of the combined Cities of St. Bonifacius and Minnetrista, the new city may be eligible for up to approximately \$100,000 each year for up to four years of grant money from the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation if certain statutory criteria are met. Minnesota Statutes 465.87.

While the Planning Director recognizes that the consolidation does not meet with the unanimous approval of all citizens of St. Bonifacius and Minnetrista, the Planning Director feels that it does reflect the opinion and desire of a large majority of the citizens and would certainly be in the best interests of the entire area and the larger community.

The Planning Director commends the Consolidation Study Commission Members and its Chair, Desyl Peterson, as well as all of the other volunteers who gave freely of their time and talents. The Planning Director recognizes that the appointed Consolidation Study Commission members from each city and Ms. Peterson devoted many hours attending meetings and hearings. They spent considerable time researching data and taking into consideration questions and comments from the citizens. They prepared an excellent and very professional Consolidation Report to the Planning Director's designee.

Ms. Peterson did an outstanding job chairing the commission, marshaling additional resources, bringing in external resource people, guiding the process in a timely and efficient manner, overseeing the report, and testifying at the hearing.

Without this kind of volunteer support, these consolidation efforts would not have been possible.

The Planning Director wishes to acknowledge and thank the Cities of St. Bonifacius and Minnetrista, other contributors whose financial support assisted the commission throughout its work.

The consolidation of these cities should increase planned, coordinated, and economic delivery of services and serve the best interests of the entire community.

CMS